

## Blue Devil Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Year	Hometown
30	**Alaa Abdelnaby	C	6-10	240	Jr.	Bloomfield, N.J.
21	**Robert Brickey	F	6-5	205	Jr.	Fayetteville, N.C.
45	*Clay Buckley	F-C	6-10	225	So.	Wayne, Pa.
42	**George Burgin	C	7-0	215	Jr.	Fairfax, Va.
13	*Joe Cook	G	6-2	195	So.	Lincoln, Ill.
23	Brian Davis	G-F	6-6	185	Fr.	Bladensburg, Md.
35	***Danny Ferry	F	6-10	230	Sr.	Bowie, Md.
44	**Phil Henderson	G	6-4	170	Jr.	University Park, Ill.
32	Christian Laettner	F-C	6-10	225	Fr.	Angola, N.Y.
22	*Greg Koubek	F	6-6	205	So.	Clifton Park, N.Y.
34	Crawford Palmer	C	6-10	225	Fr.	Arlington, Va.
33	***John Smith	F	6-7	225	Sr.	Ft. Washington, Md.
14	***Quinn Snyder	G	6-3	175	Sr.	Mercer Island, Wash.

**Head Coach**  
Mike Krzyzewski (Army, 1969)

**Assistants**  
Bob Bender (Duke, 1980)  
Mike Brey (George Washington, 1982)  
Pete Gaudet (Boston University, 1966)  
Tommy Amaker (Duke, 1987)



# No. 1 Duke eyes title

## Ferry and company ready to lead Duke back to Seattle Final Four

By LANGSTON WERTZ  
Staff Writer

Arguably, two of the nation's best basketball players last season shared at least one thing in common — the first name Danny.

This season, Danny Manning is lost to the NCAA and his Kansas Jayhawks due to graduation, and will play for the NBA's hapless Los Angeles Clippers. But Danny Ferry is back, and Duke's got him.

The Blue Devil offense will center around the 6-foot-10 Ferry, who hails from Bowie, Md., but Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski already looks forward to a dim Duke without Danny.

"I remember Danny coming in as a freshman and fitting in with the great team we had that year," said Coach K, who is in his eighth season at Duke and sports an impressive 174-84 record there.

"I've seen him emerge, and all the attention he's getting this year as a senior makes me feel real good. But it also makes me sad, because this is it. I felt sad last May when he was thinking about going pro. You have no idea how close that came to happening."

Fortunately for Krzyzewski, Ferry is back for his fourth and final season in Duke royal blue. Last year, Ferry put up some big numbers (19.1 ppg, 7.6 rpg) and will need to duplicate or better his stellar junior performance — which landed him ACC Player of The Year awards — if the Blue Devils are to meet their lofty expectations.

Expectations that see them ranked No. 1 in most of the pre-season polls. Expectations that, if met, will see them visiting the Final Four for the third time in the past four years — and expectations that have people penning them in as national champions.

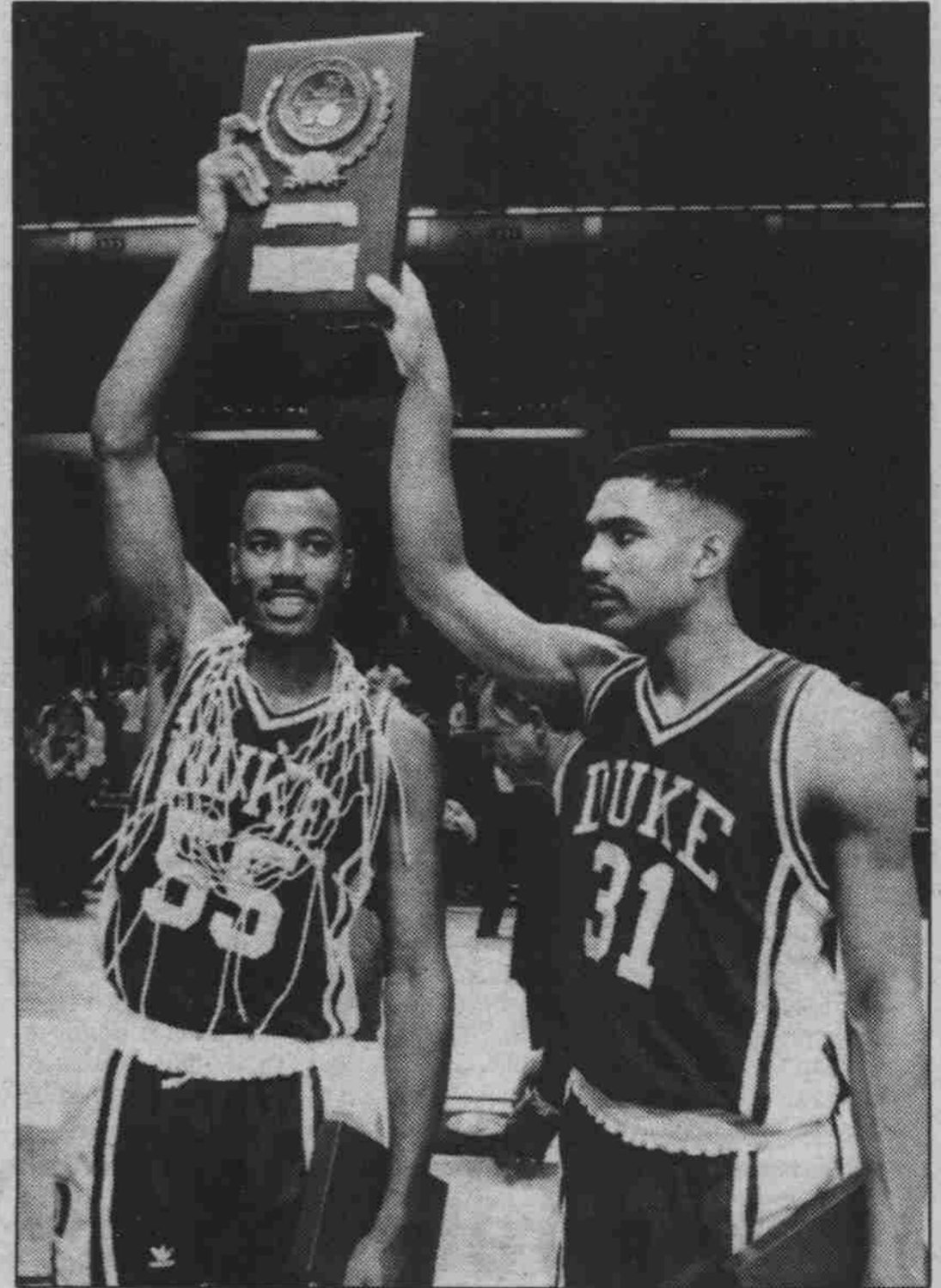
But Ferry is not a one-man show. Back to join him are 6-foot-5 forward Robert Brickey (10.5 ppg, 5.1 rpg), 6-10 center Alaa Abdelnaby (4.9 ppg) and junior guard Phil Henderson, who is expected to miss a few games while he battles mononucleosis.

Also returning are forward Greg Koubek, who will miss Saturday's season opener against Kentucky after suffering an injured finger while dunking in practice. Forward John Smith (8.1 ppg) and sharpshooting point guard Quinn Snyder (8.3 ppg, 1.98 assists) are also back.

"I think our team will be good right away, but it could develop into an outstanding team," Coach K said. "I'm not going to stand up here and say Danny Ferry's not good and we're not very good. That's stupid. I've told you when we're bad and I've told you when we're good. And we're good."

Very good and very, very tall. The Blue Devils sport six players at least 6-foot-10, as well as the 6-5 jumping jack Brickey, whose leaping ability allows him to play somewhere in the 6-10 stratosphere.

Coach K is especially high on 6-10 freshman Christian Laettner. "He looks like a youngster who can help us a little more than the other two (freshmen Brian Davis and Peter Crawford) at the beginning," Krzyzewski said. "He already has the



DTH file photo

Strickland and King are gone, but Duke still has a lot to smile about

versatility to go inside and outside." But even with Abdelnaby, soph Clay Buckley, Ferry, Laettner, Crawford Palmer, and junior George Burgin — a sextet that will loom large in Duke's championship run — Krzyzewski is concerned with his defense.

Gone is big-time Duke defensive ace Billy King. The name King was synonymous with big-time "D" a year ago. Just ask Temple sensation Mark Macon, whom King forced into eight air balls on 3-of-28 shooting in the East Regional Championship game last season.

"Our most prominent need will be communication on defense," Krzyzewski said. "That's where we'll miss Billy. Billy made everybody else a little better defensively."

To offset the loss of King's defense, Duke will possibly abandon its ferocious man-to-man at times, which it usually plays for 40 minutes. "We'll play zone a little bit," Coach K said hesitantly. But the coach knows what the difference between his team being a winner on paper and being a winner on the court is — they must consistently wipe the glass.

"We could become an even better rebounding team," he said. "If we're consistent in our rebounding, we'll be a consistent winner."

The Blue Devils will be forced into being consistent early in the season to maintain the lofty rankings and

Ferry's National Player of the Year shot. But the rankings and the honors don't seem to steer Ferry, or the Blue Devils, off the course — a path which has Seattle, Wash., site of the Final Four, as its target.

"We've been rated No. 1 by a lot of people, and we're not ducking it at all," Ferry said. "We figure if we get the chemistry going and stay consistent, we can be one of the top teams in the country. (The ranking) is kind of neat, but at the same time it's something we have to learn to deal with. It's not something that's new to us. Hopefully, that will help."

Not too many of the basketball fans in the country would be surprised if Ferry and Duke go on a tear in '88-89, but Duke senior forward John Smith had predicted success for Ferry when he was a freshman and chose Duke's chapels over North Carolina's green pastures.

"I knew Dan before he liked girls, so I have seen it all," Smith said. "Nothing he does ever surprises me. His success is just a testament to his intense desire to excel at everything he does."

And as Ferry goes in '88-89, Duke should follow. And if Ferry continues to have his desire to excel, the Blue Devils should excel.

And if the Blue Devils excel this season, the Seattle Kingdome's championship nets may well hang in Krzyzewski's office.



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