

But league coaches still don't like rule

Frosh could play big role in ACC season

By LEE PACE
Assistant Sports Editor

Among the normal allotment of everyday scholars and degenerates in the various Classes of 1981 in the seven ACC institutions, there are a number of extremely famous 18-year-olds.

There's one at Maryland, for instance, who's been the subject of features in national magazines and whose picture could be found in the wallets of all collegiate basketball coaches in the country last year.

Duke has one who has helped generate so much interest in basketball this fall that Dookies might come equipped with bazookas and machine guns to games in Cameron Indoor Stadium this season instead of the usual pennies and ice.

There's one at Virginia who might make folks in Charlottesville forget about a fellow named Parkhill and Carolina has one who is the hottest thing to come out of Georgia since Billy Carter.

But along with the fame that Albert King, Gene Banks, Jeff Lamp and Al Wood bring with them to their respective schools comes a lot of pressure. Too much pressure, actually, say most ACC coaches.

"I've always been against freshmen playing varsity basketball," Dean Smith says. "It's not good for them."

"There are too many other problems that freshmen face without having to play varsity basketball," says State's Norman Sloan.

But Smith, Driesell and Sloan aren't stupid. If King and Banks and the rest of the league's freshmen can contribute to their team's success, they'll play. Forget the pressure.

And there are many more than four freshmen who could play prominent roles in their first ACC seasons. Each team in the conference has at least one newcomer who could lift his team to the top. Here's a quick look at each team and its first-year players:

CLEMSON: Bill Foster, who has been hampered in recruiting during his three years at Clemson because of a three-year NCAA probation, signed several unknowns he feels have the potential to develop into good players.

Six-foot-nine John Campbell, who played only one year of high school ball and one year at Anderson (S.C.) Junior College, likely could start at center for the Tigers. Foster says that Campbell, who grew seven

inches between his junior and senior years in high school, "has a lot of potential and with time could be a pretty good center."

The Tigers signed a lot more height in 6-foot-10 Stewart Zane, a transfer from Foster's old school at UNC-Charlotte, and 6-foot-8 Larry Nance, an obscure prepster from Anderson.

DUKE: Duke boasts two of the league's most promising freshmen in the 6-foot-6 Banks and 6-foot-7 Kenny Dennard, who are likely to start at forward when Carolina and Duke meet tonight in the opening round of the Big Four Tournament.

Dennard, from King, was the best North Carolina high schools offered last year.

Bob Bender, a transfer from Indiana who played on the Hoosier's 1976 national title team, will be eligible in January.

MARYLAND: First there was Tom McMillan. Then there was Moses Malone. And now, for the third time in seven years, Lefty Driesell has convinced the nation's top high school prospect that if he wants to play college basketball, Maryland is the place to

be. And Albert King could be just what Driesell has needed to give the Terrapins the NCAA title Driesell promised when he moved to College Park in 1970.

The excitement over the 6-foot-6 King, who will probably start at small forward for the Terps, has overshadowed two other excellent freshmen. Six-foot-two Greg Manning, who had an impressive preseason, could solve a problem at point guard and 6-foot-8 Ernest Graham could bolster an inconsistent front line.

CAROLINA: The Tar Heels signed two of the nation's top 50 prep standouts in Wood, a 6-foot-6 forward and Pete Budko, a 6-foot-9 forward. The Tar Heels also signed Mike Pepper, a 6-foot-3 sleeper at guard.

N.C. STATE — Norman Sloan went to his cupboard one afternoon last spring and saw it was nearly bare. He was almost out of basketball players after several had transferred and another, Kenny Carr, jumped to the pros. To fill the void, Sloan signed nine freshmen and one junior college transfer.

The best of the lot include prep All-Americans Art Jones (6-foot-7), Craig Watts (6-foot-11) and Kenny Matthews (6-foot-2) and 6-foot-7 Kendal "Tiny" Pinder of Miami's Dade Junior College.

VIRGINIA: Jeff Lamp will have little trouble moving into the Cavaliers' starting lineup and is being looked upon to carry much of the UVA scoring load this winter. At 6-foot-5, he'll be taller than most guards he'll face.

Lee Raker, a high school teammate of Lamp, has done well in preseason but plays behind Lamp.

WAKE FOREST: The Deacons didn't sign any of the nation's elite high schoolers, but all four of their freshmen could contribute. "They'll play an important role once they see what's going on," says coach Carl Tacy.

Fran McCaffery, a 6-foot-4 likely starter at big guard, is an excellent passer and ball handler, while 6-foot-1 Ed Thurman is a good shooter and can direct a potent fast break.



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