

# New era beginning at Virginia

By **LEE ROBERTS**  
Staff Writer

The Ralph Sampson era at the University of Virginia was a prosperous one. With the 7-4 giant at the helm, the Cavaliers won or tied for three straight regular-season ACC championships, as well as three NCAA tourney berths and an NIT championship. Beginning with the 1980-81 season, Virginia was ranked in the top 10 for 48 consecutive weeks, and was only the second ACC team (UNC was first in 1967-69) to finish in the top five three years in a row.

Individually, Sampson finished with 2,225 points (seventh in ACC history), 1,511 rebounds (third in ACC history), 461 blocked shots and three ACC and national player-of-the-year awards. Sampson was the first collegiate player in 15 years to score 2,000 points and pull down 1,500 rebounds.

An era has passed, but a new era has begun. Coach Terry Holland, who has 193 wins at Virginia and 285 career victories, hopes so, anyway.

"Let's face it," Holland said. "There's life after Ralph."

While life after Ralph may not be as prosperous as it has been the last four years, Holland said the Cavaliers will be competitive:

"I really do believe that our kids will feel a great deal of pressure to prove they are good without Ralph, and I think

that will have a backlash effect early in the season," Holland said. "I think we will have to get that out of our system and realize that we can lose — and it is not a terrible trauma — and then find ways to win. When we do, it will be a lot more fun, and I feel that by the end of the season, we will be among the best teams in the country."

The loss of Sampson and forward Craig Robinson will be felt all season, but the Cavaliers return some quality players in 1983. The most notable returnees are senior guards Othell Wilson, Rick Carlisle and Ricky Stokes, and junior forwards Jim Miller and Tim Mullen.

Virginia's guard corps is arguably one of the best in the nation, headed by Wilson, who earned second-team All-ACC honors last season after being first team in 1982.

Wilson averaged 13.6 points a game, shooting over 53 percent from the field and handing out a team-leading 152 assists. And it's been said that he may be the nation's finest defensive guard.

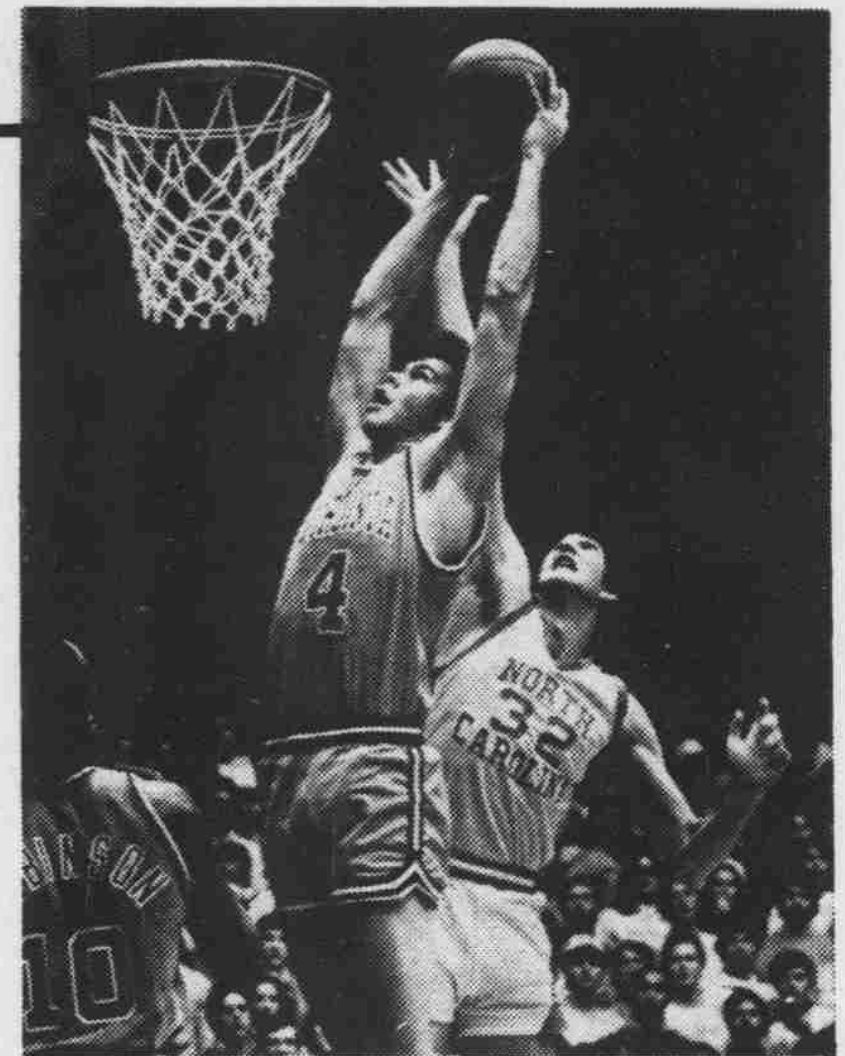
Carlisle, who at 6-5 scored 10.9 points a game last year and had 98 assists, will probably start at the second guard. Crowd favorite Stokes (5-10) will see a lot of court time because of his quickness.

Without a 7-4 center, the backcourt should become more of a focal point this season. The Cavalier's senior guards have played in a total of 287 major college basketball games.

Other guards are Kenny Johnson and sophomore Kenny Lambiotte. Mullen, at 6-5, may also play at guard because of his rebounding weakness at forward.

The front line is understandably weakened by the losses of Sampson and Robinson. Last year the two accounted for 45 percent of Virginia's rebounds, and Holland sees that as a source of great concern.

"Although Ralph and Craig were fine scorers, we can replace that in our lineup," he said. "It is the rebounding area that we'll be most concerned about. Rebounding is such a crucial area. We've put a lot of work into maintain-



Junior forward Jim Miller is one of the Cavaliers who must play without Ralph Sampson.

ing defensive positioning."

Senior Kenton Edelin, a strong rebounder, was slated to start at center, but a broken cheekbone will sideline him until late December. That leaves the only true center as 6-10 freshman Olden Polynice.

The 18-year-old from Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, began playing basketball just four years ago. Despite his relative inexperience, Polynice managed to average 23 points and 15 rebounds playing for a New York high school last year. His rebounding should be of help and he has strong potential, but he still has a lot to learn, Holland said.

To add further instability to the center situation, senior Wingo Smith recently quit the team for personal reasons.

At 6-8, former sixth man Miller should move into a starting role at forward. Miller scored 9.6 points a game a year

See VIRGINIA on page 30

## VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

No.	NAME	HT/WT	CLASS	HOMETOWN
34	Rick Carlisle	6-5/210	Sr.	Ogdensburg, NY
30	Ken Edelin	6-7/205	Sr.	Alexandria, VA
33	Kenny Johnson	6-0/180	Jr.	Baltimore, MD
44	Kenny Lambiotte	6-4/195	So.	Woodstock, VA
51	Dan Merrifield	6-6/220	Jr.	Linwood, NJ
4	Jim Miller	6-8/210	Jr.	Princeton, WV
45	Tim Mullen	6-5/196	Jr.	Ridgewood, NJ
24	Olden Polynice	6-10/210	Fr.	New York, NY
22	Tom Sheehy	6-8/215	Fr.	Rochester, NY
42	Wingo Smith	6-9/230	Sr.	Indianapolis, FL
15	Ricky Stokes	5-10/163	Sr.	Highland Springs, VA
11	Othell Wilson	6-0/198	Sr.	Woodbridge, VA

THE  
wedge  
AND  
Racket

114 W. Franklin St.

929-0198

## SALE

All Racquetball & Squash Rackets Reduced  
Wilson, Dunlop, Bancroft, & More

ALSO: All Tennis Rackets Reduced

- Wilson Sting Oversized . . . . . only \$125.00 strung
- Wilson String Midsize . . . . . only \$115.00 strung
- Jack Kramer Midsize . . . . . only \$75.00 strung

PLUS: All Men's & Ladies' Clothing reduced,  
famous makers such as CB, Puma, Nike, Brooks,  
Bill Rodgers, & Movin' Comfort.

*A Tradition of Excellence!*



Western  
**Sizzlin**  
STEAK HOUSE

324 East Rosemary St.  
Chapel Hill  
942-1818

The Original  
**STEAK HOUSE**