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Friar basketball fans... MIDNIGHT MADNESS 1994 October 14th - Alumni Hall

Women's Preview

by Kieth Christensen '96
Sports Writer

In-your-face defense. Three pointers ripping the nylons. Up and down, fast break offense. If this is your idea of basketball, then the Lady Friars are exactly what you have been waiting for. The Providence College Women's Basketball team averaged just over 80 points a game last season, finishing 13-15 (8-10 in the Big East). Coach Bob Foley returns ten players from that team, including three starters.

The Lady Friars are thought to be among the top 3 team in the conference, and Coach Foley believes that "we [the Lady Friars] have the potential to beat anybody. We have a legitimate shot at the conference title," he said, "and the NCAA tournament."

Leading the charge for the black and white will be the sophomore back court duo of Mandy Saunders and Jen Davis. Saunders started 24 of 28 games at point guard last year and led the Big East in assists and free throw shooting to earn a berth on the Big East All-Rookie team. At 15.2 points per game (ppg), Saunders is the leading returning scorer, and Foley expects her "to be the heart and soul of our team." Saunders is a tireless student of the game, and worked hard all summer to improve her play. Coach Foley calls Saunders "the hardest working player I've

ever coached."

Jen Davis started 26 of 27 games last season, and led the Big East in three point shooting. Davis knocked down over 34% of her three-pointers last season, helping her to a 12.0 ppg average. Coach Foley hopes to post the 5'10" Davis up a little more this year in order to utilize her height advantage against other guards.

The Lady Friars' inside game will be spearheaded by captains Sarah Miller and Lori Penrod, and sophomore Nadine Malcolm. Miller, a 5'10" junior, stepped up her game at the end of last season, scoring in double figures in five of the final seven games. Coach Foley is hopeful that Miller, a strong, aggressive player, "has come to the level where she can be a go-to player inside."

The first concern with the 6'2" Lori Penrod is her health. She is recovering from a broken leg, and suffered a set-back in her rehabilitation. If healthy, Penrod will be the Lady Friars' post player. The best PC defender in the paint, Penrod will also be asked to provide some inside scoring.

Nadine Malcolm will also be looking to contribute down low. Slowed last year by a stress fracture, Malcolm still put in 12.5 ppg and pulled down 5.4 rebounds a game in her first year. According to Coach Foley, Malcolm "has the potential to be one of the best players in the Big East." She has "all the tools," as highlighted by a 50% shooting percentage, including almost 49% from three point range.

Defensively, the Lady Friars look to juniors Ayanna Walden and Jen

Malone, and senior Heide Moyano, for assistance. Walden was a part-time starter at guard and plays great defense. She has improved her offense, and Coach Foley is "looking for her to help on both ends of the floor."

Three freshmen join the team this year: Shannon Bresnahan, Kerri Chatten, and Julie Wheeler, all three of whom are expected "to contribute right away." Bresnahan, a 5'5" guard, will see some time at both guard spots. Chatten, at 6'1", will play inside a lot for PC this year. Wheeler, a 5'7" guard, comes to PC after twice being named Player of the Year for West Virginia.

If the Lady Friars can avoid injuries, their up-tempo game should compensate for their lack of height. Regardless of the result, the Lady Friars will keep the scoreboard turning. Coach Foley exclaims, "They're just exciting. We're going to be scoring a lot of points. It's women's basketball, not girls', and it's exciting."



The Friars will be counting on some more high-flying antics from senior, Eric Williams.

Men's Preview

by Justin Macione '95
Sports Editor

Upon entering the Alumni Hall basketball gym at midnight on Saturday, the PC Friar basketball team will experience an entirely different atmosphere. The most obvious change will be when Pete Gillen enters center stage instead of Rick Barnes. Michael Smith and Dickie Simpkins will be sweating out their futures at NBA camps in Sacramento and Chicago. Along with the sight of six different faces on the court. Along with the changes comes the pressure for a repeat of last spring's Big East Tournament victory, NCAA Tournament appearance, and 20-10 record.

Nobody in the PC community had a busier summer than Pete Gillen. "I was very busy recruiting. I also had to help coach the

Dream Team 2, going back and forth on recruiting trips. It also took a while to move my family in", stated coach Gillen. The continual international commute between the U.S. National Team practice in Toronto and recruiting sites this summer helped attract two new faces for the PC campus; guards Adam Benton, and Spanish import Borja Larragan. The Friars will also benefit from the addition of their first seven footer this winter, Pittsburgh native Jason Evans. Guards Jason Williams and Michael Spruell decided not to enter PC this summer, after previously signing letters of intent.

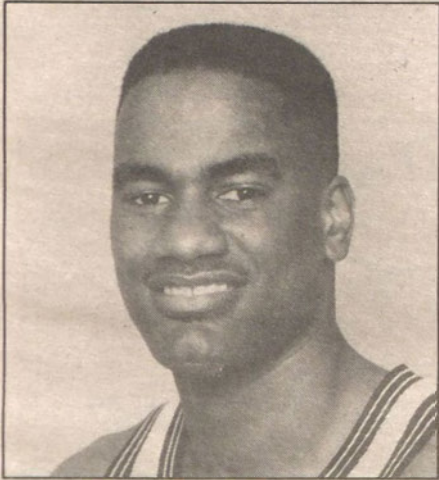
Friar fans will also need to get acquainted with 2 familiar faces entering a game: senior power forward Troy Brown and sophomore center Piotr Szybilski, both redshirts last season. Brown, a key reserve in the 1992-93 season, will be counted on for both leadership and replacing the rebounding void left by Simpkins and Smith. "I'll be doing a lot of the dirty work under the basket", added Brown, describing his primary role. Coach Gillen also expects some help from Szybilski, Austin Croshere's probable backup at center: "I'd like to get some decent minutes from Piotr."

The backbone of the frontcourt will be senior small forward Eric Williams, the 1995 All-Big East candidate who led the Friars in scoring last season, putting in 15.7 points per game. Croshere will step into the starting center slot for his sophomore year. Senior Maciej Zielinski, marred by inconsistency his first two years, could improve team depth with his shooting touch.

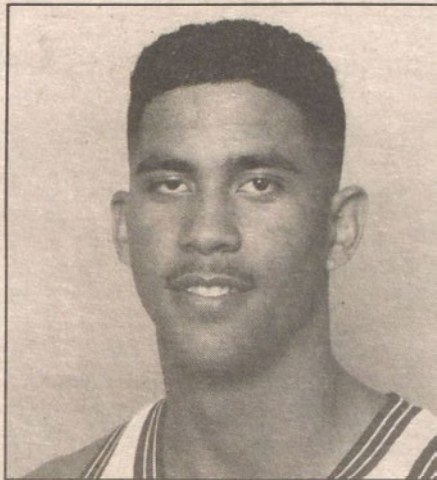
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MIDNIGHT MADNESS

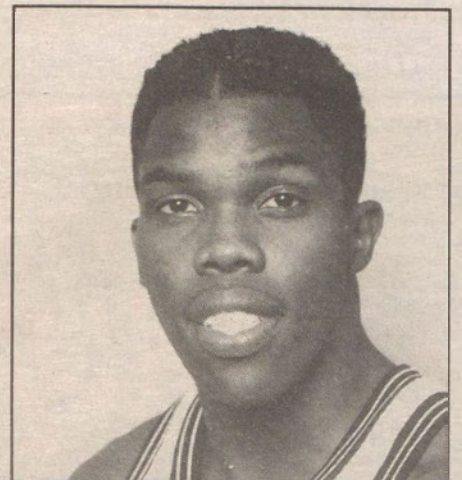
Meet the 1994 - 1995 Friars!



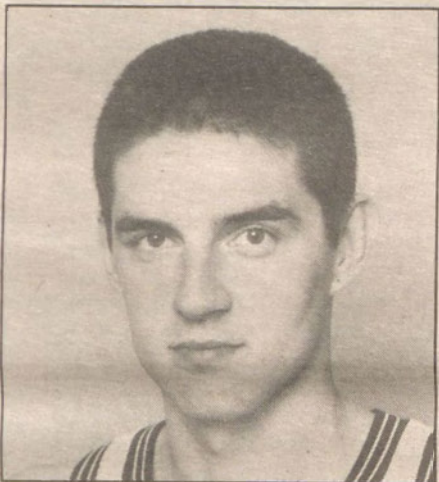
Troy Brown '95, Forward



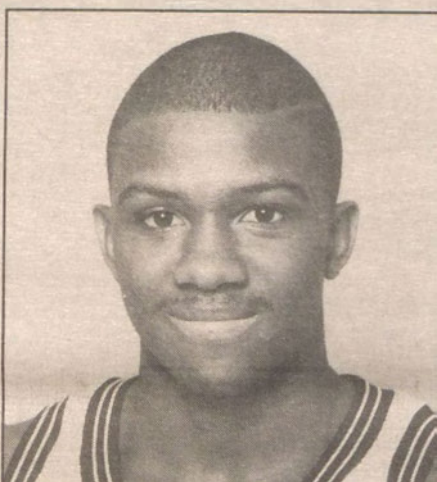
Franklin Western '95, Guard



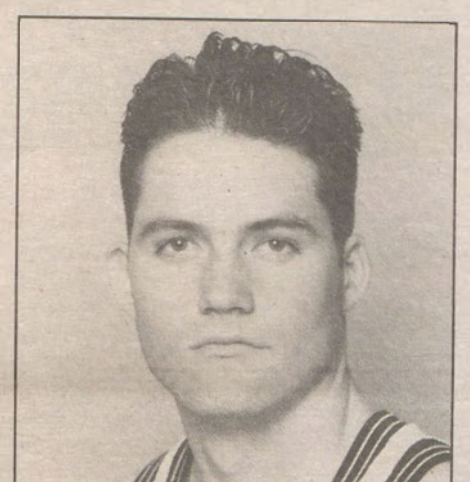
Eric Williams '95, Forward



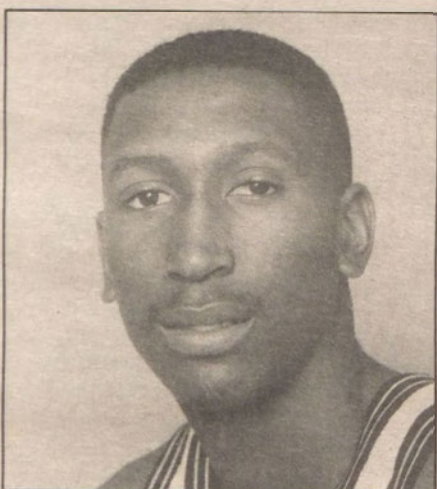
Maciej Zielinski '95, Forward



Michael Brown '96, Guard



Austin Croshere '97,
Center



Jason Murdock '97, Guard



Piotr Szybalski '97, Center



Jason Evans '98, Center



Borja Larragan '98, Guard



Adam Benton '98,
Guard



Coach Pete Gillen

* Photo by Amy Cacclola

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Meet the 1994 - 1995 Lady Friars!



Heide Moyano '95, Guard



Sarah Miller '96, Forward



Collette Cavallo '96, Guard



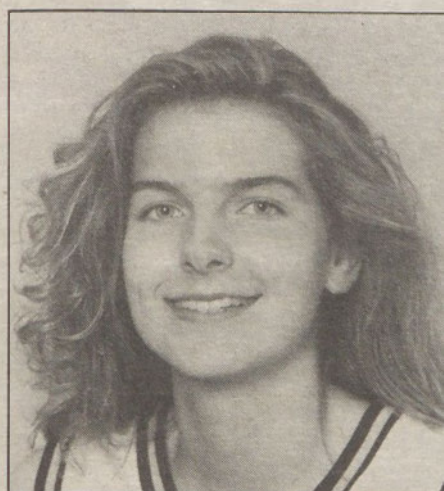
Lori Penrod '96, Center



Jen Malone '96, Guard *



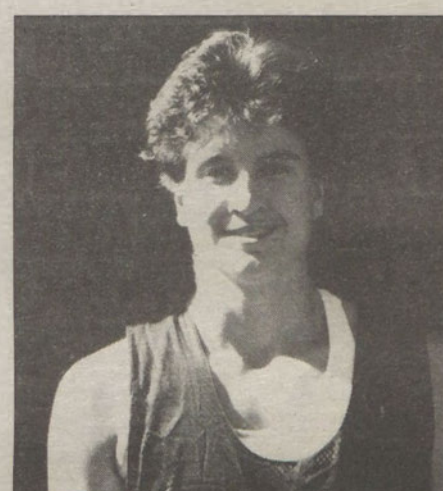
Ayanna Walden '96, Guard



Jennifer Davis '97, Guard



Nadine Malcolm '97, Forward



Mandy Saunders '97, Guard *



Shannon Bresnahan '98,
Guard



Kerri Chattan '98, Forward



Julie Wheeler '98, Guard



Coach Bob Foley

* Photo by Amy Cacclola

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

1994-95 PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOVEMBER		
6	Sunday	FORTEAN EXPLORERS
14	Monday	CROATIA SELECT
26	Saturday	RIDER UNIVERSITY
29	Tuesday	BOSTON UNIVERSITY
DECEMBER		
1	Thursday	BROWN UNIVERSITY
3	Saturday	UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
7	Wednesday	at Georgetown University (USAir Arena)
10	Saturday	NIAGARA UNIVERSITY
28	Wednesday	OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
31	Saturday	at University of South Carolina (McGuire Arena)
JANUARY		
4	Wednesday	ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
7	Saturday	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
10	Tuesday	BOSTON COLLEGE
14	Saturday	at University of Connecticut (Gampel Arena)
18	Wednesday	UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
21	Saturday	SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
Alumni Weekend		
25	Wednesday	at Boston College (Conte Forum)
28	Saturday	at Villanova University (DuPont Pavillion)
FEBRUARY		
1	Wednesday	SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
8	Wednesday	at Syracuse University
11	Saturday	at University of Miami
13	Monday	at Seton Hall University
18	Saturday	GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
22	Wednesday	at St. John's University (Madison Square Garden)
25	Saturday	at University of Pittsburgh
27	Monday	UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
MARCH		
4	Saturday	VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
Senior Night/Parents Weekend/Varsity Athletics Awards Night		

** BRYANT has been added as an additional opponent to be played at the Civic Center on DEC. 21, 1994**

1994-95 PROVIDENCE COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER		
15	Tuesday	LITHUANIAN NAT. TEAM
26	Saturday	FORDHAM
30	Wednesday	at Rutgers
DECEMBER		
2	Friday	PENN STATE
5	Monday	at Rhode Island
7	Wednesday	HARVARD
10	Saturday	GEORGETOWN
12	Monday	at Massachusetts
19-	Monday-	at Northern Lights Invitational#
22	Wednesday	PROVIDENCE vs. William and Mary (UNC-Greensboro, Army, Clemson, UCLA, Georgia Tech and Alaska)
28	Wednesday	at Stanford
30	Friday	at St. Mary's (Calif.)
JANUARY		
2	Monday	at St. John's
4	Wednesday	at Syracuse
7	Saturday	SETON HALL
11	Wednesday	at Connecticut
15	Sunday	VILLANOVA
18	Wednesday	at Pittsburgh
21	Saturday	at Miami
25	Wednesday	BOSTON COLLEGE
28	Saturday	at Georgetown
31	Tuesday	CONNECTICUT
FEBRUARY		
4	Saturday	SYRACUSE
8	Wednesday	at Seton Hall
11	Saturday	at Villanova
15	Wednesday	ST. JOHN'S
19	Sunday	PITTSBURGH
22	Wednesday	at Boston College
25	Saturday	MIAMI
MARCH		
3-	Friday-	BIG EAST Tournament
6	Monday	(Seton Hall University-South Orange, N.J.)

Anchorage, Alaska

Men Continued

The backcourt provides a myriad of question marks. Michael Brown will replace Abdul Abdullah at the point. Although he prefers the shooting guard spot, Brown understands the situation: "I'm not big enough to play the 2 after this level. Playing the point might also provide me with some professional or overseas opportunities." Fully recovered from ankle and shoulder problems, Franklin Western, last season's second leading scorer, will move to the shooting guard spot for his senior year. Jason Murdock will shift between both guard slots. Gillen is also hoping that Larragan and Benton can help spell

Brown occasionally: "Both of those kids can play the point... Hopefully we can receive some contribution from them."

Midnight Madness will quench some curiosities and provide answers for basketball buffs concerning the 1994-1995 Friars. Friday night's festivities will open with the usual array of hoop-related contests and the ever-popular lip synch competition. "It's going to be similar to the event of previous years. But we're going to add a couple of new twists and change some of the basketball-related contests", hinted coach Gillen, hoping to put his own stamp on the event.

Meet The Friar Frosh

by Pieter J. Ketelaar '97
Sports Writer

It's out with the old, and in with the bold for men's basketball at Providence College this year as Head Coach Pete Gillen's team brings in three highly-regarded recruits.

For Providence, this crop of freshman hoopsters presents an interesting mix of styles and diversity that will further enhance the overall competitiveness and skill of the team, not only for this season but for those to come.

Freshmen Adam Benton, Borja Larragan, and Jason Evans will get the call early, often, and be counted on to make contributions to a team that emphasizes the importance of family, with each member of the "family" filling a role.

Adam Benton, 19, hails from Marietta, Georgia where he attended Sequoyah High School. A versatile, two-sport athlete, many schools also pursued Adam for football. He is one of the four point guards on this team, along with fellow freshman Borja Larragan, that will attempt to fill the void left by the departed Abdul Abdula. When asked if he expected himself to be able to play to the same competitive level that Abdul did, Benton said, "I can't expect myself, or Borja, or anyone to fill "Abs" shoes right away. He was a great player for this team and one of the reasons they one the Big East Tournament. A goal of mine is to eventually be the kind of player that he was."

The 6'2" Benton hopes to serve as a ready back-up to Mike Brown and Jason Murdock and see plenty of playing time in Coach Gillen's hallmark, up tempo game. Being a left-handed shooter and a quick passer, he has many weapons with which to pick apart the opponents offense and get the ball to an Eric Williams or a Franklin Western. "I'm very much ambidextrous, and I use that in my game," said Benton, "Since I've been here my three-point shooting has improved and I'm very excited to be on a team that has such good attitude. At first, I didn't like the Big East, but it's definitely one of the top three conferences in the country and it presents a strong challenge."

The other point guard in this trio of new-

comers is Borja Larragan, 18, of Madrid, Spain. He played for the junior team, Real Madrid, and is very much impressed by the style of play on this side of the Atlantic. "It is a faster, more physical style of play over here compared to Spain where the game is more strategic. I am an aggressive player and I like to shoot. Since the three-point line in Spain is further than the college line, I won't have much trouble shooting the three."

"Bo", as his teammates call him, adds his European style and flair to this team as well as his 6'2" frame. He feels he will see action this year and thinks he is good enough to play in the Big East, having played in Spain for many years. He is prepared to back up Brown and Murdock and eager to grow as a player.

"I've learned a lot so far, and I will learn more as the season goes on," said Borja.

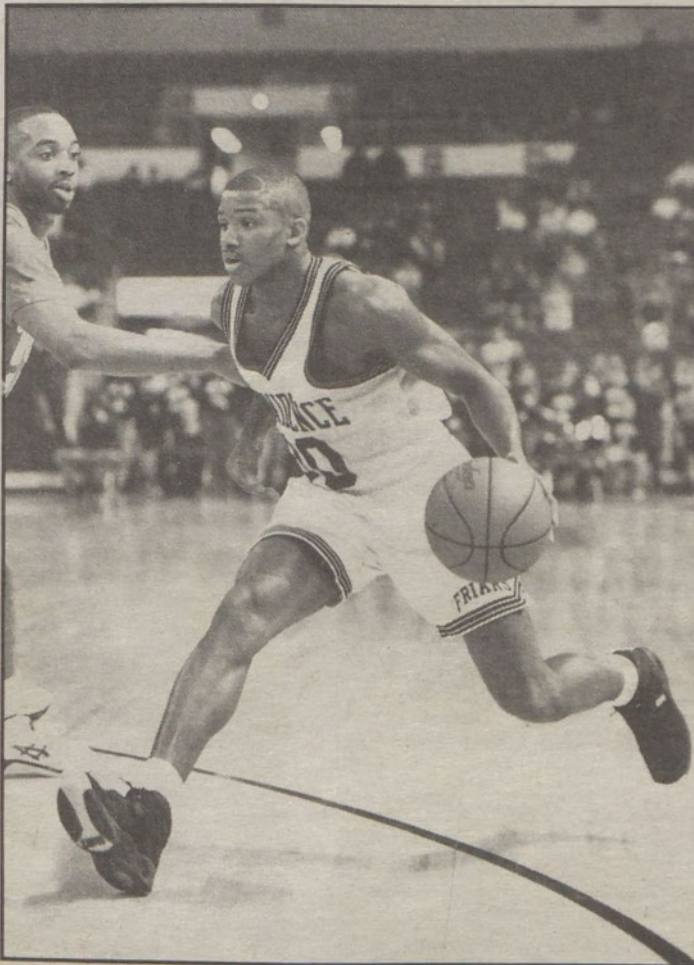
That brings us to the last of the three freshman, but certainly not the least in 7'1" center Jason Evans. "The Shaq", as he is affectionately called by his teammates, is not without his comparisons to his namesake. He has long arms and legs and a mammoth reach that will enable him to crash the boards for those rebounds. Jason, 18, comes to PC from Langley High School in Pittsburgh, PA. He joins Benton in being a two-sport star playing football

and basketball. Although regarded by some as a project having only played basketball for two and a half years, he was highly recruited by many eastern schools but chose Providence because of the overall positive attitude he got from the school.

"I've learned so much since I've been here," said Evans, "The coaches have said that I'll do pretty good in the Big East. I'll learn more during the course of the year and that'll only make me better. We have so many good players like Eric (Williams) and Troy (Brown) that we will surprise many who don't think we'll do much this year. We couldn't fill every gap from last year's team, but we filled a lot."

Evans will serve as a back-up to start but hopes to one day be a big time scoring threat in the Big East. He acknowledges that it will be a big jump from high school to college level play, but thinks he'll make the transition smoothly.

All three freshmen will need to step up and get the job done if Providence is to become a factor in the Big East this year. They all agree that this team will shock many in the basketball world and be right there at the end with the best due to Coach Gillen's gritty, aggressive style of play.



Consistent play from Michael Brown at the point will be a guiding force in the Friars 1994-95 season.