By Cory R. McGann '98
Sports Editor

This is the year for the Providence College Friars.
All the pieces have seemingly come together to point to a very successful upcoming season for the men's basketball team.

Head Coach Pete Gillen likes to use the word "flexibility" when referring to his team this year, but the only thing the Friars will flex this year will be their strength.

They boast solid players at every position, usually going two deep. They can play half-court games, they can score, and they can run.

My God, can they run.

The success of the season, however, rests mightily on the shoulders of power forward and All-American candidate Austin Croshere. A.C. will be one of the tri-captains for the year and will have to be a leader in some of the stat columns as well.

"He is a big part of our team, a big focus... last year that was new to him, it was a lot of pressure," comments Gillen. The feisty head coach told The Cowl that he wanted Austin to attack the basket more this year, hopefully taking advantage of a career .806 free throw percentage.

At the other forward position will be the ever-popular Derrick "Flight" Brown. D-Flight showed glimpses of what is to come last year when he averaged 14.8 points per game (ppg) and 6.8 rebounds per game (rpg) in only his first season wearing the Black and White.

Gillen used many adjectives to describe Brown, such as "consistent," but Coach hit the nail on the head when he put forth that "Flight is a warrior."

At center will be big Ruben Garces. A popular player among the Civic Center crowd (they're not boosing, they're chanting "Ruben"), he wasn't as popular

continued on page 4

INSIDE:

Bob Dole, Bill Clinton,
George Blaney
and Matt Gelb
answer the question
"What will it take for the Friars to get into the NCAA Tournament?"
by "Shaggy" Pete Keenan '99
Advertising Guest
Slave to Mike Sable
The Diamond Grip
Contributing Sports Writer

Flashback: 1986-1987 Division I men's basketball season: The Providence College Friars were the team to beat. Marching victorious into the NCAA semifinals where their path of destruction was finally halted, the Friars slashed and burned all the way to the top. The team cleaned a ridge of despair through the ranks of the 64 top teams in college ball, and left their hapless opponents boggling like corpuses in a rough surf, as they sailed on in a wake of victory. Good times, indeed.

The years have not been so kind to the Friars. Several seasons have passed since the glory days, and their last tournament appearance was in the '93-'94 season. The Friars seem to be struggling in the marketing war, falling behind big names such as G-town and Nova, and other Big East teams with better mascots than us. It is all that about to change this year? The Friars are riding high from a successful season last year, which included a win against the basketball monarch, Georgetown. We toppled St. John's on their home turf in the Big East tournament, and we managed to play UConn and lose by less than 20 points. All in all a season to remember, and the respect we earned last year will carry over to this season. Plus, this year Corey Wright strips off his red shirt, and this year's new crop of players should prove to be an asset to Gillen's horte men. Anyone who has seen Ndongo N'diaye, the 7' warrior from Senegal, walking around Ray Cafe is probably as excited as I am to see the young man play. As stated by popular rumor, N'diaye cleans the glass like Windex (no streaks!).

I am minding my own business in the Cow's office, when I get asked to write this article; exact question being "What will it take for the Friars to be invited to the NCAA tournament?" I am a simple kind of guy. I take pictures of the games and write a couple Arts and Entertainment articles here and there, but a sports commentator? No, not me. I think to myself that I better talk to some more qualified folks on this issue, continued on page 5.

Ross Perot was not asked for a comment because it was determined he had no realistic chance of winning the election.

New Faces, Old Connections
New Men's Basketball Team Members Brown, N'Diaye, Pointer, and Wright are Ready to Make an Impact

by Gladys Daniel '99
Sports Writer

Whenever new players come into a basketball program, there are awkward moments as the veterans and the strangers try to blend their styles of play. This season, however, the men's basketball team's strangers aren't quite as 'strange' as usual. Coach Pete Gilles and his staff have assembled a quartet of neweomers whose familiarity with each other extends beyond Providence College. With the exception of Senegal native Ndongo N'Diaye (see page 5), the new Friars (Brown, Koff Pointer, and Corey Wright) have geographical connections that exceed Eaton Street and Hasley Avenue. And that can only help the Friars' teamwork and chemistry.

Brown and Pointer, for instance, both hail from the same high school in Baltimore. But while Pointer followed the direct route to PC from Maryland, Brown took a couple of detours in Kansas and Idaho before arriving.

Two years and now has two years of NCAA eligibility remaining at PC.

"I want to help us win a lot of games. The biggest games, not just any games."

Last season Brown led the high-profile junior college team from the College of Southern Idaho to the semi-finals of the national tournament. Along the way he garnered preseason All America honors, earned a first team All Conference pick, and averaged 12 points and nine rebounds per game. At 6'6" and 225 pounds he can play either forward or center. And although he can bang inside for theboards, Brown is also adept at running the floor and sticking the outside jumper.

Brown says he appreciates PC's small school atmosphere and enjoys playing for Coach Gilles.

"There's a lot of tradition here," he observes. "I want to help us win a lot of games. The biggest games, not just any games."

Like Brown, Pointer is a force under the basket. The 6'8", 215 pound freshman paced Southern High to the 1996 Maryland AAAA State Title and a top ten rank in the USA Today high school polls. He packed up 15 points and 16 rebounds per game as a senior and has been rated among the top 100 freshmen recruits in the nation.

Pointer has impressed the PC coaching staff with his rebounding, athleticism, and affinity for up-tempo basketball. But while Maryland high schoolers were fortunate enough to avoid a Brown-Pointer combination, the Big East won't be so lucky. Their age difference presents them from playing together on the same high school team. "But," Brown notes, "we had the same coach." Wright, a New York native, is jongling other friends from his home city. Although they never played together on the same high school team, Wright says he already knew teammates God Shannagood and Jamal Thomas. He attended PC last season but was forced to sit out the year because he had transferred from South Plains Junior College in Texas. "It was a nice school out there (in Texas)," Wright says. "But there was nothing there. I came to Providence because it's a small college and it's close to home."

Wright, a 5'11", 165 pound playmaker, has quick moves off the dribble. At South Plains he averaged 10.9 points and 14 assists per game. Wright says he hopes to be a "parkplug" for the team, someone who can give Shannagood a breather at the point or play alongside him in the backcourt.

"We want to get in the NCAA tournament," Wright says. "But we're taking it one step at a time."

The Friars will be a big step up from last winter, when Wright led a PC intramural team to the college title. "I've already got a championship under my belt," he grins.

"I came to Providence because it's a small college and it's close to home."

Students Also Get Involved in the Culture of College Athletics

Whether you are a die-hard basketball fan or only pass through the Reaney Arena to learn about the culture of college athletics, you have most likely been entertained by the Friars this season.

Thursday evening in the Reaney Arena, the Friars played host to the Fordham University Rams. The Friars fell behind early, but fought back throughout the game to eventually win. Students who attended the game were entertained by the atmosphere, the excitement of the Friars, and the constant encouragement from the fans.

The Friars have been a major attraction for the students this season, and have captured the hearts of many. Their hard work and dedication have paid off, and the students are enjoying the success of the team. The Friars have been a great addition to the college athletics culture, and have contributed to the overall student experience.
Beasts of the BIG EAST Set To Do Battle

by Todd McKeating '97 Sports Writer

Last season, The Big East Conference, comprised of its top-10 teams, three-first team All-Americans, and the five schools to the NCAA Tournament's Final Four. For the first time in Big East history, six players were selected in the first round of the National Basketball Association Draft, including the first overall draft choice, Georgetown's John Wallace, LaRue Martin and J.B. Reifsnyder due to graduation, don't think 'Cuse will be down this season. They return three starters and are joined by one of the best recruiting classes in the country. Jason Cipolla, Todd Burgan, Otis Hill and Michigan's Mr. Basketball, Winfred Walton, will all be instrumental in Syracuse's success. Cipolla started 23 games and averaged 7.7 points. Burgan, the Orange's top defensive player, was named to the All-Final Four Team. As a sophomore, he averaged 12.1 points and 6.8 rebounds a game. Hill, with a brassing body and soft touch inside, must rebound and stay out of foul trouble. He can give the Orangemen the presence inside with his quickness and toughness. The freshman Walton has the ability to start right away, may even lead the team in scoring. The key to Syracuse's success will be their bench. They must rely on youthful and unproven players to step in and get the job done.

ON THE BUBBLE

Connecticut: Last season the Huskies enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in college history. They posted a 22-3 overall record, 11-1 in the Big East and had four starters selected in the NBA draft. UConn has appeared in the NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 in five of the last seven seasons and captured the Big East regular-season title four times. However, they have been unable to make an appearance at the Final Four. This season they lose four starters. Ray Allen, the Conference Player of the Year, Daron Sheffer, their fourth floor star, Travis Knight, their seven-foot center and Eric Hayward. They only return one player who has started a college game, Kirk King. King, who was given an NCAA record last season by making 25 straight field goal attempts, shot a team high 57% from the field. Sophomore guard Ricky Moore looks to take over the reigns of the Husky attack. At the point, the young Moore must provide production and leadership for the young Connecticut team. UConn has a highly touted recruiting class, led by McDonald's All-American, Richard Hamilton. After amassing a 49-5 conference record over the last three seasons, one must expect the Huskies to slip a little this season after they lost four starters, including Big East Player of the Year, Ray Allen.

Georgetown: Along with the Huskies departures, the Hoyas lost three key players. They lost the conference's leading scorer and number one draft choice, Allen Iverson, along with Orthella Harrington and Jerome Williams. Coach Thompson will have to look to some new faces. Sophomore sensation Victor Page averaged 12.5 points per game in 1995-96 and was named MVP of the Big East Tournament. Defensive catalyst Boubacar Aw is able to match up with anyone and his physical chest-to-chest style is perfect for continued on page 5

Allen Iverson. Translation: no conference was better last season than the Big East. However, for the conference to continue to be successful, they must bend a heavy mix of returning stars and the highly touted recruiting class of the Big East coaches brought in this season.

The league first must cope with the mass exodus of its star players and rely on the superior recruiting class. Georgetown's Allen Iverson, the conference's leading scorer from last season, became the conference's third player to be selected first overall in the draft. The Conference's Player of the Year, Ray Allen, decided to go for his senior year for the NBA, while the 1995 Big East Player of the Year, Year, Kirk Kittles closed out his and Villanova's Frank Allen, transfer from Seton Hall's Shaqueen Holloway, Pitt's Jarrett Lockheart and Providence's Ndongo N'daye should keep the Big East near the top of the college basketball world.

TITLE CONTENDERS

Boston College: The Eagles return all five starters from a team that finished 19-11 and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Senior Dastyi Abrams is the only returning player in the league from last season's All-Big East First Team. Abrams is the key player for the Eagles, as he was a key contributor in the team's defense and gives BC a presence on the court. However, the Eagles are still a young team, only two starters will be seniors. Sophomore guard James "Scoops" Penn, Big East Rookie of the Year, will continue to be a key for the upstarts. Penn started all 30 games as a freshman and averaged 34.5 minutes. The sophomore guard scored 22 or more points in four of five Big East games in January. Aiding the cause will be Keenan Jorden, the Eagles defensive stopper and Anthony Granger, a 6-6 junior forward who took much of the scoring load off of Abrams and Penn. Boston College finds themselves in unfamiliar territory these days. After posting a 14-15-1 record in the last 10 seasons, the Eagles are one of the pre-season favorites in the Big East. However, the Eagles will surprise anyone this season, as they did last season.

Villanova: After losing their top two scorers, Eric Biberz and the school's All-Time scoring leader, Kerry Kittles, the Wildcats' returning cast is strong enough to be a power in the league. After finishing 26-7 and advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament, most of Villanova's talent is in their senior class. This includes starters Jason Lawson, Alvin Williams and Chuck Knoxag, and reserve Jeffery Penn. Lawson, who earned All-Big East Second Team honors last season averaged 12.3 points per game. He also led all Big East players with 3.1 blocks per game. Williams averaged 11.0 points a game last season and dished out 177 assists. He could be the go-to guy on offense this season. Freshman Tim Thomas gives the Wildcats some size and versatility up front. He can play the perimeter and post up inside as well. With the group of seniors and a four-man freshman class, highly regarded as one of the top recruiting classes in the country, Villanova should be a force once again this season.

Providence: Providence goes from being one of the least experienced teams in the Big East to one of the oldest. Last season, with five key newcomers and only one returning starter, the Friars' suffered through some early season growing pains. Led by senior All-American candidate, Austin Crouchre, God Shammond, Derick Brown and a cast of others, the Friars will contend for the Big East title if they have the right chemistry.

Syracuse: Even though the Orangemen went to the Final Four, posted a 29-9 record, they...
Friars Solid At All Positions

They can play the half-court game, they can score, and they can run...

The Cowl
Established in 1935

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with the officials. They called more fouls than the IRS. This year, hopefully they will give the big man more of the benefit of the doubt. And, if not, you can be sure that the Civic Center crowd will let the refs have it.

Launching guard might be one of the few spots up for grabs, and it is not because of a lack of talent. Coach Gillen has so much talent at this spot, he's probably just going to let the boys play for it. A favorite for the position should be senior Jason Murdock.

A tri-captain, Jason found himself on the bench throughout Mike Brown's senior seas-

five; the champion will have the best depth. Providence should be right there. They have perhaps the best sixth man in the league with Jamel Thomas. "530," amid all the Shammgod hype, quietly assembled a solid freshman season and had all the Friar faith-
ful reaching for their programs and saying to each other, "who's the hell was that guy?"

Two frontcourt guys who have the coaching staff impressed are sophomore Llewelyn Cole and newcomer Abdul Brown. Cole not only is huge, but has a vertical leap that would be the best in the league. Brown is a juco transfer who will provide much needed frontcourt depth, which will also allow him to get a Big East season under his belt.

Corey Wright will be taking the floor after being redshirted last year. He will spell Shamm at the point whenever the speed demon needs a rest. Not that it will be much better for Friar opponents: rumor has it that Wright is faster (is that possible??)

Not to be forgotten is N'daeye, the 7' center from Senegal. You can't forget him, he's huge. N'daeye will spelling Garces at center (be sure isn't gonna play point guard). His main job will be to block and change shots, but word around the campfire is that he can run the floor. Just lob it, Shamm.

Rounding out the roster will be Kofi Pointer, a freshman from Maryland who averaged 15 points and 16 rebounds per game as a senior.

So, it should be a pretty exciting year for hoops here in Providence. Look for PC to finally live up to all the expectations they have received over the years.

ABOVE: A.C. Taking it baseline.
BELOW: Murdock passes to teammate before going out of bounds.
continued from page 3

the Hoyas defense. Georgetown's captain, Yu-Ya Dia will be called on to be the leader of the squad. He is able to rebound and play defense. He has moved into the starting line-up. The Hoyas will have to rely on their defensive pressure and score easy baskets off turnovers.

St. John's: Could this be the year the Red Storm falter, as in the past? With new head coach, Fran Fraschilla, coming in, looking to rebuild the strong tradition at St. John's. Schoolboy star Felipe Lopez has yet to become the star everyone has expected. However, it has been junior forward Zedoen Hamilton that has led the Red Storm. He was named Second-Team All-Big East Conference last season, after he averaged 20.8 points per game and 10.3 rebounds per game. Hamilton's scoring with the Red Storm last season was fresh- man forward Tyrone Grant. He averaged 7.6 points and 4.7 re- bounds per game as a reserve. He will be expected to contribute much more this season. This is no longer a question of whether or not Head Coach Fraschilla can build the chemic- try and produce a team everyone has expected, or will the egos get

in the way?

BEST OF THE REST

Seton Hall: After the depar- ture of Danny Hurley and Adrian Griffin, highly recruited Shaeen Holloway should make an imme- diate impact on a team which fin- ished 12-16 last season. Holloway, the MVP of the McDonnell's High School All-Star game, will be im- mediately successful on defense. Guard Levell Sanders is the team's returning scorer. However, if Seton Hall is going to be successful, they will have to rely on their frontcourt, junior Bayoune Taty, junior Jacky Kabu and sophomore Kelland Pettory, who are all 6-10.

Miami: The Canes will be a very inexperienced squad this sea- son, with five standout freshmen. They have three returning starters, but graduated their starting for- ward. Without him in the league three years ago, they posted nine wins in 1994-95 and eight wins last sea- son in the Big East. This blend of returning players and new recruit- ing class should prove for an ex- citing season in Miami.

Rutgers: In their inaugural season in the Big East, Rutgers posted 11 wins last season in the conference. For their second season in the Big East, Head Coach Bob Wanzelec added key additions to strengthen his team. He added new five seven feet or taller and added much quickness. After a season which was a two-point games against Boston College and Syracuse, Rutgers might surprise a few people this season.

Pittsburgh: Last season the Panthers managed a 10-17 overall record (5-13 mark in the Big East) as they suffered injuries all season. Senior forward Chad Varga is the lone returning Panther who aver- aged better than 10 points per game. Point guard Jerry McCullogh was the team's leading scorer at 13.4 points per game last season, but was lost due to graduation. Pitt will have to look to newcomers in this season so they do not get pushed around and re- main injury free.

Notre Dame: In their first year in conference action, Notre Dame had some expected problems. They were at the bottom of the league in scoring at 66.8 points per game and in free throw shooting at .422. Head Coach John MacLeod hopes the Fighting Irish can get back to the Big East main- mark and 4-14 record in the league, but they are the new kids on the block will have to wait time to turn heads in the Big East.

Shamm and Jameel should be doing some serious celebrating this season.

Prophesy Continued

It is a little known fact that while Ptlm. Bennett is not being accused of battering PC kids like a Geesta interpolator, he is an avid college basketball enthusiast.

Blaney begins, "are a terrific team," with "experience." Blaney labels Austin Croshere as one of the "best players in the Big East." The Friars "have a good size and a good quickness." However, to go to the NCAA tournament, Blaney says that "we need a certain "attitude and chemistry." Providence must "win the close games... to have a good season." In agreement with Blaney is Bill Hancock of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament's invita- tion committee. Although "there are so many factors," influencing invitations, Hancock says to cinch a spot in the last 64 that we need to "beat the good teams, win ev- ery game." PC must "play the bet- ter teams close," and "play well on the road." In addition, the Friars must finish strongly, and must "win their last ten games." When asked as to whether or not team mascots will have an effect on be- ing invited, he answered in the negative. "No," laughed Hancock.

"Witness the fact that the Stanford Tree made an appearance in the last tournament," pointed out Hancock. Hmmm. Good point.

While all these viewpoints are interesting, some of them even true, I think that the main issues are being overlooked. In my humble opinion, if PC wants to be invited to the Big Dance, they have to concentrate on the important is- sues. Sure, skill is great and all, but it can only take you so far. The Friars need to get some big-time star- sign sponsors like Miller, Budweiser and Marlboro. Think about the half-time shows. Sure, dancing cheerleaders and a couple of putzes on trampoline is great, but picture this: the Big Girls shaking their moneymakers and the Marlboro Man putting on an extra special rodeo where fresh- men are bog-tied in the middle of the Civic Center. Maybe if we spend less money on the players' uniforms and devoted some cash into getting a couple musical acts to play in between halves. I hear Pava's schedule is open for the next couple months, and he's open to performing with Pearl Jam. A wide variety of opinions have been put on the table in the last several paragraphs. The only sure thing is that everyone seems to agree that this will be an exciting season for the Friars. In the end, only time will answer what it will take for the PC Friars to be invited to the NCAA tournament.
MEET THE '96-'97 FRIARS

Tri-captain Derrick Brown '97
Tri-captain Austin Croshere '97
Tri-captain Jason Murdock '97

Mark Adams '98
Abdul Brown '98
Dennis Cleary '99
Llewellyn Cole '99

Richard Cordella '99
Ruben Garces '97
Kendrick Moore '99
Ndongo N'Diaye '00

Kofi Pointer '00
God Shammgod '99
Jamel Thomas '99
Corey Wright '99
MEET THE '96-'97 LADY FRIARS

Shannon Bresnahan '98
Kerri Chatten '98
Jen Davis '97
Tavia Horton '99
Nadine Malcolm '97
Mandy Saunders '97
Dana Simonelli '99
Kerri Sullivan '99
Julie Wheeler '98

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continued from page 10
All Big East rookie Susan Blauster is the top returning scorer. Also returning is Jen Clemente, who led the team in field goal percentage, senior guard Kristin Somogyi, and sophomore guard Tomora Young. Coach Stronger this season will debut her recruited class, a group of five freshmen with very high expectations. Look for the Lady Knights to improve this season and next, as the freshmen and sophomores gain Big East experience.

Pittsburgh, after a 6-24 season, but an impressive stretch run under coach Kirk Bruce, return five players while losing four. Four returning starters will lead the way, including junior center Latia Howard, who led the team averaging 13.6 ppg, and senior forward Missy Thompson. Look for sophomore Gina Montesano and 6'7" freshman center Nickeia Morris to contribute for the Lady Panthers.

St. John's, which finished 6-21 last season, welcomes new coach Charlene Thomas. The Red Storm lost six players to graduation, but boast some impressive newcomers. Junior guard Nerell Miller returns and the team's leading scorer at 11.2 ppg and 6.5 rebounds. Keep an eye on junior College transfer Latricia Gunnells, who is expected to make an impact in her first season with the Storm.

Well, there you have it. It looks like an exciting season for Women's Basketball in the Big East with continued success from traditional powers and high expectations from a well-recruited freshman class. Look for Connecticut, Notre Dame, and Seton Hall to dominate the conference, while pursuing national exposure.

CARCHEDI CONTINUED
continued from page 11
admits that was a big reason why he took the Friar job.

"My wife is from upstate New York and I'm from New York City," mentioned Jabir. "My kids can see their grandparents now. We've managed to go and find some really great restaurants. We have a nice home in Gloucester and we've settled in really well, my wife likes it a lot. And I think this is a great place to work. So when you put all those things together, we're very, very pleased to be here."

So he's here. But the question remains, will he be able do here what he did at Marquette? Luck of depth is a concern, but Jabir hopes work ethic will compensate for it.

"The philosophy we'd like (the team) to have is that we're going to give our best effort, and we'll measure our success by our effort; not by what the scoreboard says but how we feel about ourselves after the game," said the coach. "I think that's the best way to measure success.

"I think the thing that I'm most proud of is that whenever we've gotten a compliment from another coach it's always been that your team worked hard. And I think that's the greatest compliment a coach can get because that's really the only thing you can control."

October 14, 1996
Sports
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1996-97 PROVIDENCE COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER
6 Wednesday NOREASTER STORM EXHIBITION 7:00 p.m.
14 Thursday AUSTRALIA SPARRTS EXHIBITION 7:00 p.m.
22 Friday CHS SPRING FESTIVAL 7:00 p.m.
24 Saturday at University of Rhode Island 7:00 p.m.
27 Wednesday at Providence College 7:00 p.m.
30 Saturday at ECAC Holiday Festival (Westfair, MA) 1:00 p.m.
Saturday at Long Island v. Holy Cross 1:00 p.m.
Saturday at Providence v. Connecticut 3:30 p.m.
DECEMBER
1 Sunday at University of Notre Dame 1:00 p.m.
4 Wednesday WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY 7:00 p.m.
5 Saturday at Georgetown University 7:00 p.m.
12 Sunday UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI 7:00 p.m.
16 Thursday SETON HALL UNIVERSITY 7:00 p.m.
22 University at University of Pittsburgh 7:00 p.m.
24 Saturday at Scranton University 7:00 p.m.
26 Sunday at Radford University 7:00 p.m.
FEBRUARY
2 Sunday UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT 7:00 p.m.
5 Wednesday ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY 7:00 p.m.
12 Sunday UNIVERSITY OF PITT 7:00 p.m.
18 Saturday NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY 7:00 p.m.
19 Wednesday GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY 7:00 p.m.
25 Sunday at William & Mary 7:00 p.m.
TUESDAY
14 Sa-Tu at BIG EAST Tournament (Storrs, CT)

1996-97 PROVIDENCE COLLEGE FRIARS' BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER
4 Monday WASHINGTON A&I 7:30 p.m.
12 Tuesday YUGOSLAV SELECT TEAM 7:30 p.m.
22 Friday vs. Alaska-Fairbanks 10:00 p.m.
23 Saturday vs. Baylor, Middle Tennessee State, Central Carolina, Washington & Lee 7:00 p.m.
24 Sunday Montana, North Carolina-Wilmington and Southern Illinois T.S.A. 7:00 p.m.
27 Wednesday LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY 7:30 p.m.
30 Thursday COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY 1:00 p.m.
DECEMBER
1 Wednesday Villanova University 7:30 p.m.
7 Saturday UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME 4:00 p.m.
15 Saturday UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER 6:00 p.m.
21 Saturday BROWN UNIVERSITY 2:00 p.m.
24 Monday at Wisconsin 9:00 p.m.
26 Saturday at Loyola Marymount University 10:00 p.m.
31 Tuesday UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (EFSN) 6:30 p.m.
JANUARY
1 Thursday ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY 6:00 p.m.
6 Monday VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY (ESPN) 7:30 p.m.
11 Saturday Georgetown Hoyas/Wagner Seahawks (ECAC Game of the Week) 12:00 noon
15 Wednesday at University of Miami 7:00 p.m.
19 Sunday at West Virginia University 12:00 noon
25 Sunday at St. John's University (at MSG) 8:00 p.m.
27 Monday CANNIS COLEGE 7:30 p.m.
30 Wednesday at University of Connecticut (ESPN) 7:00 p.m.
FEBRUARY
1 Saturday BOSTON COLLEGE 8:00 p.m.
5 Wednesday RUTGERS UNIVERSITY 7:30 p.m.
8 Saturday at West Virginia University 4:00 p.m.
12 Wednesday at George Washington University 7:30 p.m.
15 Saturday at University of Pittsburgh 2:00 p.m.
18 Tuesday at Rutgers University (ESPNU) 7:30 p.m.
19 Saturday at University of Notre Dame (BIG EAST Tournament) 4:00 p.m.
24 Monday SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY (ESPN) 7:30 p.m.
MARCH
2 Sunday GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY (CBS) 12:00 noon
5 Wednesday at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT (ESPNU/ESPN 2) 7:00 p.m.
6 Thursday at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT (ESPN/ESPNEWS) 7:00 p.m.
7 Friday at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT (ESPN) 7:00 p.m.
8 Saturday at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT (ESPN) 7:00 p.m.
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Nadine Malcolm '97 attacks the rim
women's conference preview

UCONN TEAM TO BEAT

by Frank Mills '98
Sports Writer

As another season of Big East Women's Basketball dawns, so begins another season of heightened expectations for a traditional powerhouse. The Big East can only boast of two top-25 ranked teams (AP): Connecticut, and Notre Dame. Look for these two teams to dominate the division, with competition from Seton Hall and Miami. With many teams returning quality players, look for rebounder for the second straight year. Wynee recorded 33 double-doubles, the highest total in the nation. Wynee is also the Pirates leading scorer, averaging 18.1 ppg All Big East Rookie Danielle Golay returns this season, and is expected to step up. The Pirate backcourt is strong, with senior Tahnée Heins, sophomore Chrissie Koren, and junior Sandy Mitchell competing for the top spots. All the pieces fit this year for the Pirates, as they try to alleviate some of the NCAA Tournament.

Ebhio Akohkwi, and All Rookie Team member Sylvilla Thomas. Look for Kim Gallon and Tesha Nixon to step up this season. The Lady Hoyas will be an improved team this year, with a line-up full of young, talented players.

Returning this year for West Virginia will be Big East All Star Talisha Hargis, who led the conference averaging four steals per game last year. Also returning are junior guard Christie Lambert and senior guard Christie Ammons. Also contributing will be sophomore Rebecca Burbridge and junior Monique McCowy. A highly regarded group of newcomers as well as seasoned veterans give the Mountaineers reason to look forward to this season.

Syracuse, after a 14-14 record last season under coach Marriana Freeman, look forward to a successful season. Senior Krysten Cook, who averaged 13.1 ppg last year, and junior Racquel Nurse, who dished out a team-high 150 assists, lead a potent Cuse backcourt. After playing in 27 games as a freshman, Caryn Schott will be looking to step up, as will junior guard Teakyla Barnes. If Syracuse can match frontcourt talent to the talent level at the guard position, watch out for the Orangewomen.

An improved defense and good production from key players should put the Lady Friars in the Big East hunt.

A team hoping to continue last year's 21-7 success will be Villanova. This will be a tough task, considering they lost four starters to graduation. Head coach Harry Perretta does have junior forward Jen Benel coming back, who last year averaged 8.6 points and 4.4 boards per game. Ready to step up this season are sophomore guard Shanelle Lee, Jen Siwa, and junior Jenny Higgins. The key to this season for the Wildcats is production at key positions from inexperienced players.

Boston College looks solid for his season. Returning for the Eagles will be senior forward Holly Porter, who led the team in points (20.7 per game) and rebounds (8.4 per game), as well as being a Big East All Star. Joining Porter in the frontcourt are sophomores Allison Booth, Whitney Steele, and Paula Basco. The backcourt will be run by a solid group of uppersclassmen, including Sonya Squair and Kim Breezer. Look for All Big East rookie Amanda West to produce this season as well.

Returning to the Big East for their second year will be Rutgers. Their inaugural season went well, as they compiled a 13-15 record under coach C. Vivian Stringer.

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**1997 All-American Candidate NADINE MALCOLM Optimistic for Lady Friar's Season**

by Ryan Donaghy '99

Coach Jim Jabir

The 1996-97 Lady Friars Basketball squad promises to have an exciting season. Fueling their fire is our very own 1997 All-America Candidate Nadine Malcolm. A 6'1" senior center from Syracuse, NY, Malcolm hopes to trend her successful four years at PC with a bang.

Malcolm's resume speaks for itself. In the 1996 season, she achieved All-America Honorable Mention, First Team All-ECAC, Second Team All BIG EAST, ECAC Player of the Week twice, and BIG EAST Player of the Week three times. Malcolm is overly qualified for these awards. She averaged 24.2 points per game which made her the leading scorer in the BIG EAST. Also, she averaged 9.8 rebounds making her a close second. However, Malcolm's greatest accomplishment came on February 15th, 1996 versus Seton Hall when she scored her 1000th career point at PC. Throughout her career, no other woman has reached the 1000 point plateau more quickly than Malcolm, who accomplished the task in just 54 games.

Malcolm's 1996 season was her first healthy one at PC. She suffered a stress fracture her freshman year, followed by a broken wrist her sophomore year. Despite these injuries, Malcolm managed to make significant contributions, such as leading the team in scoring and rebounding after just 17 games in her sophomore year.

Malcolm believes that this year's program has some significant changes that will likely provide successful results. The introduction of Marquette University veteran coach John Bonci to the coaching staff is ample of the monumental changes. Malcolm said, "With the combination of Coach Jabir and the togetherness of the team, a championship title is definitely within reach."

Malcolm hopes to have her most exciting season yet. She says that she wants to "go out with a bang."

"I want to win the championship, so I have to put more into it," explains Coach Jabir. Coach Jabir adds, "Nadine does not realize what an asset she is. She can do so many things in so many ways." Malcolm has been training hard during the off-season to ensure success in her leading role.

Malcolm is one of PC's 1997 All-America candidates. However, this attention does not really affect her. Malcolm states, "I don't really think I'm an All-America that much, I just go out and do my job the best that I can." She hopes that she is the best of the team who will follow her example.

Coach Jabir adds, "I'm trying to push her to do better...she has the potential to finish strongly."

Malcolm has aspirations for her post-PC career. She would like to play basketball in the U.S., but Europe is also a possibility. Coach Jabir adds, "Nadine does not realize how talented she is. I'd like to see her have a successful year and have go on to play professionalism."

The Lady Friars play some tough opponents this season including Purdue and Ohio State. Of course, the game on everybody's mind is the UConn matchup scheduled for February 2nd. Malcolm is very excited and anticipating great performances at all games. "We need to go out and support us," says Malcolm. "We are a tough, hard-working team who needs to see the PC fans in the stands."

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**An Introduction**

Head Coach Jim Jabir is a New Face On Campus

by John Carchedi '97

Asst. Sports Editor

Deadline Deficient

Over the past six years, Jim Jabir turned the Marquette University women's basketball team from a rickety program to one of national recognition. He began his career by putting his hand at Providence College.

On May 21, 1996 Jabir was named the sixth Lady Friar head coach in the club's 22-year history, succeeding 11-year head coach Bob Labs. Jabir emerges earlier. Admittedly, the Brooklyn, New York native is leaving a good thing at Marquette, but the Providence Land position was too great an opportunity.

Coach Foley had a very successful, rich tradition here, and the last four or five years there's been a problem continuing that," explained Jabir. "But I think that we can do that here again and that we can be very, very successful. I think we can be a perennial NCAA team, and I want the opportunity to rebuild it."

The man can rebuild. When Jabir arrived on the Marquette campus in 1990 the Golden Eagles had suffered through 16 losing seasons in 19 years of existence. After a disappointing first season, Jabir guided the squad to a remarkable 14-9 mark and fifth place in the NEC.

It was hard to leave Marquette, because we'd been there six years and really grew the program from nothing," noted Jabir. "I felt the 12th ranked ranking coming together to come back here and that's difficult."

"And I like the challenge of building something. At Marquette we had 16 losing seasons. We got there and in two years we were in the NEC, and in three and four years we were in the NCAA tournament. I love the challenge and I love turning kids on to working hard and making the most of themselves. I think that's my goal, it's my job, to make sure they give the best they have every day, and make them better people."

There's a pain-in-the-neck part of college coaching called recruiting, but it's the key to accomplish all that Jabir hopes to accomplish. So

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Malcolm's resume reads, "I'm more than pleased with the new coaching staff and their style."

For now, she is trying to settle in to college life as well as college basketball. "I'm adapting to the run and gun style of play and I'm getting to know now how the other players play." Jabir and her team mates are all excited about the coming season. Jabir counts down the days until practice.

She knows that her performance in practice will decide her role on the team this year. "I don't want to expect too much," said Hinds. "I'm going to be open-minded to try to contribute to the team and do the best I can do."

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Nadine Malcolm will be a key factor for the Lady Friars
Expectations Galore For The Talented Women's Basketball Team... 

Friar Frontcourt Club

The Lady Friars, Behind a Solid Backcourt, Awesome Frontcourt, and a New Coach, Look to Catch UConn

by Mike Friess '97
Sports Writer

The 1996-97 Friars have probably the best frontcourt since Mike Smith, Dickey Simmons, and Eric Williams. Only they don't play downtown at the Civic Center. This dynamic duo plays right here on campus at Alumni Hall. And their names aren't Ruben, Austin, or Jameel. Their names are Nadine Malcolm and Kerri Chatten.

These two veteran forwards hope to lead the Lady Friars to a Big East Championship and an invitation to the NCAA's in New York. Coach Jim Jabir's first year at Providence.

Jabir, a 1984 graduate from Nazareth, comes to Providence after ten years of coaching at Marquette, St. John's, and Buffalo State. He has compiled a record of 158-121 overall with three NCAA and one Women's NIT bid. He took over an anemic Marquette team in 1990 and after one rebuilding season posted four consecutive winning seasons, including back-to-back 22-win seasons. He earned two Reebok Great Midwest Conference Coach of the Year Awards and Basketball Times recently named him as one of the top ten up-and-coming coaches in the country.

Jabir walks into a great situation, inheriting a team that won 50 last season despite numerous injuries. Eight of last year's twelve letter-winner return, including four of the five starters. This squad went 16-16 last year and won the Big East 7th Division, securing a #2 seed at the conference tournament behind only national powerhouse and the defending national champions, UConn.

Nadine Malcolm was quite simply a scoring machine last season. A terror in the paint, yet deceptively accurate from outside. Malcolm led the Big East in scoring all season and finished ninth in the nation averaging 24.2 PPG and 9.8 RPG. She was a 52% shooter overall, including an impressive 358 from the arc and 115 from the line. Kerri Chatten completes the frontcourt. After a disappointing beginning to last season and a broken bone in the Civic Center that sidelined her for seven games, Chatten returned to the form that earned her Big East Rookie of the Year honors in 1995. Chatten averaged 19.4 PPG in the last eleven games of the season and was consistent rebounder all year, averaging nearly nine a game.

"I would like to do for Providence what they did at UConn...for that we're gonna need student support and we certainly invite everyone to come out and be loud and vocal!"

To augment this talented frontcourt, Coach Jabir has at his disposal a lethal three point attack from the backcourt. Mandy Saunders, a senior shooting guard once hit seven threes in a row against Syracuse as part of a career-high 28 point performance. Saunders is joined by junior point guard Julie Wheeler. Wheeler is a career 341 three point shooter, and she averaged 10.0 PPG last year despite a leg injury that lasted for much of the season. Senior guard Jen Davis, an Academic All-American Candidate, may be the third starting guard if Jabir elects to run a three guard of- fense.

Sophomore Tavia Horton, Kerri Sullivan, and Dana Simonelli should be the key reserves for Providence this season, with each of them seeing extensive playing time last year. Horton should see time at the point, with re-binders Sullivan and Simonelli getting major playing time in the shallow frontcourt.

Coach Jabir has high hopes for this year, but the future of Providence women's basketball in general. "I would like to do for Providence what they (Gino Auricemma) did at UConn. For that we're gonna need student support and we certainly invite everyone to come out and be loud and vocal." Not having been on the floor with his players yet, he

Expectations are high for the 1996-97 Lady Friars. With the majority of last year's squad returning and a new, successful coach debuting, the expectations and the possibilities are endless.