

FRESHMEN

Baby blues: Freshmen prepare for college, bench

By Adam Davis
Staff Writer

Almost everyone attending this University, or any university for that matter, knows how difficult it can be — the instant transition from high school adolescence to college adulthood.

At UNC, four men are making that transition in a unique way. Each has left the comforts of high school or prep school basketball stardom and is facing the uncertainty of playing in the ACC, with and against some of the best players in college basketball.

"Immediately, I don't think (this recruiting class) will have the impact that others have had," said Barry Jacobs, free-lance writer and author of Fan's Guide to ACC Basketball magazine. "For instance, I don't see that there's anyone there who's going to be a starter this year. There's a question whether anyone there will be even a 20-minute per game player this year."

If anyone gets that kind of playing time, it is likely to be guard Dante Calabria.

"Calabria's been a pleasant surprise," said UNC head coach Dean Smith. "It's like he's been there a long time."

"He picks up things very well — first freshman guard we've ever had that isn't fazed by our double-team. I'm talking about Phil Fords, Kenny Smiths; they were all scared to be double-teamed. Dante has a chance to play some this year."

Last season, the 6-foot-4 Calabria averaged 28 points, 10 rebounds, five steals and four assists per game for Blackhawk High School in Beaver Falls, Pa. His team won the state championship with a 32-1 record.

"He's a very smart player," said John Miller, Calabria's high school coach. "He's a good passer and sees the floor, he knows how to deliver to the post guy,

DANTE CALABRIA

Position: Guard
Height: 6-4
Weight: 175
Hometown: Beaver Falls, Pa.
High School: Blackhawk High
As a Senior: 28 ppg, 10 rpg

LARRY DAVIS

Position: Guard
Height: 6-1
Weight: 185
Hometown: Denmark, S.C.
High School: Denmark-Olar High
As a Senior: 45 ppg
Last Year: Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy

SERGE ZWIKKER

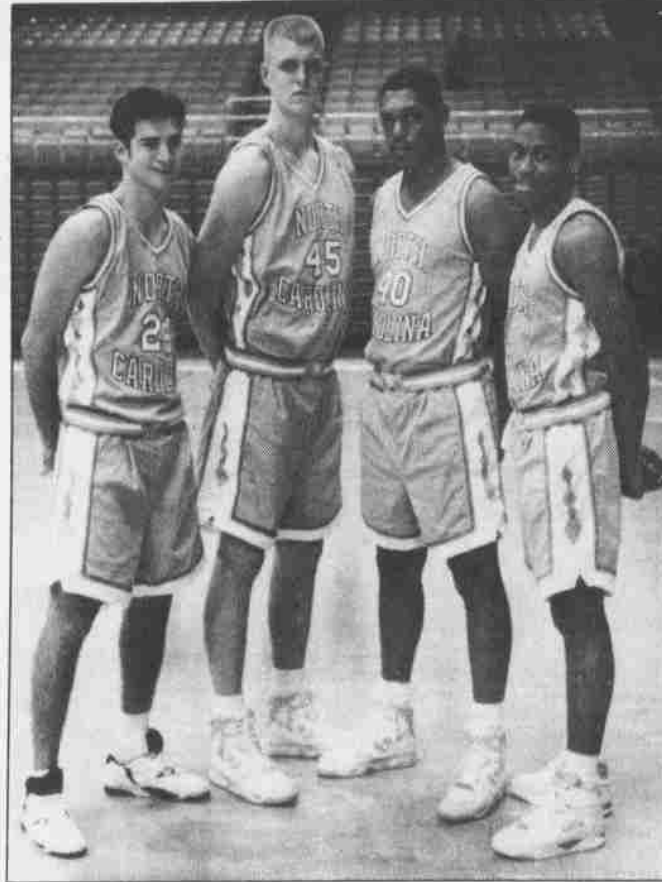
Position: Center
Height: 7-1
Weight: 245
Hometown: Maassluis, Neth.
High School: Harker Prep (Potomac, Md.)
As a Senior: 18 ppg, 12 rpg

ED GETH

Position: Forward
Height: 6-8
Weight: 230
Hometown: Norfolk, Va.
High School: Granby High
As a Senior: 17 ppg, 18 rpg

and he's an extremely gutsy player — doesn't back down.

"He's fearless. He never thinks he's



DTH/Debbie Stempel

UNC's freshman class, from left: Dante Calabria, Serge Zwikker, Ed Geth, Larry Davis

going to lose. He's right on that little edge of being too cocky — he really has great confidence in himself."

Joining Calabria in UNC's backcourt is Larry Davis (6-1), who averaged 45 ppg his senior year at Denmark-Olar

High School in Denmark, S.C.

After failing to make a 700 on his SAT, Davis spent last year at Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia.

"Larry's a great athlete," said UNC forward Pat Sullivan. "He's very quick, he's a real good jumper — he's a great scorer."

"If he can adjust and learn quickly, I think he'll be a great player."

While Davis does have great offen-

sive talent, UNC guard Henrik Rödl cautioned against expecting Davis to come right in and put up big numbers.

"It's hard for players to come in from high school and score 40 at Carolina," he said. "Not many people do that. He is a very good shooter, a very talented scorer, and I think he'll do very well here. But you won't be able to see him score 20 to 30 points this year."

Another freshman with star potential is 7-1 center Serge Zwikker, originally from The Netherlands and now in his fifth year in America.

Zwikker averaged 22 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks per game last year for Harker Prep School in Potomac, Md.

"Serge is a very hard-working player," said Stu Vetter, who coached Zwikker at Harker. "Serge is the type of player that's going to get better. He's going to continue to improve at any level, because he's not going to be satisfied until he's as good as he can be."

UNC center Eric Montross said Zwikker had adjusted his game quickly.

"I think Serge is another one of the big men who came in from high school, and they haven't gone up against any other really big players," Montross said. "And I think that he's had to change his game a little bit — change his shots, because they're not as easy to get off as they were in high school."

"He's done a very good job of changing that, and I think he's coming along quite well."

Zwikker still has a lot of hard work ahead of him, but Vetter said the freshman had the skill and determination to improve.

"I think Serge's coordination is outstanding," he said. "He has a nice shooting touch, and he's a good person — a good kid who's going to work very hard to contribute any way he can. He's the type of player that coaches like to coach."

Rounding out this year's "diaper dandies" is forward Ed Geth, listed at 6-8, 230.

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