

CLICK YOUR HEELS WHICH ARE FULL OF 'CAROLINA TAR

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1. NORTH CAROLINA

The Tar Heels are a good bet to add to their streaks of 23 straight 20-win seasons, 19 consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances and 13 straight trips to the Sweet 16. Although Dean Smith's second NCAA championship took 11 years to accomplish, after winning his first in 1982, his third looks right around the corner. Smith returns four starters for the 1993-94 campaign, including All-American candidate Eric Montross. Senior guard Derrick Phelps, senior forward Brian Reese and junior guard Donald Williams are Smith's other top returnees. Smith should enjoy, arguably, the top freshman in this year's crop, Jerry Stackhouse. The

key to North Carolina's defense of their national title, will be replacing the 9.6 rebounds per game George Lynch, now a member of the Los Angeles Lakers, snatched off the boards, and also Phelps' tenacious defense. The Tar Heels will need to utilize their experience and confidence they maintain, and gain momentum for the Atlantic Coast Conference season.

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2. KENTUCKY

21 points per game and 8.4 rebounds per game. That is all that Kentucky Head coach Rick Pitino has to worry about replacing, as he and the Wildcats begin their quest to Minneapolis, site of the 1994 Final Four. The Wildcats figure to miss the powerful

play of Jamal Mashburn, now a member of the Dallas Mavericks, and the defensive play of Dale Brown, but are talking about being a lot better than last year. Yes, better!! Pitino sees his squad being "much, much stronger" inside. He will also be attacking from the three-point area. Point guard Travis Ford will head the aerial attack from Treyland. His 52.9 percent accuracy last season ranked fourth nationally. The Wildcats' erratic defensive style will result in many turnovers by their opponents. Pitino demands relentless pressure, and will come at you from full-court to three-quarters court to half-court, just depending on the situation. Sophomore forward Jared Prickett and senior center Rodney Dent will figure in Pitino's strategy much of the time also.

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3. ARKANSAS

Head Coach Nolan Richardson should be extremely happy with his recruiting efforts, in search of some big men. 6'11" forward/center Darrell Robinson and 6'11" center Lee Wilson will be a nice addition to a squad that returns 10 lettermen. Swingman Scotty Thurman will be the driving force for this team, and will keep the Razorbacks' motivation level up. Thurman and Corliss Williamson, a 6'7" forward that averaged 14.6 ppg. as a freshman, will be looked upon as the Go-To Guys in clutch situations. As far as the backcourt is concerned, the SEC won't find any better than the Hogs, which is why they are able to run and press so much. If Richardson can develop his bench into a fine supporting cast, the Razorbacks should be alright. With the addition of Robinson and Wilson, Williamson should be able to create a 12-15 foot jumper, which could be automatic by March.

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4. LOUISVILLE

Just when you thought Denny Crum and his traditionally tough Cardinals would begin to fall further out of perennial status - *He's Baaaack!!!* Crum will be leaning towards a frontcourt that may

be able to play with just about any team in the nation. The thing Crum is going to have to hope for, is that 6'9" center Clifford Rozier is able to drop his lackadaisical tendencies. Swingmen Greg Minor and Dwayne Morton, the NCAA's third-most accurate three-point shooter last year, will frequently swing into the backcourt. Louisville's backcourt is the area that will be crucial. The transfer of Keith LeGree, leaves a void for 6' foot guard Dejuan Wheat to fill. Jason Osborne, also a newcomer to the Cardinals, along with Wheat could both become excellent defenders. If they can hone their athleticism and quickness and produce early on, it may be bright for Louisville. Watch out for the surging Cards, regardless of their November 27 loss to Kentucky 78-70. This is a team that will learn more every game, and accumulate the W's.

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5. CALIFORNIA

This could be a premature gesture for the Golden Bears, but they do boast the most creative point guard in the nation in Jason Kidd. Head Coach Todd Bozeman has recruited Cal into one of the most exciting teams on the West Coast and has an extremely gifted nucleus with Kidd, Lamond Murray, Alfred Grigsby, Monty Buckley and K.J. Roberts. Grigsby has the talent to turn into an immediate star, as does Murray, but must overcome inconsistent periods during the season. Murray, whom Bozeman feels is "the most talented player on the team," led the team in scoring last year and can be a menace inside or outside. Murray can turn it on at anytime and will have to get it going through December, just in time for league play. The Bears open with Washington State, a team that could be the Pac-10 sleeper this season. The biggest key for the Bears will be just to remain calm and play their game. With no personality conflicts, erratic play will not become a concern, and Cal could have an undefeated Pac-10 clash with Arizona on January 13.

BIG WEST CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK

CAL STATE FULLERTON... No longer a rookie head coach, Brad Holland will look to improve on last season's 15-12 record, but to do that, he must replace all five starters. The Titans will be without guard Don Leary, who was ruled academically ineligible. Leary poured in 13.4 points per game last season. Guard Greg Vernon and forward Todd Satalowich worked well off the bench last season. Vernon is a three-year letterman who averaged 10.2 minutes per game last season. Darren Little and Winston Peterson are two key Junior College transfers who Holland expects big things from this season. James French, who redshirted last year after transferring from Washington, is expected to run the Titans offense.

LONG BEACH STATE... The 49ers will look to make the NCAA tournament for the second straight year as coach Seth Greenburg welcomes back six players from last season's 22-10 squad. The Big West's all-time scoring leader, Lucious Harris, is gone and so is his 23.1 scoring average. The 49ers will have a talented backcourt in returning starter Rod Hamrill, who averaged 11.9 points per game in 1993, and Jeff Rogers, who started 30 games last year. In the frontcourt, a pair of 6-7 forwards, Terrance O'Kelly and Mike Alderson, will be called on to replace Bryon Russell and Chris Tower. Greenburg likes the depth of his 1993-94 squad.

NEW MEXICO STATE... The defending Big West champions will be minus four starters when they launch defense of their crown; however, the Aggies have reloaded with some talented Junior College transfers. Heading the list of returnees for coach Neil McCarthy is center James Dockery, a key figure in last year's 26-8 club. Joining Dockery is 11-game starter Darin Jackson, a 6-8 forward. One of the top point guards in California JCs last season was Dwain Bradberry, who is expected to replace Sam Crawford, the leader in assists in the nation last season. The Aggies' scoring punch may come from another JC transfer. Rodney Walker poured in 25.7 points per game last season at Glen Oaks CC. The Aggies made their fourth straight trip to the

NCAA tourney last year, advancing to the second round.

SAN JOSE STATE... Fifth-year coach Stan Morrison has reason to be optimistic this season, as he returns three starters and welcomes back top redshirt. The returning starters include forward Jason Allen, 8.5 ppg, guard Lossie Mitchell, 8.1 ppg, and guard Javier Zavala, 7.5 ppg. Tery Cannon, a 5-11 guard, returns after redshirting last season because of a knee injury. Cannon was the Spartans' leading scorer in 1991 and 1992, averaging 12.5 and 14 points respectively. The Spartans inside tandem could be 6-9 center Mike Brotherton and 6-8 forward Andrew Gardiner. With the Brotherton and Gardiner tandem, the Spartans could boast one of the strongest inside duos in the league.

UC URVINE... An experienced group of players return for Rod Baker's third year at the helm at UCI. Heading the list is guard Lloyd Mumford. An All-Big West candidate, Mumford averaged 13.8 points per game last season. Baker will look to All-Big West Freshman selection, Shaun Battle, 6-6, to provide the strength inside along with 6-10 Dee Boyer and 6-7 LaDay Smith. Baker, as usual, landed some new talent for UCI by signing 6-7 forward Mark Odsather, a JC MVP from Bellevue, Wash., and Jermaine Ayle from Eastern Utah. UCI will welcome Joe Hannon, a 6-8 forward, who sat out last season to fulfill requirements for an A.A. degree.

UC SANTA BARBARA... Head coach Jerry Pimm welcomes back one of the biggest squads he has ever coached at Santa Barbara. UCSB finished 18-11 and 10-8 in the Big West last year. On the inside, Pimm welcomes back Big West Freshman of Year Kyle Milling, a 6-8 forward who played in all 29 games last season, and three-year letterman Duane Carter, a 6-8 forward. Also vying for time in the frontcourt will be 6-11 redshirt freshman Rob Ramaker. A pair of sophomores, Chris Ford and Phillip Turner, should play significant roles in the backcourt, but they will be pushed by a pair of strong shooting JC transfers, Wayne Butt and Clayton Madden. Butts averaged 16 points a game last season at Central Florida JC, including 44 percent from the 3-point line. Madden will compete with Turner to run the offense.


NEVADA... Opening its second season in the Big West, Nevada comes into the 1993-94 campaign with a new coach, Pat Foster, who was

lured away from Houston. Foster averaged 22 wins with the Cougars over the last four seasons. With Foster comes five JC transfers. Angel Castiblanco, a 7-0 center from Madrid, Spain, was headed for Houston but followed Foster to Reno. The Wolf Pack could have a starting frontline of Castiblanco and returnees Kirk Davidson, 6-10, and 6-9 Jerry Saber. However, Foster signed heavily recruited Jimmy Moore from Dixie JC to push for a starting berth. Moore averaged 20.4 points and 9.6 rebounds last season. Foster will have to mold a backcourt from JC transfers Eathan O'Bryant, Marcus Iverson and Preston Johnson. Jerry Hogan started six games for Nevada at guard last season.

PACIFIC... Pacific notched its best season in 14 years, finishing with a 16-12 team. Coach Bob Thomson welcomes back three starters of his top four reserves from last season's 16-11 squad. The Tigers finished third in the conference with a 12-6 record and are gunning for a postseason berth for the first time since 1979. Guard Charles Terrell, a 1993 All-Big West honorable mention pick, heads the list of returnees. Terrell averaged 10.3 points and 3.6 assists per game. Glenn Griffin returns and may open at center. Griffin, 6-8, 215, scored 11.3 points per game last year. In addition, Michael Jackson started 18 games and averaged 7.2 points from his forward spot. Ben Rishwain was the sixth man a year ago and is eyeing the starting role opposite Terrell.




UTAH STATE... Utah State welcomes a new skipper to Logan, Larry Eustachy, formerly of Idaho. Eustachy led the Vandals to the Big Sky Conference regular season title last year. For Eustachy to equal that success in the Big West, 7-0 center Nathan Wickdizer will have to be on the floor. Wickdizer led the conference in personal fouls with 115, but the lanky junior scored 12.3 ppg. and grabbed more than 6 rpg. Nathan may be joined by his 6-8 brother, Jon, who provided some spark for the Aggies off the bench in 1993. Eustachy may have just the guy to get the ball into the big guys. Riddle Anderson, the '93 Cal JC Player of the Year, is expected to guide the Aggie offense. Seniors Trent Rose and Jursie Cotton will compete for time on the backcourt.

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