

1947-48



Three Candidates For Blue Devil Cage Team

Shown above are three of five Floridians on the Duke basketball squad. Left to right, they are George Godfrey, little son of the late; 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 Frosh

Blue Devil Basketball Roster

Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Age	Class	Hometown
Doug Ausbon	F	6-1	165	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. C.
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.

This is one of a series of articles dealing 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 best scorers and a capable reserve; you'd know what kind of a job Coach Gerry Gerard is prepping his Duke Blue Devils for the coming Southern Conference basketball race.

Gerard, the Indiana native who excelled in football and track but no basketball at Illinois University, tackled the greatest rebuilding job Duke cage mentor ever faced. He came from last year's stellar quintet led by Koffenberger, All-American guard who rung up more points than any Duke player in history; and Loftis and John (Bubber) Roth, second and third high scorers; and Sammy Roth, dependable reserve.

With a sense of graduation took away from the team and left Coach Gerard dimmed milk. He is rebuilding last year's reserves, junior members and two freshmen. There's not a standout in the squad the most rabid Duke cage player doesn't expect much out of the Blue Devils this hardwood season.

Coach Gerard, a quiet, seer who lets the performance of his team speak for him, down in the dumps over the job. In fact, he wouldn't be surprised if this Duke quint comes fast and makes trouble for the other more promising players in the conference.

"I'll develop slowly," he advised, "but we don't have any time to lose." But as soon as the team has played a few games and gained a little poise, we might expect to go into the stretch with the ball club.

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

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

Another Kentuckian, soph Tom Wallingford of Maysville, Ky., and footballer Pat Lyons, freshman from Norfolk, Va., are running behind 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 freshman who seeks a forward job. Armour 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 positions. 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 running at one of the forward posts. Ausbon is an agile ball-hawk who

Poplin is sure to see plenty of action. In fact, Coach Gerard is counting heavily upon the Albemarle 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 soph 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-powered Wolfpack, but it should present a hustling, spirited team that will make it more than interesting for other Southern Conference quintets.

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.