

1947-48

From materials in the Duke University Archives

### Three Candidates For Blue Devil Cage Team

ired above are three of five Floridians on the Duke basketball squad. Left to right, they are George Godfrey, little son of illie; Wesley Skibstead and Corren Youmans, both from Miami. All three figure prominently in Coach Gerry Gerard's edition of the Blue Devil basketballers.

## Duke Rebuilding Cage Squad Without Three Leading Scorers Of Last Year

Spirited Battling  
For All Positions;  
Only Three Fresh

This is one of a series of articles  
going with basketball prospects  
at major colleges in North Carolina.

By JACK HORNER  
Herald Sports Editor  
You were coach of a college  
basketball team and lost your three  
top scorers and a capable re-  
serve. You'd know what kind of a  
job C. (Gerry) Gerard  
prepares his Duke Blue  
Devils for the coming Southern  
conference basketball race.

ard, the Indiana native who  
played football and track but no  
basketball at Illinois University,  
is tickled the greatest rebuilding  
Duke cage mentor ever faced.  
He's from last year's stellar quintet  
led by Koffenberger. All-American  
man who rung up more points  
than any Duke player in history;  
and Loftis and John (Bubble) Ward,  
second and third high  
getters; and Sammy Roth,  
dependable reserve.  
In a sense, graduation took away  
the team and left Coach Gerard  
dismayed. He is rebuilding  
last year's reserves, junior  
members and two fresh-  
men. There's not a standout in the  
team, the most rabid Duke cage  
fan doesn't expect much out  
of the Blue Devils this hardwood  
season.

Coach Gerard, a quiet, se-  
nior worker who lets the perform-  
ance of his team speak for him,  
is down in the dumps over the  
fact. In fact, he wouldn't be  
surprised if this Duke quint comes  
fast and makes trouble for  
the other more promising  
in the conference.

"We develop slowly," he ad-  
mits. "We don't have any

But as soon as the  
boys have played a few games and  
gained a little poise, we might  
be able to go into the stretch with  
a better ball club.

**SOME HOPE**  
"Some of the boys are looking  
and I'm pleased with the way  
they're progressing," added Coach  
Gerard. "We won't have any great  
but the boys ought to give

### Blue Devil Basketball Roster

Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Class	Hometown
Doug Ausbon	F	6-1	185	23	Senior	Durham, N. C.
Carl Sapp	F	6-4	180	24	Soph.	Raleigh, N. C.
Corren Youmans	F	6-1	175	21	Soph.	Miami, Fla.
Wesley Skibstead	F	6-3	182	21	Soph.	Miami, Fla.
Walt Poplin	F	6-2	180	26	Junior	Albemarle, N.
Bill Armour	F	6-3	190	19	Fresh.	Miami, Fla.
Ben Collins	C	6-6	190	23	Junior	Hazard, Ky.
Tom Wallingford	C	6-4	185	20	Soph.	Maysville, Ky.
Pat Lyons	C	6-2	190	20	Fresh.	Norfolk, Va.
Dick Gordon	G	6-0	180	21	Junior	Jacksonville, Fla.
Bill Martin	G	6-1	170	22	Soph.	Portsmouth, Va.
Bill Stark	G	5-11	165	25	Senior	Lititz, Pa.
Dave Scarborough	G	6-3	185	20	Soph.	Philadelphia, Pa.
George Godfrey	G	6-0	160	20	Soph.	Jacksonville, Fla.
Tommy Hughes	G	6-0	180	21	Soph.	Sumter, S. C.

The 23-year-old Collins will work  
from the pivot. He has a dangerous  
hook shot and a two-handed over-  
head set that won't quit. Collins is  
Duke's big hope to fill Koffenber-  
ger's shoes as high scorer this sea-  
son.

Another Kentuckian, sophomore Tom  
Wallingford of Maysville, Ky., and  
footballer Pat Lyons, freshman  
from Norfolk, Va., are running be-  
hind Collins at the center slot. Lyons  
played intramural basketball  
last year while Wallingford was a  
member of the Duke Jayvee team.

#### THREE GRID PLAYERS

Lyons is one of three footballers on  
the cage squad. The others are  
Tommy Hughes, a promising guard  
candidate from Sumter, S. C., and  
Bill Armour, the lone other fresh-  
man who seeks a forward job. Arm-  
our was a Jayvee footballer, while  
Hughes and Lyons were members  
of the varsity squad.

Hughes looks like a good bet to  
pair with George Godfrey at the  
guard posts, although there are  
three lettermen and a reserve from  
last year seeking the same posi-  
tions. The holdovers include Dick

Gordon, part-time regular last year;  
Bill Stark, pre-war Blue Devil;  
Bill Martin, who played some in  
relief roles last season; and Dave  
Scarborough, the latter a reserve  
last year. Gordon is a scrapper of  
the first order, while Martin is a  
long shot ace.

Capt. Doug Ausbon, a Durham  
boy who has played a lot of ball  
the past two seasons, has been run-  
ning at one of the forward posts.  
Ausbon is an agile ball-hawk who

Poplin is sure to see plenty of ac-  
tion. In fact, Coach Gerard is  
counting heavily upon the Albe-  
marle boy.

#### ARMOUR MAY SURPRISE

Bill Armour, one of three Miami  
products on the 15-man squad, is  
a freshman who may surprise. The  
19-year-old, six-foot-three youth  
shows lots of promise.

The other forward candidates are  
Carl Sapp, long-legged Raleigh boy  
who was used as a spot player last  
year, and Wesley Skibstead, six-  
foot-three sophomore from Miami. Sapp,  
who stands four inches over six  
feet, is another boy who might  
break into the starting lineup at  
any moment.

So it looks like a merry battle for  
every position on the Duke team.  
All the jobs are wide open at the  
present and Coach Gerard hasn't  
settled upon any starting five.

Duke doesn't expect to be in a  
class with N. C. State's high-pow-  
ered Wolfpack, but it should pre-  
sent a hustling, spirited team that  
will make it more than interesting  
for other Southern Conference  
quints.

Highlights of the Duke schedule  
are games away from home with  
Navy, New York U., Temple and  
Georgia Tech. Tennessee comes to  
Durham on Jan. 3.