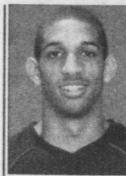


2006-07 basketball commitments



**Ty Lawson**  
5'11"  
180 lbs  
No. 1 ranked point guard



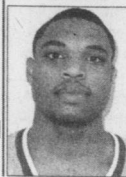
**Brandon Wright**  
6'9"  
200 lbs  
No. 1 ranked power forward



**Wayne Ellington**  
6'4"  
190 lbs  
No. 1 ranked shooting guard



**Alex Stepheson**  
6'10"  
230 lbs  
No. 13 ranked center



**William Graves**  
6'5"  
250 lbs  
Unranked small forward



**Deon Thompson**  
6'8"  
255 lbs  
No. 3 ranked center

RECRUITS

with the current UNC freshman class — which was rated fourth-best in the nation itself — and presto, instant national championship contender is served.

"There's a difference between bringing in prospects and bringing in elite-level players who are accustomed to winning," Telep says. "When you combine that with the players already there ... this team will have an opportunity to capture themselves a ring."

"I'm definitely hoping that one day we can do enough to put another national championship banner up there," Stepheson says. "It's possible, if we all come in on the same page," Thompson says. "When I do think about it, it's crazy. We do have a real good chance to do something special."

Being on the same page — or at least the same online chat session — is something the class already has figured out. Thompson and Stepheson will face off this season and know each other well from being two of the best players in California. And the East Coasters are well-acquainted, too — especially through Lawson, who takes the role of point guard to heart by keeping in constant contact with

his fellow Tar Heels-to-be. "I know Wayne Ellington, Brandon Wright and William Graves real well," Lawson says. "And Alex Stepheson, too. We talk on Sidekick and AIM each other. We talk about next year and everything."

And next year figures to be a big one for Lawson, in particular. In Telep's opinion, he changes speeds better than Raymond Felton did as a freshman, and while their games are different ("Lawson is more of an artist, whereas Felton was more of a knife through your heart"), Lawson should be the true top-flight point guard the Tar Heels now lack.

"They didn't tell me about starting or anything," Lawson says. "Right now I'm hoping to start, because I want to come in and play right away."

With such an abundance of talent, though, comes a lack of playing time to go around. The big three — Ellington, Wright and Lawson — figure to compete for the most meaningful minutes right away.

Or, as Telep puts it, "These guys are like bulldozers — they clear their own space."

But the others might not play so much so soon. Graves and Stepheson probably will collect more splinters from the bench than minutes on the court as freshmen, and even Thompson, who Coach

Roy Williams says "has a chance to play a lot like Sean May," likely won't see the floor all that much at first.

Don't think opposing coaches haven't noticed, either. About a month after Thompson committed verbally to UNC — and right before he made that commitment binding — both Kentucky and UCLA tried to convince him he had been recruited over by Williams.

Thompson, however, wasn't buying it. "I felt relieved all this is over," he says. "There's a lot of confusion in this process, a lot of different people trying to pull me different ways, so once it was over I felt real good."

So do Tar Heel fans, who can expect to see a team that legitimately goes 10-deep next season, a team that might be the deepest of Williams' career.

Not surprisingly, Lawson offers up "fast" when he's asked to describe the class in one word.

He says he's referring to the tempo at which the newcomers expect to play — one that could be even more torrid than that of the 2005 championship team.

But he just as well could be talking about how quickly they figure to help return UNC to the Final Four.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

GENDER GAP

Sixteen of the 110 physics majors at UNC last fall were women. "The inclusion of women in the sciences is still a major problem," said Silvia Tomaskova, director of the UNC Women and Science Program. "We have a lot more work to do."

The lack of women in science fields wastes potential expertise at the University and in the science realm in general, said Laurie McNeil, chairwoman of the department of physics and astronomy. "Scientific talent is broadly distributed, and if we're not attracting women, we're losing out on a large pool of talent," she said.

Campus leaders have bolstered attempts to close the gap. Community outreach programs encourage youth to consider careers in sciences and to eliminate preconceived gender roles.

Programs on campus seek to attract and retain female students in the sciences by forging social and professional networks.

But many admit there is still much room for improvement. The gender gap is historical, but that has not stopped institutions of higher learning from working to close it.

"We do live in a patriarchy where men are in power," Tomaskova said. "Women shy from leadership. It's ugly up there."

But the University — as a unique collection of intellectuals — is in an unparalleled position to alter the norm and to correct misconceptions, she said.

Reaching outward

Outreach efforts to attract potential scientists must start early, said Stephen Farmer, director of undergraduate admissions. University officials have initiated programs to address this need.

The DESTINY traveling science learning program "promotes equity of access to quality science learning opportunities" for students, according to the program's mission.

DESTINY sends vans and buses as traveling science laboratories to high schools in underrepresented areas in North Carolina.

"It helps schools across the state improve science education so that when students come to Carolina, they have more knowledge in science," said Skip Bollenbacher, executive director of DESTINY. "We need to get them prepared so that when they come here, they don't fail."

When the program sent a van to North Iredell High School in Olin this month, students in biology teacher Pamela Hedrick's class had the chance to test evidence at a mock crime scene.

"After this experience, a lot more see that (a science career) can be a possibility," Hedrick said.

The admissions office also employs a science recruiter to attract potential students.

"We've been able to recruit more students who say they're interested in science," Farmer said. "And we've been able to yield a higher percentage of those accepted who say they're interested in science."

At the University

The Women and Science Program, established in 1993, aims to work with the science departments on campus to attract and retain more women and minority students and faculty members in science and mathematics.

The program provides meeting grounds and access to women's networks at the University.

"The whole aim is to connect faculty, post-docs and graduate students within sciences with each other and with the humanities," Tomaskova said.

The program sponsors a distinguished speaker series and offers undergraduate courses about women and science.

Undergraduate research opportunities are another major source of attraction for potential scientists.

"For me, I think the best way to attract undergraduates, and this is true for women in particular, is to experience what research is really about so they can make an informed decision," said Tony Waldrop, vice chancellor for research and economic development.

ARTS COMMON

Any new facilities are a welcome improvement, said trustee Roger Perry, building and grounds committee chairman. "It's an area where we have very inadequate facilities to complement what is an outstanding arts program," he said.

Perry, also a member of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership, added that development of the area is a top priority for UNC.

UNC officials recently submitted its 2005-07 biannual budget requests to the state, and funds for the concert hall — which will cost about \$46 million — were part of a request package that totaled about \$710 million, Runberg said.

The requests likely will be discussed during the next legislative session — and Runberg said state funds and private donations will be crucial to determining how quickly the entire project is realized.

Barring an unexpectedly large donation, there is no set time table for the project's conclusion, he said.

"I really think it's going to take many years," he said. "It's likely to take a decade or two to finish the Arts Common."

Carole Acquesta, design manager for the first phase of construction, said many of the project's core additions will not be included in the watered-down phase.

"This is just one little phase of the overall Arts Common master plan." Abernethy Hall — which requires roof repairs — will remain at its current location until additional funding is secured.

West House and Evergreen House will be removed to accommodate construction on the music building, though not soon. Parking spots, open space and an alumni sculpture garden are slated to take their place.

The Arts Common can accommodate about 80 parking spaces, and other parts of North Campus are being evaluated for potential spaces, Runberg said. Above-ground spots are needed to make up for the cancelled parking deck.

The funding shortfalls are a cause for worry within the arts community, said Emil Kang, executive director for the arts.

"Obviously whenever the funds aren't there it's a concern," he said. "I think it's one of those things if it's meant to happen it will. Only time will tell."

Perry said the new music building might help attract funds for the remaining portions of the project.

"Getting the plans developed and letting everyone see what an exciting building it will be will help with the fundraising," he said.

And despite delays, improvements such as expanding the Ackland Art Museum and renovating Hill Hall still will take place, Runberg said.

"It's phased so that when we get the additional money ... that it could be constructed sequentially," he said. "It's a matter of trying to integrate dozens and dozens of requirements."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

UNC SYSTEM

existing campuses and forming its current 16-campus configuration.

All campuses are intended to function, under the direction of the system president and Board of Governors, as integral parts of a unified university. In 1972, the institutions ranged from 351 to 19,924 in enrollment.

So why retain all 16 campuses? Why didn't the General Assembly in 1971 merge the stu-

dents, faculty and staffs of the smaller campuses into larger institutions, more conveniently located in population centers?

That possibility was not addressed in 1971. The higher education restructuring bill was intended to change radically the way state institutions were organized and governed. It was highly controversial and its proponents did not want to burden it by inviting the opposition that a proposal to close any institution would have aroused.

The smaller campuses gener-

ally were located in communities where they are, among other things, the largest employer. Their closure would have been economically devastating. Moreover, they were sources of cultural leadership and objects of pride to their communities, regions and alumni.

That group also included some of the historically black institutions and UNC-P, which would have caused charges of racial bias.

The General Assembly has not since 1971 considered the closure of any of the 16 campuses, nor has it

considered adding to that number. The policy of the BOG has been to make each of the 16 institutions a vital, contributing member of the university. That has led to programs to encourage the growth of the smaller general purpose campuses in enrollment by broadening their curricula and modernizing and enlarging their physical facilities and thus their student appeal.

One objective is that each of the general purpose campuses be able to be educationally and financially viable at about 5,000 students.

That policy is also relieving the larger campuses of some of the pressure to grow — an important goal of the 2000 higher education bond issue.

The challenge now is to keep that number but to use all of the institutions for the benefit of the whole state that they have the duty to serve.

Contact Sanders, the former director of the Institute of Government, at sandersj@email.unc.edu.

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