

# UNCC Basketball

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## Kevin King:

### 49ers' low-key forward to carry offensive burden

By Les Bowen

Kevin King's days as a defensive specialist are over. The 6-7, 200-pound Lakewood, N.J. native hasn't hung up his green-and-white sneakers; he'll be right in there wearing No. 25 when the 49ers open against Mississippi tonight at the Coliseum.

It's just that when King goes to center court after being introduced prior to tonight's game, he'll be joined there by four guys who aren't Lew Massey.

Through King's first three seasons at UNCC, Massey played the other forward slot and could be counted upon to score 20-to-30 points, in sickness and health.

But Massey graduated last spring, and King is well aware nobody on this season's 49er squad has ever averaged 20 points per game while playing for UNCC. Massey's rebounding will also be missed.

So, Kevin King, who was always the guy who covered Phil Hubbard or Kenny Carr and threw in an occasional basket in his spare time, can no longer afford to specialize.

"This year, everybody will have to contribute, everybody will have to rebound, everybody will have to score," King said, while sitting on the sofa of a friend's apartment recently.

"The last three years, I wasn't looked at primarily as a scorer," King continued. "This year I'm looked at as a scorer, a rebounder and a leader in all categories.

"The other years you had Cedric (Maxwell), you had Melvin (Watkins) and you had Lew. This year it's mainly me and Chad (Kinch)."

King, a quiet sort, doesn't think he will have any problems assuming a leadership role.

"I'll be pretty comfortable with it, though I'll have to adjust some. The main thing is that you have a positive attitude, try to be positive in all areas."

Lee Rose's departure last spring and Mike Pratt's subsequent hiring as head basketball coach have caused some people to question UNCC's athletic future. King thinks the coaching change may benefit UNCC.

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## On the inside . . .



Mike Pratt

UNCC has three new coaches — it's the beginning of a new era in UNCC basketball. And Mike Pratt is at the helm. Pratt stresses discipline and team play. James Braswell's story is on page 8.



Dave Taylor

So you think you know basketball trivia. And you think UNCC's basketball trivia quiz would be easily answered. Well try your luck. Dave Taylor has a UNCC basketball trivia contest. It's on page 2.



Nancy Davis

Enough with the hyphen. UNCC is not UNC-Charlotte. No hyphen please. Proverbially speaking, when UNCC lost its hyphen, it lost its virginity. Nancy Davis's story is on page 16.