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SPORTS

*Duke v.s.
Florida*

Florida Gators look to stop traditional favorite DOES DUKE HAVE "HOMECOURT ADVANTAGE" IN CHARLOTTE?

W.G. Ramirez

When the Florida Gators step on the court Saturday afternoon for their National Semi-Final matchup against the Duke Blue Devils, they may get the impression that they've wandered into Dukeville, as the Charlotte Coliseum - in Charlotte, North Carolina - plays host to the 1994 Final Four.

Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski returns to the Final Four for the seventh time in nine years, and this year's trip is just a slight hike down I-85. After a tough campaign in 1993, which ended in a second-round ousting by California, Coach K delved into this season with plenty of question marks.

As for the Florida Gators, it took three-years of solid recruiting for fourth-year coach Lon Kruger to cash in with a Final Four appearance.

Matching wits with Coach K isn't exactly a task you want to face heading into a National Semi-Final, although Kruger

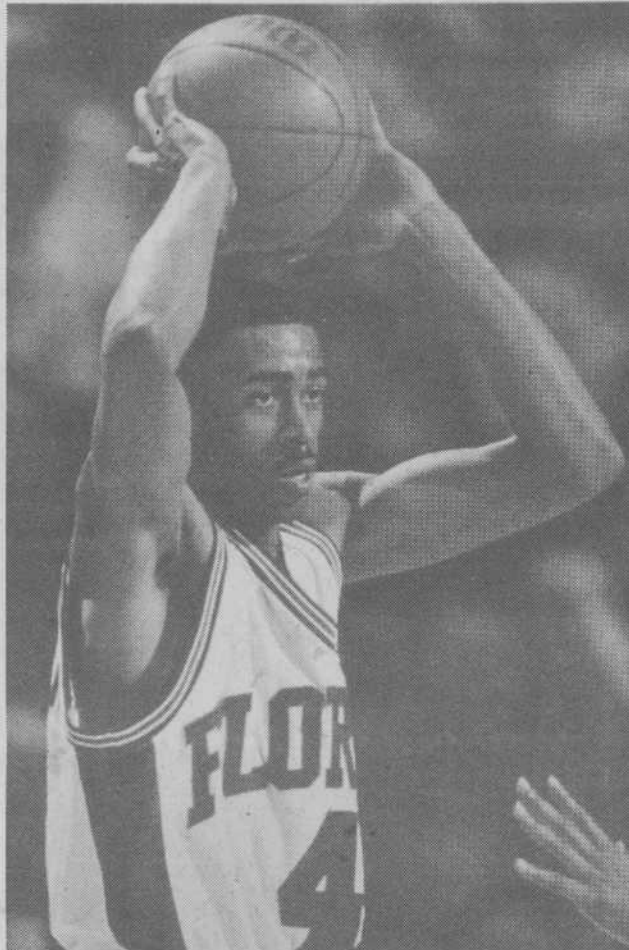


Grant Hill

could have the skills to get past Coach K & Co. Kruger's discipline and lust for a stinging defense has quickly rebuilt a once struggling squad.

Gators guard Craig Brown is easily one of the best in the Southeastern Conference, and if he can continue to shine from the three-point line, Duke will need to stay on their toes at all times.

The FINAL FOUR



Craig Brown

Bob Rosato

It was Brown's flurry of treys, 3 in three consecutive possessions, against Boston College that broke open a close regional final, and eventually the Florida win, 74-66.

His backcourt mate, Dan Cross hit 6-of-14 and had 6 assists with 3 steals. The duo's tenacious ways pressured Boston College and UConn into

shooting a dismal 9-for-41 from the perimeter, a dismal .219 percent.

Grant Hill has emerged for Coach K as the leader for the young Blue Devils squad, and has a strong supporting cast to vie for a third National Championship in four years.

With seniors Hill, Antonio (See Duke, Page 24)

*Arizona v.s.
Arkansas*

Guards seem to dominate for both clubs

'CATS V. HOGS: EITHER ONE CAN WIN IT ALL

W.G. Ramirez

When the 'Cats and Hogs tangle on Saturday afternoon, there will be an unbelievable display of backcourt talent on the court, and run-n-gun will be the name of the game.

Arguably there are no teams in the nation as deep at guard as the Arkansas Razorbacks and the Arizona Wildcats, which allows both clubs to run and press so much.

Arkansas point guard Corey Beck is the tournament leader for steals with eight and is also leading the field with a 52% field goal percentage (10-of-19). Swingman Scotty Thurman is coming off an impressive showing against Final Four regular Michigan, popping for 20 points, including 12 straight during a second half stretch and two big free throws in the closing seconds. Arkansas' secondary outscored Michigan's bench 19-4, as reserve guard Clint McDaniel led the charge with three 3-pointers.

Hailing from out West, Arizona also brings in a squad that is extremely healthy at the guard positions. Head Coach Lute Olsen has designed his offense based on the skills of Damon Stoudamire and Khalid Reeves. (See Final Four, Page 24)

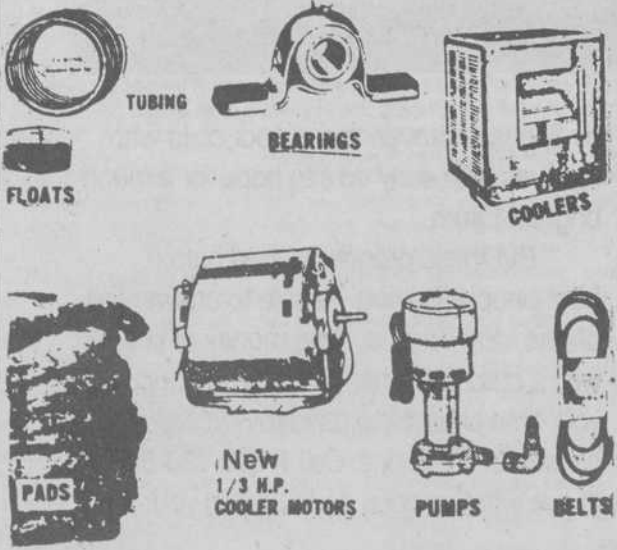


Khalid Reeves



Damon Stoudamire

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VILLANOVA CAPTURES NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

***Just in at press time, the Villanova Wildcats had toppled Vanderbilt to capture the 1994 post-season NIT title. The Wildcats used a furious late second-half surge to win the game at Madison Square Garden 80-73.

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