



George Thomas will have to score big to fill the void left by Brook Steppe.

DTH/AI Steele

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Staff Writer

The Georgia Tech basketball program is improving, but it may not show in wins and losses just yet.

Bobby Cremins is entering his second season at the helm after coaching Tech to a 10-16 record last season. While 10-16 is nothing to brag about, their record is a big step up from the 4-23 team of 1980-81. This season, getting into double figures in the win column will be a difficult task.

"We were very pleased with the 10-16 record of last year," Cremins said. "We played about as well as we could with the talent that we had. Because we have so many new faces this year (six), I'm reluctant to put too much pressure on them. Naturally, we'd like to win more ACC games this year and put together a winning season."

The key face missing from last year's team that went 3-11 in ACC warfare is Brook Steppe, a first round draft choice of the NBA's Kansas City Kings. Steppe did it all for Tech last season, leading the team in scoring (17.8) and rebounding (5.4).

Steppe's leadership of the team will be sorely missed also. The fans at the ACC Tournament last March in Greensboro gave him an appreciative standing ovation after he fouled out of his final collegiate game against North Carolina in the first round.

"It'll be impossible for us to replace Steppe with just one player," Cremins said. "Several players, primarily (Anthony) Byrd and George Thomas, will have to pick

up Steppe's scoring, while we're looking for transfer Yvon Joseph and Tim Harvey and the wing forwards to give us more rebounding strength."

Though Tech outrebounded opponents last year, their two leading rebounders were Steppe and Thomas—both guards. Cremins saw a need for a stronger front line and that was one of his recruiting goals.

"We really needed help with the inside game this year so we recruited two strong inside players and three wing players who could also play inside," he said.

Freshman Harvey averaged 15 points and 15 rebounds at Plainfield (N.J.) High. The 6-10 center will get help from Yvon Joseph, a junior college transfer from Miami-Dade North. 6-9 John Salley, 6-7 Jack Mansell and 6-5 Danny Pearson will provide help at the wing spots.

Cremins lured strength in quantity on the front line, but he may have the one quality recruit that he needed in the backcourt. Mark Price, a 6-0 point guard from Enid, Okla., averaged 31.3 points and seven assists on his way to being named Oklahoma Player of the Year. He turned down an offer to play at Oklahoma in favor of Cremins' style, Tech's academic reputation and a chance to play in the ACC.

Byrd, Thomas and Maurice Bradford form the nucleus Cremins will look to for leadership. But he also expects Price to carry the load at point guard.

The style of Tech's offense will change slightly with the addition of the three-point goal from 19 feet and the 30-second clock. Cremins said his recruits are more apt to bring the ball down court and shoot quickly rather

Ga. Tech loses Steppe, adds six new faces

With Steppe gone, Georgia Tech will look to George Thomas and Anthony Byrd for scoring. Newcomers Yvon Joseph and Tim Harvey should help in rebounding. Prediction: **Eighth.**

than hold the ball.

While the Yellow Jackets may be a better team than last year, wins won't come against the schedule they play. They still have some patsies on their schedule—Wofford, St. Francis, Sewanee, Alabama A&M, South Carolina State, Georgia State and Frances Marion. But the full complement of ACC games, along with games against Iona, Georgia and Oklahoma, will make 10 wins a realistic goal to reach.

Changes in facilities have helped Tech's situation. The four-story, \$7 million Edge Intercollegiate Athletic Center was completed recently. It houses administration offices, locker rooms, training room, weight room, dining hall, equipment room and other facilities. Also, locker rooms have been remodeled and a new floor has been installed in Alexander Memorial Coliseum, their home building.

"One of the things that impressed me the most was the commitment that (Athletic Director) Dr. (Homer) Rice gave me," Cremins said. "They gave me the green light to recruit nationally and assured me that improvements would be soon coming in the facilities area. The ACC schools have great facilities and it was a top priority for ours to be equal to the schools that we must compete with. Tech people have given me great support and I love it."

The support will be important this season. Without Steppe on this young and inexperienced team, Tech cannot expect to better their record of a year ago. Cremins again may have to call 10 wins a pleasing season and continue to build for the future.

No.	Player	Year	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
35	Maurice Bradford	Sr.	6-5	190	Cincinnati, OH
30	Anthony Byrd	Jr.	6-2	180	Apex, NC
44	Tim Harvey	Fr.	6-10	230	Plainfield, NY
54	Yvon Joseph	Fr.	6-10	235	Miami, FL
34	Jack Mansell	Fr.	6-7	210	Sharon, PA
33	Danny Pearson	Fr.	6-5	190	Columbia, SC
25	Mark Price	Fr.	6-0	165	Enid, OK
22	John Salley	Fr.	6-9	185	Brooklyn, NY
15	George Thomas	Sr.	6-3	180	Cocoa, FL
43	Greg Wilson	Jr.	6-8	220	Grande Ridge, FL

Georgia Tech Schedule	
<i>Boldface denotes home games</i>	
Nov. 29	Wofford
Dec. 2	St. Francis (N.Y.)
Dec. 4	Georgia at Omni, Atlanta, GA
Dec. 13	Sewanee
Dec. 15	Alabama A&M
Dec. 18	Oklahoma
Jan. 4	Iona at Meadowlands

Jan. 8	Wake Forest	Feb. 2	N.C. State
Jan. 11	Clemson	Feb. 5	Maryland
Jan. 13	South Carolina State	Feb. 9	Duke
Jan. 15	N.C. State	Feb. 12	Wake Forest
Jan. 17	Virginia at Omni, Atlanta, GA	Feb. 14	Virginia
Jan. 19	Georgia State	Feb. 16	South Carolina
Jan. 24	Clemson	Feb. 21	Appalachian State
Jan. 26	Francis Marion	Feb. 23	Maryland
Jan. 29	North Carolina at Greensboro, N.C.	Feb. 26	Duke
		March 2	North Carolina

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