

Tech ramblin' to ACC

Georgia Tech's got one more year before it enters the zany world of ACC basketball. The Yellow Jackets hope it's a good one.

Georgia Tech has one year left before the Yellow Jackets have to start playing basketball in such madhouses as Reynolds Coliseum and Cole Field House, places that don't care too much for anyone but the home folks. Tech hopes to make the best of its last year in a sane world.

And with seven of nine members of last year's 15-12 squad returning, the Ramblin' Wreck may do just that.

Last season was another in a string of four improved years at Tech by coach Dwane Morrison, and the Jackets looked to be strong contenders for the Metro-7 title in 1978-79. But when the Atlanta school was admitted to the ACC last spring, the Metro-7 decided to go with Virginia Tech instead. Conference foes St. Louis, Tulane and Louisville dropped the Jackets from their schedules and Morrison was left to hustle up new games with the likes of Western Carolina and Campbell College.



But by next December Tech will be on all seven ACC opponents' schedules. Too bad for the Jackets fellows like Sammy Drummer, Tico Brown and Billy Smith won't be around.

Drummer, a 6-foot-5, 211-pound forward, averaged 30 points a game in junior college before transferring to Tech, where he hit for 21 points a game last year. He also improved his defense and grabbed 6.1 points per game.

Brown, the big guard, hit for 16.1 points and also helped around the

boards, while the 6-2 Smith held down the playmaking spot and handed out 61 assists.

Lenny Horton is the Jackets' big forward and was the team's No.2 rebounder last year. The 6-7 junior will try to up the excellent 61 percent mark from the field he shot last season.

One junior and two freshmen will compete for the starting center post vacated by the graduation of Bill Allgood. Rob Noyes, a substitute last season, is a 6-8, 220-pound junior from Marion, N.C. The freshmen, Steve Neal and David Cole, are both 6-10.

Tech plans to carry only 11 players, so the Jackets will have to avoid the injuries that whittled their squad to as few as seven members last season.

The Jackets also hope to do better in their close games this season. Last winter Tech dropped its 12 games by a total of 44 points. The Jackets had better get ready for close games. There'll be plenty next year.

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