

## NCAA basketball: The ACC Virginia's the favorite, but Duke will win

by Brad Kane  
The Collegian

1. Duke - All hail the Blue Devils once again, who lose three starters from last year's national runner-up team but return two fine players in junior center Christian Laettner and sophomore guard Bobby Hurley, who, contrary to popular belief, is *not* overrated.

The Devils scored a recruiting coup with the addition of forward Grant Hill to the lineup, and boast a deep bench filled with enough role players to take them back to the final four once again.

2. Virginia - The betting favorite to take the conference this year. The Cavs feature a strong starting five, led by forward Bryant Stith and point guard John Crotty. But remember, Virginia has lost head coach Terry Holland, who took the athletic director's position at Davidson University, his alma mater. His strategies were an integral part of the Cavaliers success last year. Without him, Virginia might not be the same team.

3. North Carolina - Yes, we've all heard of the incredible freshman class that Head Coach Dean Smith recruited. Five quality players that should bring a national championship back to Tar Heel country within at least two years.

Until the recruits mature, Smith still features a talented bunch. This year, UNC will follow the leads of forwards Rick Fox and George Lynch and guard King Rice. Coupled with the efforts of the freshmen (led by 7-2 center Eric Montross), Carolina should not be feeling blue this year.

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4. Georgia Tech - Sophomore Kenny Anderson is all that remains from last year's "Lethal Weapon 3" guard troika, but Anderson will not just merely "remain" from last year. He'll produce, and produce big time. Anderson won't have much to work with.

Sophomore Malcom Mackey will return inside to give the Yellow Jackets at least one more element of attack, but don't look for much more talent to come out of the woodwork.

5. North Carolina State - The Wolfpack were rocked by scandal in the off-season, and Coach Jim Valvano took the fall and quit his post. Matters almost became ten times worse when senior guards Chris Corchiani and Rodney Monroe threatened to leave the university.

They stayed put, and through the tandem's combined efforts, NC State should not fall by the wayside this year. Monroe especially will let his impact be felt in the conference this campaign.

6. Clemson - Last year's conference Cinderella story, the Tigers lost floor leader Elden Cambell to graduation and thus are a radically different team. While senior center Dale Davis returns inside to pound opponents into the floor once again, the Tigers are nothing more than average after his presence. Wins will be hard to come by for Clemson this year.

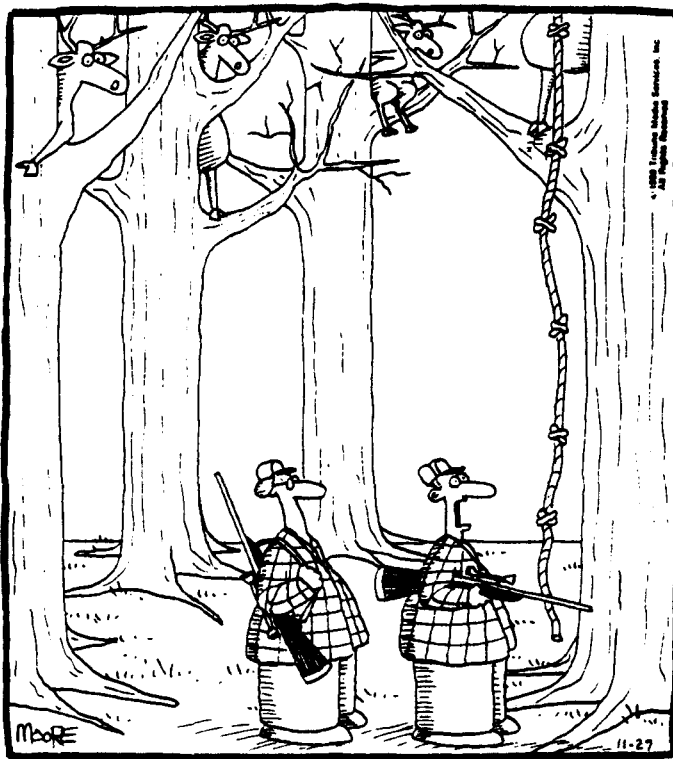
7. Wake Forest - Last year's basement club in the conference, the Deacon Demons have unveiled their secret weapon - freshman forward Rodney Rogers, one of the most highly regarded frosh in the land. Rogers doesn't have a whole lot to work with, but at least his club won't finish in last. That award goes to...

8. Maryland - Scandal also befell the Terps this year, as it has to the Wolfpack (neither team is eligible for postseason play), but unlike NC State, Maryland lost some key players from its roster due to the allegations of wrong doing.

Guard Teyon McCoy transferred to Texas Tech and forward Jerrod Mustaf opted for the NBA draft. Who's left? The only substantial player left in the Terrapins' lineup is guard Walt Williams, who threatened to transfer as well, but decided to remain at Maryland.

## IN THE BLEACHERS

by Steve Moore



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