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Awesome Austin

Austin Croshere and the Rest of the Boys Take on the BIG EAST



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 the half-court game, 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 booing, they're chanting "Ruben"), he wasn't as popular

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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?"

SHAQ-LED: Austin Croshere '97, seen here showing Dream Team member Shaquille O'Neal the door, will lead the Friars to battle against the Big East giants. Croshere played with the Under 22 Select Team over the summer, and played against Dream Team III.

Archive Photos/Reuters/John Hillery

JUST WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

Various Pundits Offer Their Opinions on What it Will Take (Short of Bribery) to Get the Friars Into the NCAA's

by "Shaggy" Pete Keenan '99
Advertising Guru
Slave to Mike Sablone
Neil Diamond Groupie
Contributing Sports Writer

Flashback: 1986-1987 Division I men's basketball season: The Providence College Friars were the team to beat. Marching victoriously into the NCAA semi-finals where their path of destruction was

finally curbed, the Friars slashed and burned all the way to the top. The team cleaved a ridge of despair through the ranks of the 64 top teams in college ball, and left their hapless opponents hobbling like corpses 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 drowning in the marketing war, falling behind big names such as G-town and 'Nova, and other Big East teams with better mascots than us.

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 monolith, 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

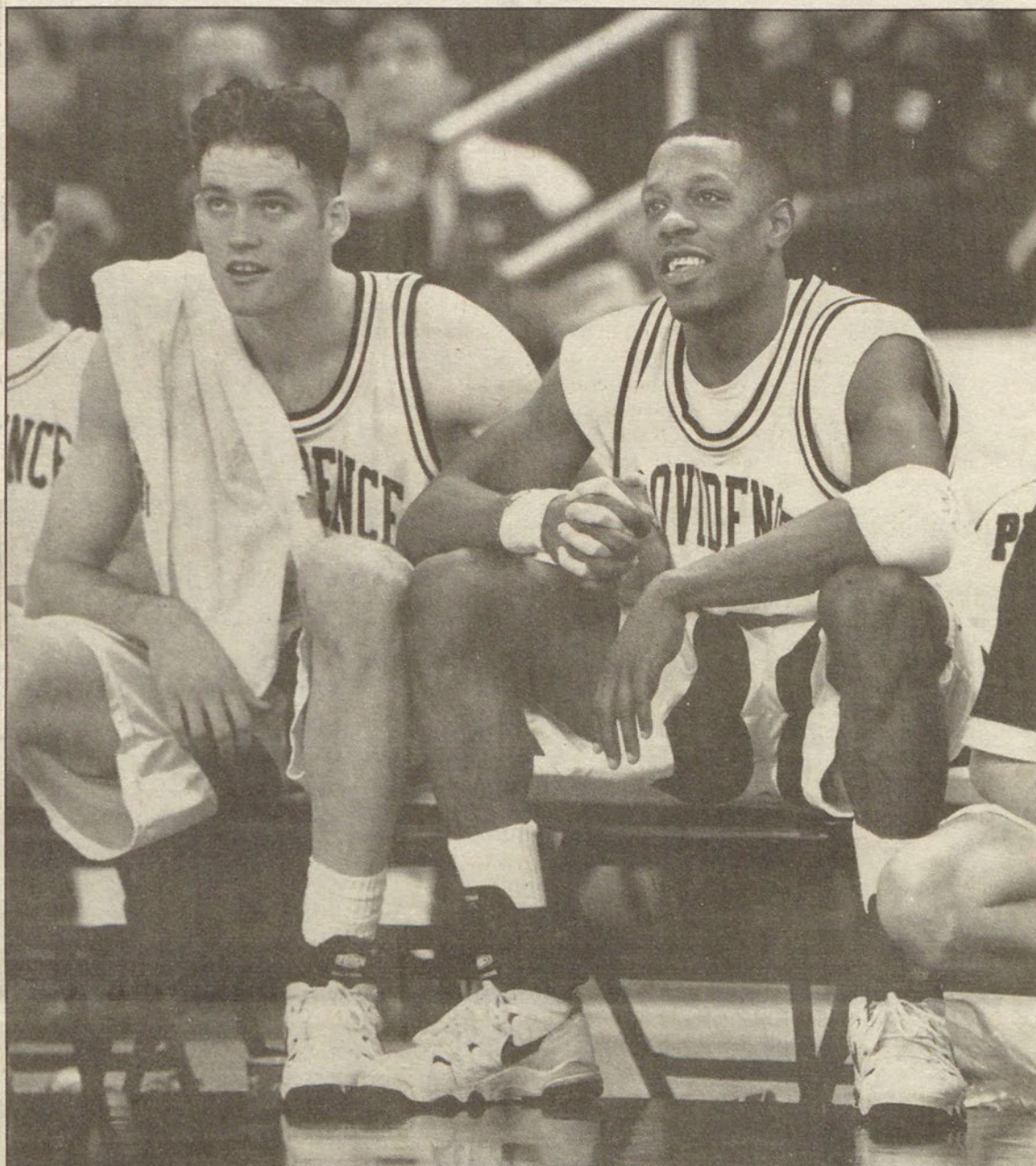
horsemen. Anyone who has seen N'dongo N'diaye, the 7' warrior from Senegal, walking around Ray Cafe is probably as excited as I am to see the young man play. As stated by popular rumor, N'diaye cleans the glass like Windex (no streaks!).

So, I am minding my own business

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

in The Cowl'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,

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I THINK MATT GELB IS ON TO SOMETHING HERE: Austin and Flight ponder the answers of some astute basketball groupies

New Faces, Old Connections

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

by Gladys Ganiel '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 Gillen and his staff have assembled a quartet of newcomers whose familiarity with each other extends beyond Providence College. With the exception of Senegal native Ndongo N'Diaye (see page 5), the new Friars (Abdul Brown, Kofi Pointer, and Corey Wright) have geographical connections that exceed Eaton Street and Huxley 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. He has attended two different junior colleges in the past

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 hon-

ors, earned a first team All Conference pick, and averaged 12 points and nine rebounds per game. At 6'9" and 225 pounds he can play either forward or center. And although he can bang inside for the boards, 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 Gillen. "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 racked 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 pre-

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

vented them from playing together on the same high school team. "But," Brown notes, "we had the same coach." Wright, a New York, NY native, is rejoining old friends from his home city. Although they never played together

on the same high school team, Wright says he already knew teammates God Shammgod and Jamel 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 5'8", 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 "sparkplug" for the team, someone who can give Shammgod 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 NCAA 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.

men's conference preview

Beasts of the BIG EAST Set To Do Battle

by Todd McKeating '97
Sports Writer

Last season, The Big East Conference posted three top-10 teams, three-first team All-Americans, sent five schools to the NCAA Tournament, including a school to the 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

Knight and Eric Hayward, signed seven prospects. Freshman guard Richard Hamilton was a McDonald's All-American and may be the heir apparent to Ray Allen. Syracuse grabbed Michigan's Mr. Basketball, Winfred Walton. Regarded as a top-five prospect, Walton has drawn comparisons to Syracuse greats, Derrick Coleman and Billy Owens. Tim Thomas, widely regarded as the second best prep player in the country, chose to at-

sons, 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 Eberz, and the school's All-Time scoring leader, Kerry Kittles, the Wildcat's 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

John Wallace, Lazurus Sims and J.B. Reafsynder 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 to Syracuse's success. Cipolla started 23 games and averaged 7.7 points. Burgan, the Orangeman'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 bruising body and soft touch inside, must rebound and stay out of foul trouble. He can give the Orangeman the presence inside with his quickness and toughness. The freshman Walton has the ability to start right away, maybe 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.

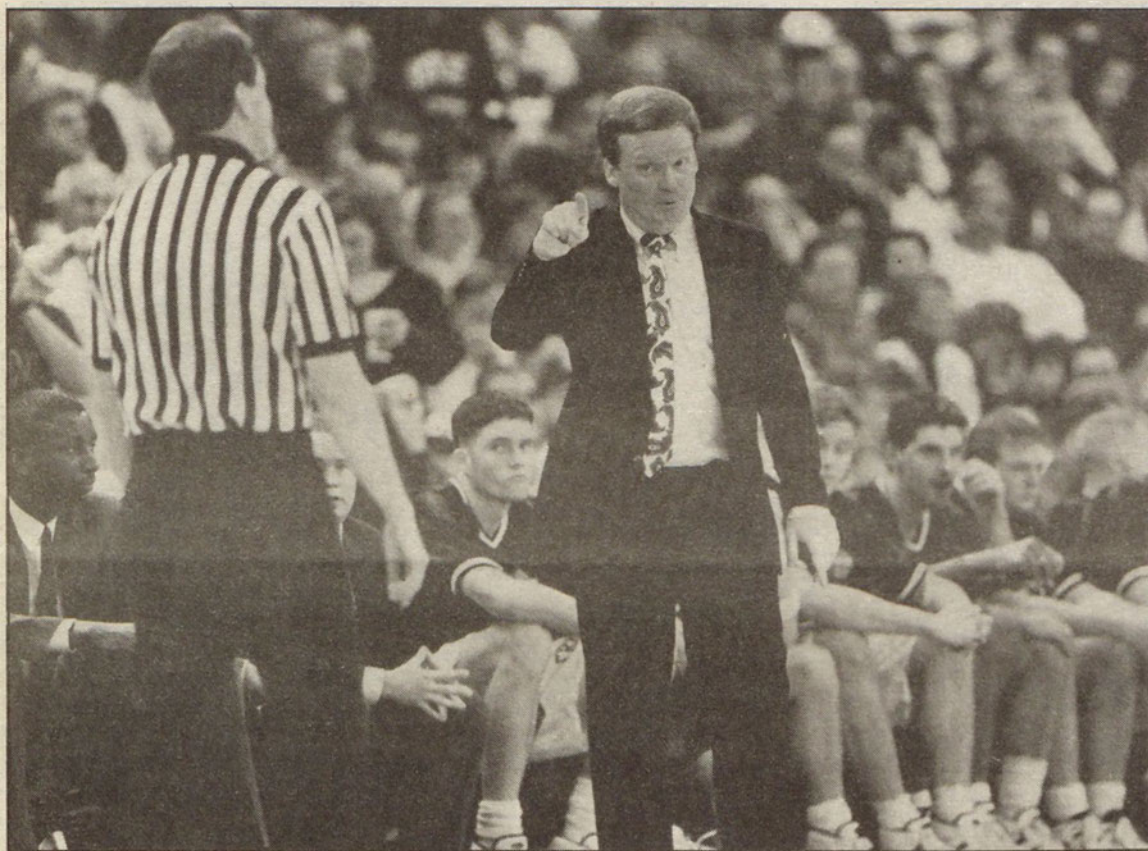
ON THE BUBBLE

Connecticut: Last season the Huskies enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in college history. They posted a 32-3 overall mark, 17-1 in the Big East and had four starters selected in the NBA draft. UConn has appeared in the 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, Doron Sheffer, their floor general, Travis Knight, their seven-foot center and Eric Hayward. They only return one player who has started a college game, Kirk King. King, who set an NCAA record last season by making 25 straight field goal attempts, shot a team high .575 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 does have 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 Othella 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

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ABOVE: Gillen is looking for a little respect from the refs. RIGHT: Austin, Shamm, and Jamel will be instrumental to a successful Friar season

Allen Iverson. Translation: no conference was better last season than the Big East. However, for the conference to continue to be successful, they must blend a heavy mix of returning stars with the highly touted recruiting class 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 superb 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 forgo his senior year for the NBA, while the 1995 Big East Player of the Year, Kerry Kittles closed out his career at Villanova as the All-Time leading scorer. Iverson, Allen and Kittles were all First-Team All-Americans last season. After deciding to comeback for his senior year, Syracuse's John Wallace led his team to the Final Four and a spot in the NCAA Championship game. These are just some of the shoes this highly touted recruiting class must fill.

The biggest winners in the recruiting sweepstakes was UConn, Syracuse and Villanova, as 10 of 13 schools grabbed marquee players. UConn, after losing Ray Allen, Doron Sheffer, Travis

tend Villanova over the NBA. Hamilton, Walton and Thomas, along with Seton Hall's Shaheen Holloway, Pitt's Jarrett Lockheart and Providence's Ndongo N'daiye should keep the Big East near the top of the college basketball world.

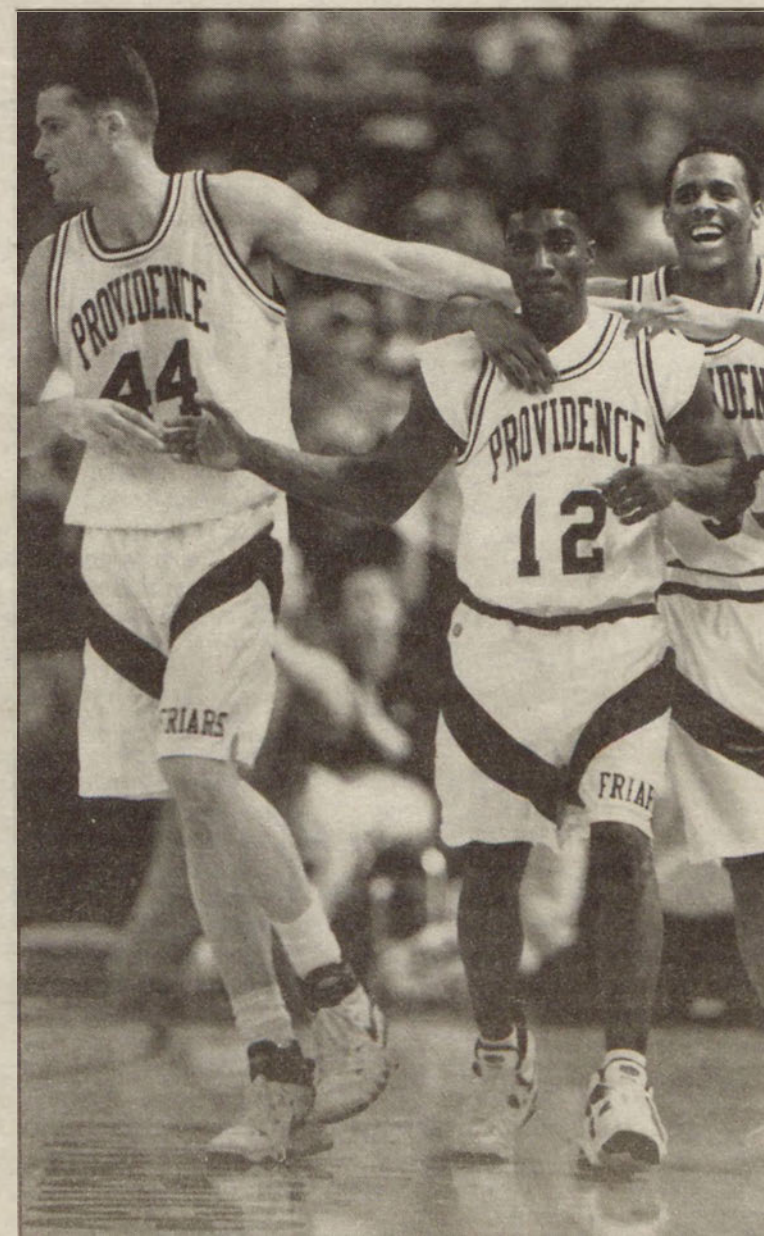
TITLE CONTENDERS

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 Danya 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. He is strong, plays tough 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 "Scoonie" Penn, Big East Rookie of the Year, will continue to be a key for the upstart Eagles. 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 Jourdon, the Eagles defensive stopper, and Antonio 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 146-157 record in the last 10 sea-

is in their senior class. This includes starters Jason Lawson, Alvin Williams and Chuck Kornegay and reserve Zeffy 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 Croshere, God Shammgod, Derrick 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 Orangeman went to the Final Four, posted a 29-9 record, lost seniors



Friars Solid At All Positions

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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.

Shooting 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 sea-

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

son. This season should be different as his hellacious defense, height (6'3") and sweet jump shot should put him as the front runner.

Running the team will be the much maligned point guard God Shammgod. Perhaps the most talented player on the team, he broke the Big East record for assists by a freshman, finishing the year with 110 (189 overall).

"He had a great freshman year," commented Gillen. "He worked hard over the summer, his shot is much improved... he is a leader, our quarterback."

The entire Big East has a great starting



ABOVE: A.C. Taking it baseline.

BELOW: Murdock passes to teammate before going out of bounds.

The Cowl

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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 faithful reaching for their programs and saying to each other, "who 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 could 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'dongo N'daiye, the 7' center from Senegal. You can't forget him, he's HUGE. N'daiye will be spelling Garces at center (he 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.



Providence Among the Contenders in the Big East

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

St. John's: Could this be the year of the Johnnies, or will the Red Storm falter, as in the past? With new head coach, Fran Fraschilla, St. John's is 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 Zendon 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. One bright spot for the Red Storm last season was freshman forward Tyrone Grant. He averaged 7.8 points and 7.1 rebounds per game as a reserve. He will be expected to contribute much more this season. The question is, whether or not Head Coach Fran Fraschilla can build the chemistry and produce a team everyone has expected, or will the egos get

in the way?

BEST OF THE REST

Seton Hall: After the departure of Danny Hurley and Adrian Griffin, highly recruited Shaheen Holloway should make an immediate impact on a team which finished 12-16 last season. Holloway, the MVP of the McDonald's High School All-Star game, will be immediately 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, senior Bayonne Taty, junior Jacky Kaba and sophomore Kelland Payton, who are all 6-10.

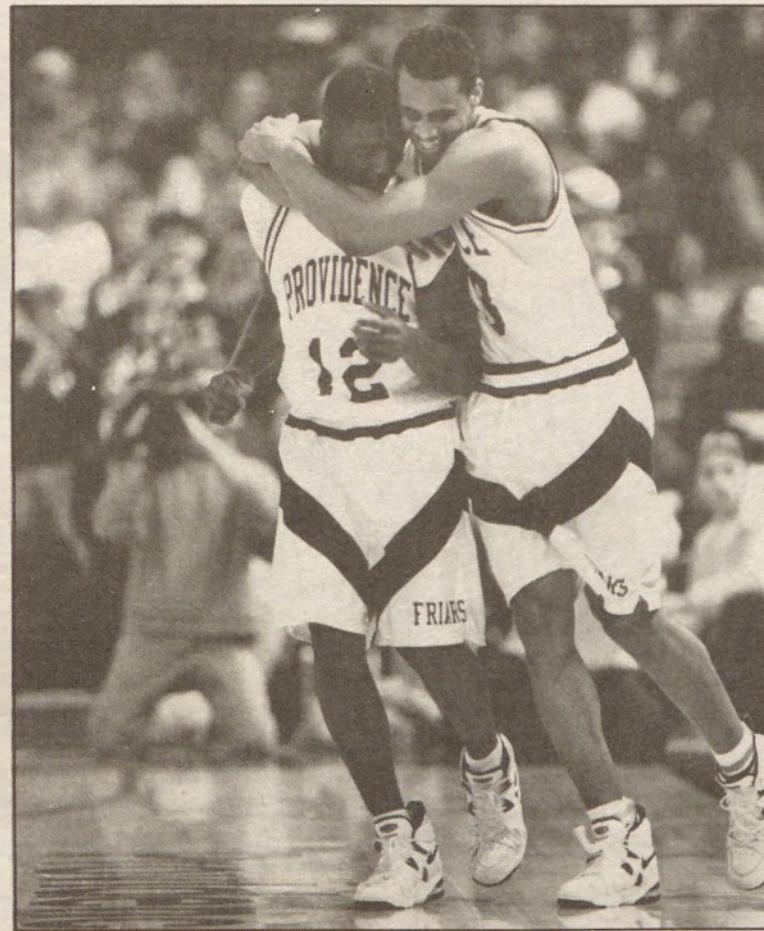
Miami: The 'Canes will be a very inexperienced squad this season, with five standout freshman. They have three returning starters, but graduated their starting forwards. Winless in the league three years ago, they posted nine wins in 1994-95 and eight wins last season in the Big East. This blend of returning players and new recruiting class should prove for an exciting season in Miami.

Rutgers: In their inaugural season in the Big East, Rutgers posted six wins last season in the conference. For their second season in the Big East, Head Coach Bob Wenzel added key additions

to strengthen his team. He added two players seven feet or taller and added much quickness. After a season which Rutgers lost two one-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 fought injuries all season. Senior forward Chad Varga is the lone returning Panther who averaged in double figures last season. Point guard Jerry McCullough was the team's leading scorer at 13.4 points and dealt 133 assists last season, but he was lost due to graduation. Pitt will have to look to strengthen up this season so they do not get pushed around and remain 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 .622. Head Coach John MacLeod hopes the Fighting Irish can improve on their 9-18 overall mark and 4-14 record in the league, but they are the new kids on the block and it will take time to turn heads in the Big East.



Shamm and Jamel should be doing some serious celebrating this season

Freshman N'Daiye, A Tall Tale

by Ken Martin '99
Sports Writer

Many students saw the extended Columbus Day weekend as a welcomed opportunity to dash home and escape the bustle of school for at least a few days. Yet, one student who might have had a little trouble getting home was freshman Ndongo N'daiye (pronounced Nah-dongo En-jeye for all you Friar Fanatics who want to chant his name during the games). For N'daiye, the latest addition to the Providence Men's Basketball Team and the tallest member of the squad standing just over seven feet, home is the north-western African country of Senegal. And seeing the rapid chain of events that brought N'daiye here a week into the semester he may not have wanted to leave just yet anyhow.

Before arriving at Providence, Ndongo came to America under the guidance of an assistant basketball coach from Maine University. N'daiye signed a letter-of-intent with Maine last fall and spent the year honing his academic and athletic skills at Suffield Academy Prep in Connecticut. However, as summer came Maine Head Coach Rudy Keeling went, opting to take a job at Northeastern. The unexpected move swayed N'daiye from Maine to PC where he enrolled five days into the semester. In a September sixth article in the *Providence Journal-Bulletin*, N'daiye remarked about his new found home.

"It is a lifetime dream to just get an education in college. I worked very hard since elementary school to get here. God has blessed me with my size and with this chance."

Ndongo has also been blessed with the ability to speak five languages. Along with his native language of Wolof he is also fluent in French, Arabic, Spanish and English. No matter how you say it, though, N'daiye is learning to be more and more like his American classmates enjoying pizza, music, movies and just hanging out with friends.

N'daiye leaves behind five sisters in Senegal along with his mother Goain and father David. Also left behind is Demba Diop, the high school in his home town of Dakar where he played basketball and captained the soccer team. Excelling in the classroom as well, Ndongo was named best mathematician in the school.

Ndongo, who didn't start playing basketball until age fifteen, gives a quick Friars club some needed height that they lost when seven foot Jason Evans transferred over the summer.

"PC has some great players, but my size is a good addition," Ndongo also commented in the September sixth *Journal-Bulletin* article. "I like to play defense and block shots, but I can run like everybody else too."

At seven feet-one inch tall the only people running might be the opposing team.

Prophecy Continued

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so I took my act on the road.

I need a quote on college ball, so I knew I had to go straight to the horse's mouth: Patrolman Richard Bennett of the Providence Police Department. It is a little known fact that while Ptlm. Bennett is not being accused of battering PC kids like a Gestapo interrogator, he is an avid college basketball enthusiast. Unfortunately, Bennett could not be reached for comment, and has refused to return my phone calls.

Other parties who were not available, but were contacted for comments were Providence Mayor Buddy Cianci, Congressman Sonny Bono (R-Cal.), O.J. Simpson trial prosecutor Marcia Clark, television personality David Letterman, and Chief Executive Officer of Disney, Michael Eisner.

Despite the obvious disappointment of not being able to secure opinions from the above, I did manage to hear some interesting thoughts from other prominent citizens. Pat Judge '99 thought that the Friars would get their invitations to the Big Dance if he was added to the roster. I suppose its an idea, at least.

Speaking for President Clinton, Orson Porter, the state director for the Clinton/Gore re-election campaign, says "With hard work and determination, anything is possible. I'm sure the Providence Friars will not let their fans down." Not to be outdone, Bob Dole and Jack Kemp offered their predictions via Joan Quick, media director for the local Dole/Kemp campaign office. She (and supposedly they) commented that "the drive to win can overcome all obstacles." Reform Party candidate Ross Perot was not asked for a comment because it was determined he had no realistic chance of winning the election.

(Get it? Kind of like the debates. Duh.)

Speaker Newt Gingrich's office was also contacted, but was less compliant with my media request. Quoth an anonymous worker in the Speaker's press relations department, "I'm sorry, but we won't be able to participate in your little article."

Matt Gelb, the very insightful Sports Editor of the Boston College *Heights* comments that the Friars "need to finish in the top four of the Big East."

Coach George Blaney of the Seton Hall Pirates has lended his words as well. "The Friars,"

It is a little known fact that while Ptlm. Bennett is not being accused of battering PC kids like a Gestapo interrogator, 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."

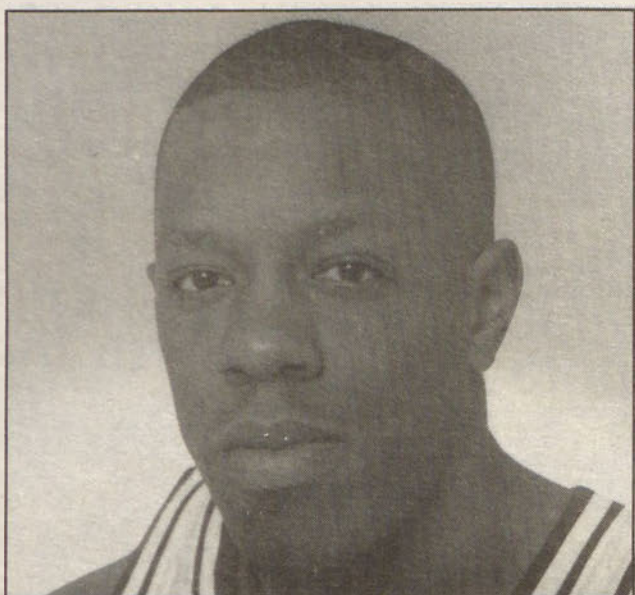
In agreement with Blaney is Bill Hancock of the NCAA Mens' Basketball Tournament's invitation committee. Although "there are so many factors," influencing

invitations, Hancock says to cinch a spot in the last 64 that we need to "beat the good teams, win every game." PC must "play the better 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 being invited, he answered in the negative. "No," laughed Hancock. "Witness the fact that the Stanford Tree made an appearance in the tournament last year," pointed out Hancock. Hmmm. Good point.

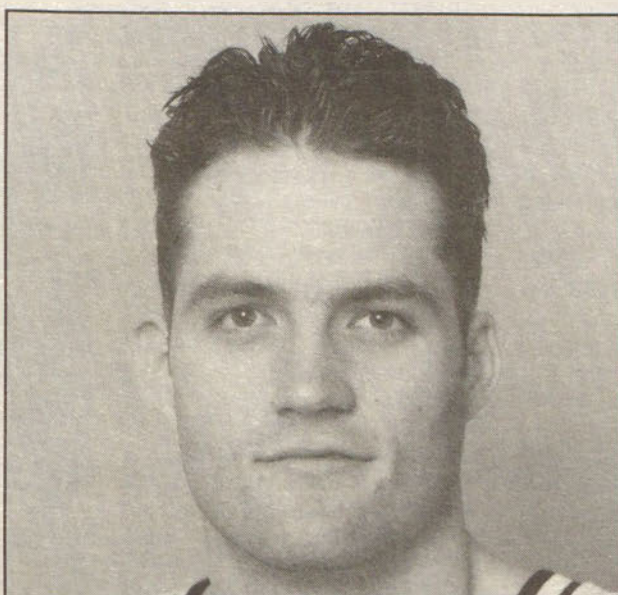
While all these viewpoints are interesting, some of them even valid, I think that the main issues are being overlooked. In my humble opinion, if PC wants to be invited to the Big Dance, they have to concentrate on the important issues. Sure, skill is great and all, but it can only take you so far. The Friars need to pick up some big-name sponsors like Miller, Budweiser and Marlboro. Think about the half-time shows. Sure, dancing cheerleaders and a couple of putzes on trampolines is great, but picture this: the Bud Girls shaking their moneymakers and the Marlboro Man putting on an extra special rodeo where freshman are hog-tied in the middle of the Civic Center. Maybe if we spent less money on the players' uniforms and devoted some cash into getting a couple musical acts to play in between halves. I hear Pavarotti'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.

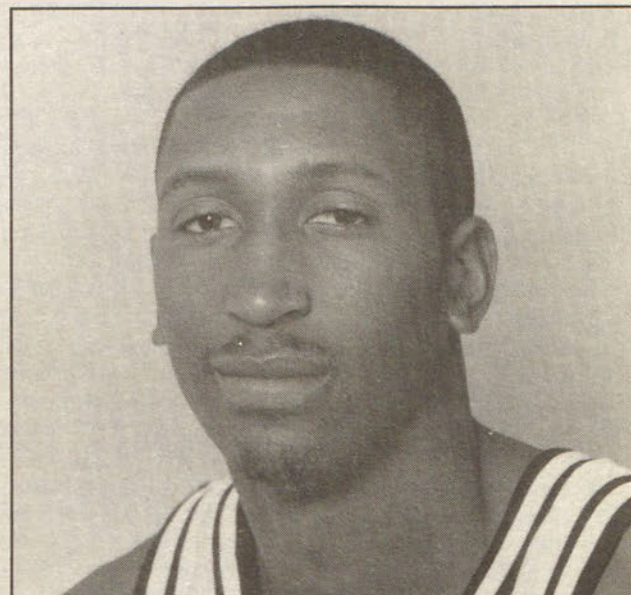
MEET THE '96-'97 FRIARS



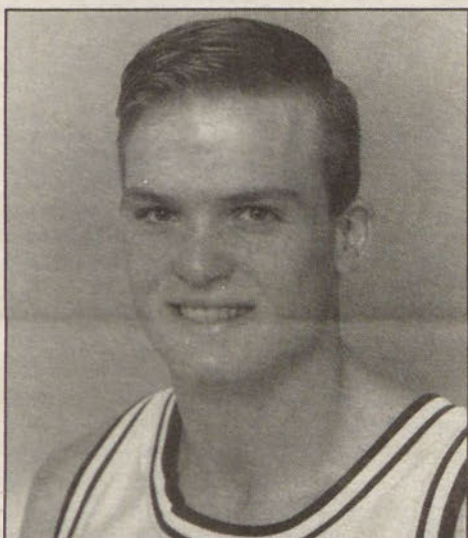
Tri-captain Derrick Brown '97



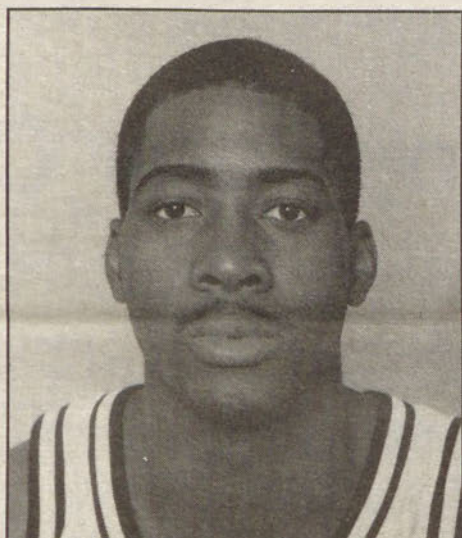
Tri-captain Austin Croshere '97



Tri-captain Jason Murdock '97



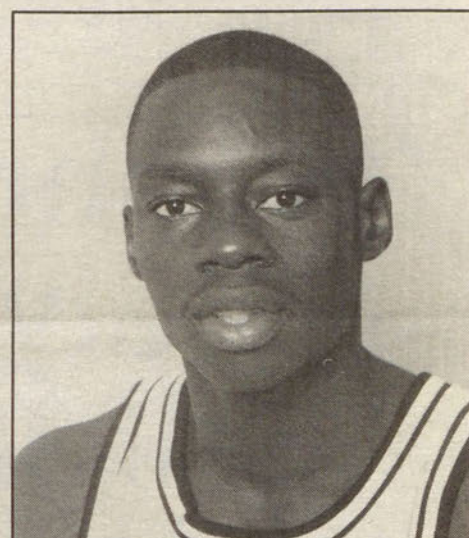
Mark Adams '98



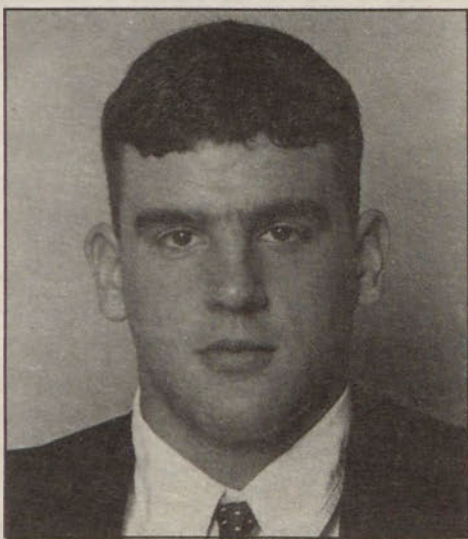
Abdul Brown '98



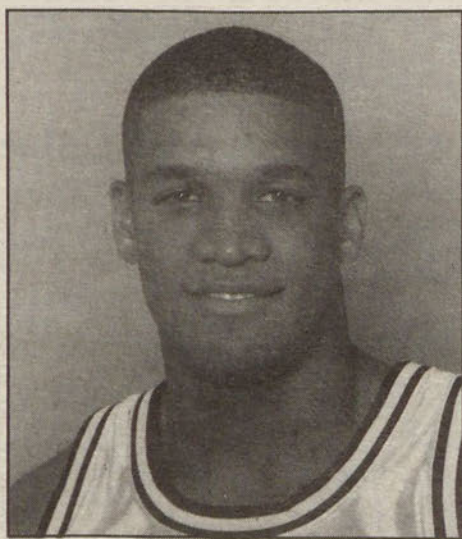
Dennis Cleary '99



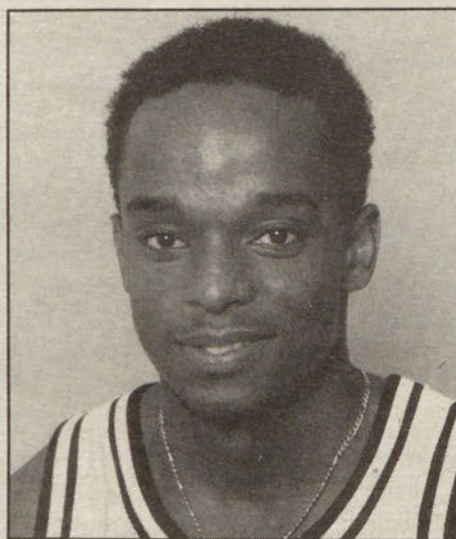
Llewellyn Cole '99



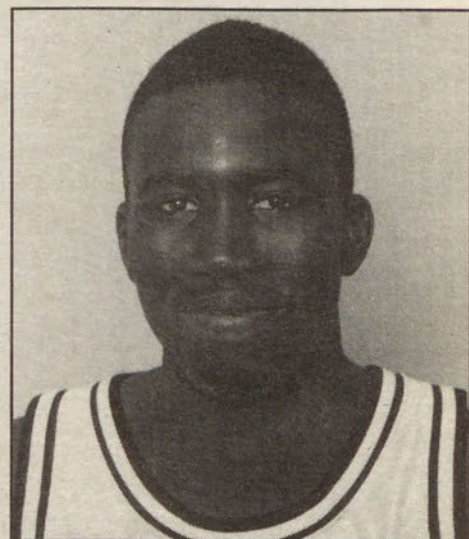
Richard Cordella '99



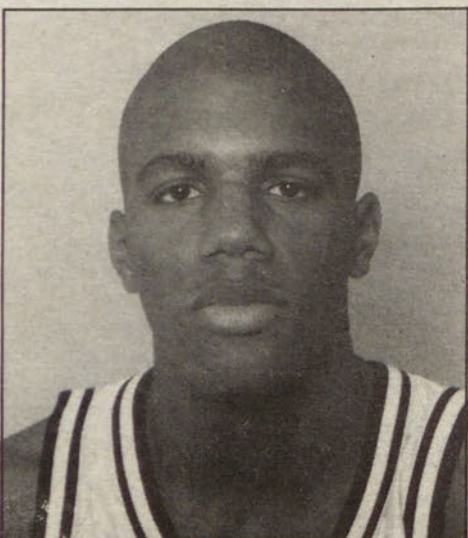
Ruben Garces '97



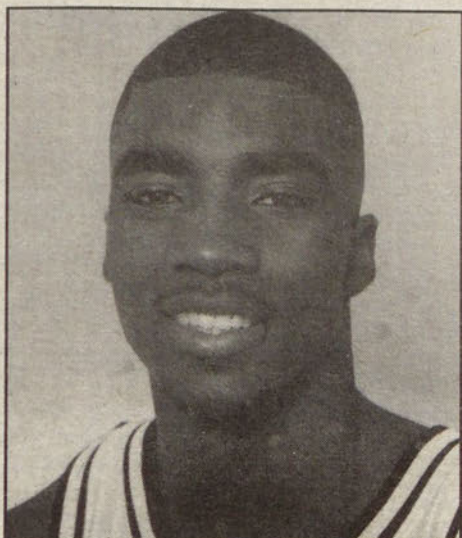
Kendrick Moore '99



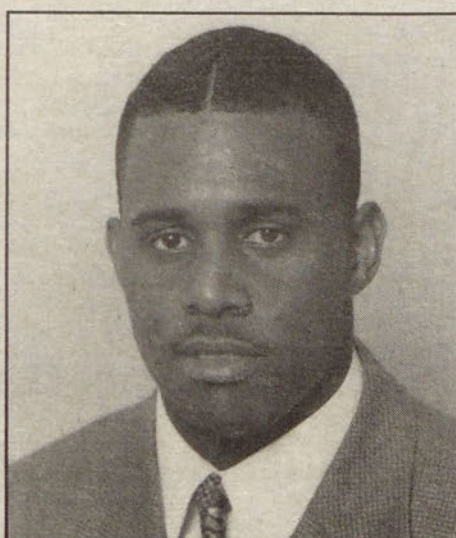
Ndongo N'Diaye '00



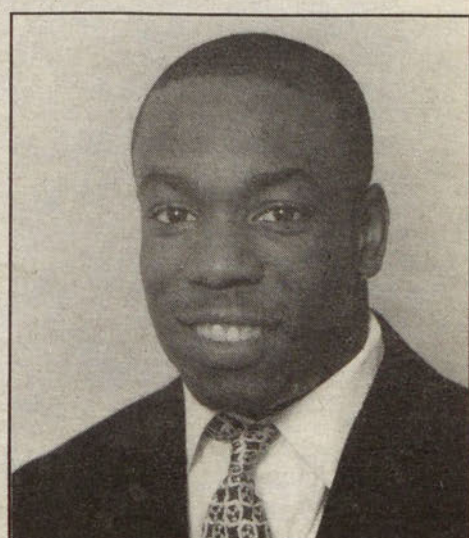
Kofi Pointer '00



God Shammgod '99



Jamel Thomas '99

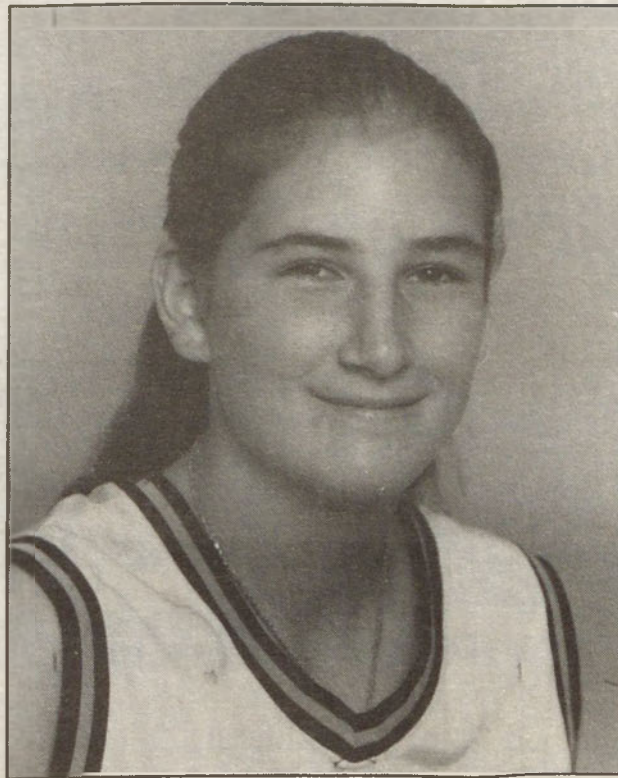


Corey Wright '99

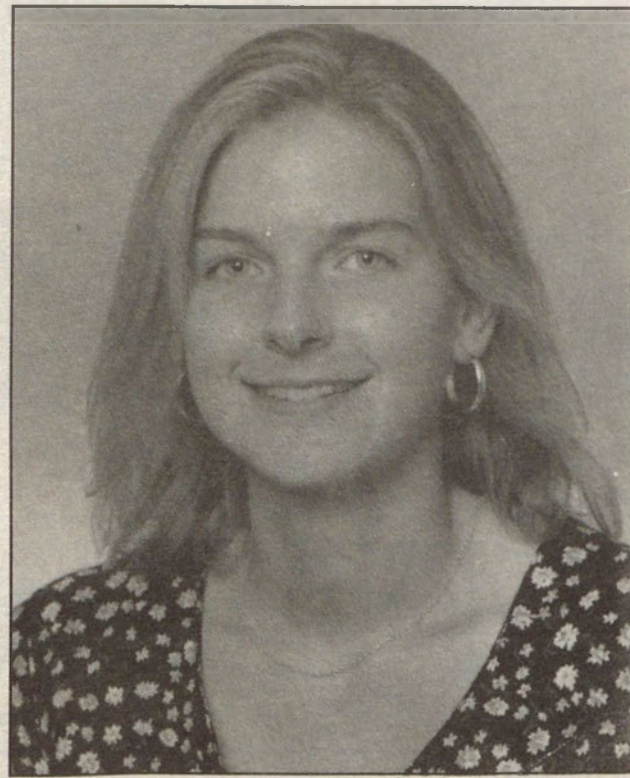
MEET THE '96-'97 LADY FRIARS



Shannon Bresnahan '98



Kerri Chatten '98



Jen Davis '97



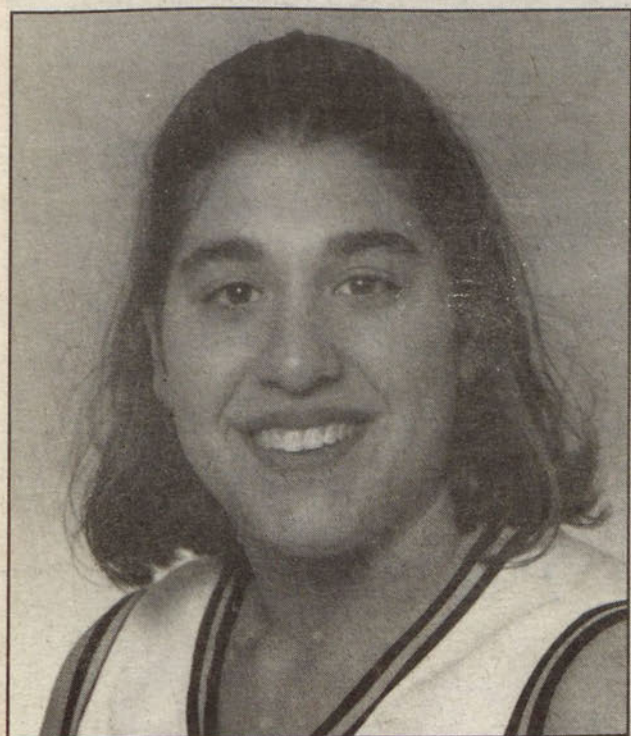
Tavia Horton '99



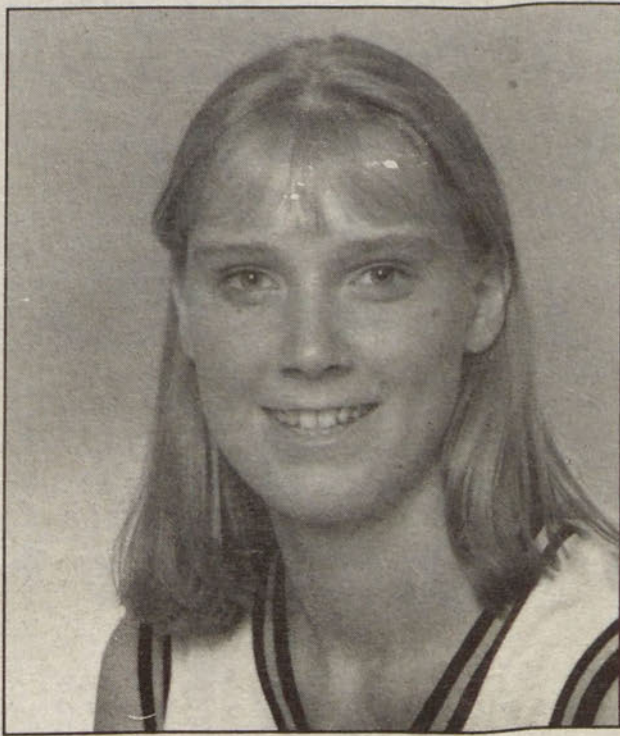
Nadine Malcolm '97



Mandy Saunders '97



Dana Simonelli '99

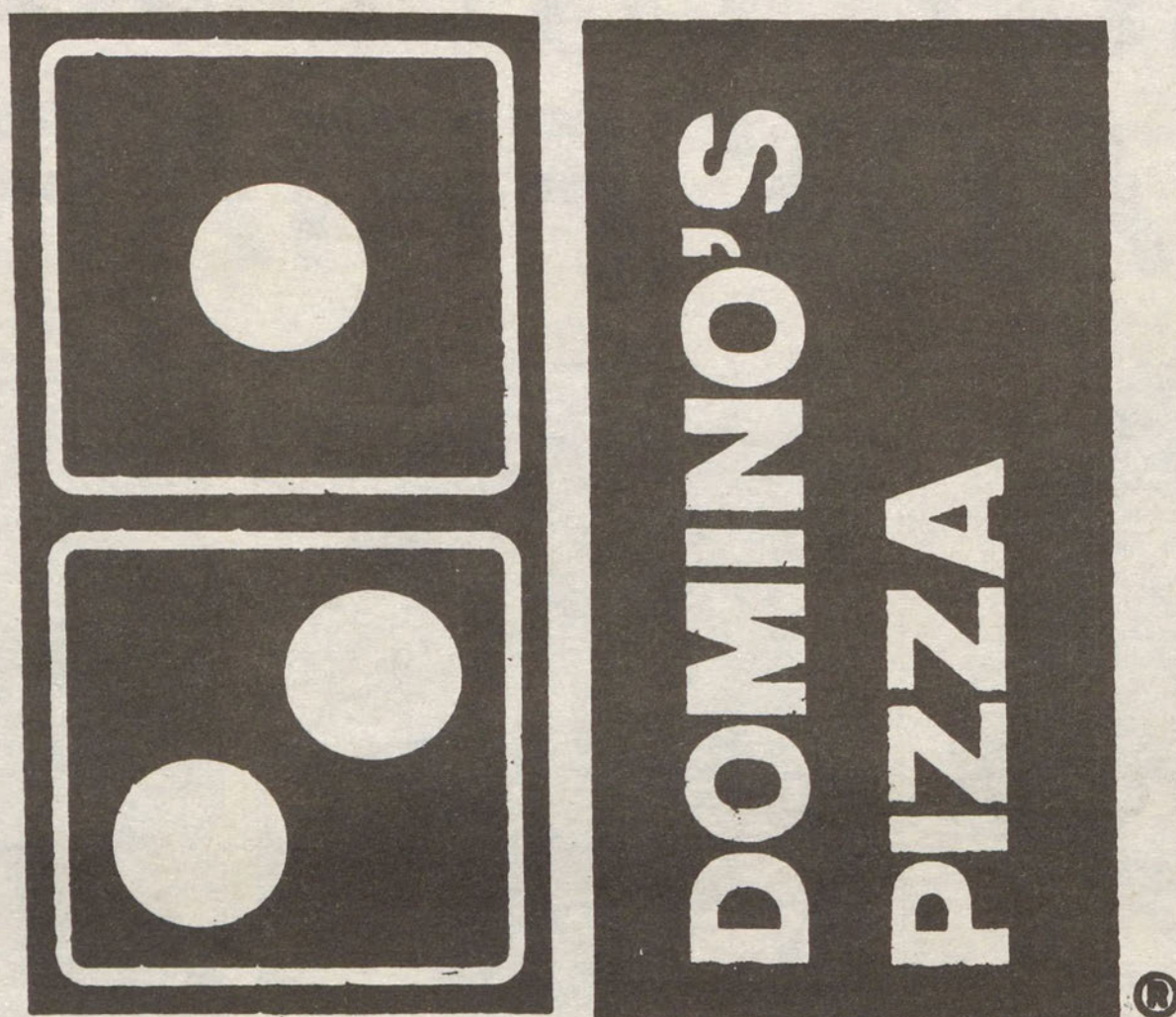


Kerri Sullivan '99



Julie Wheeler '98

photo not available: Meghan Hinds '00



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MILLS CONTINUED

continued from page 10

All Big East rookie Susan Blauser is the top returning scorer. Also returning is Jen Clemente, who led the team in field-goal percentage, senior guard Kristen Somogyi, and sophomore guard Tomora Young. Coach Stringer 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 Nerilee 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.

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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 to do here what he did at Marquette? Lack

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 just 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 our 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."



Nadine Malcolm '97 attacks the rim

1996-97 PROVIDENCE COLLEGE FRIARS' BASKETBALL

NOVEMBER

4	Monday	WASHINGTON AAU	7:30 p.m.
12	Tuesday	YUGOSLAVIAN SELECT TEAM	7:30 p.m.

22	Friday	at TOP OF THE WORLD CLASSIC (Fairbanks, Alaska)	
23	Saturday	vs. Alaska-Fairbanks	10:30 p.m.
24	Sunday	with Alabama, Baylor, Middle Tennessee State, Montana, North Carolina-Wilmington and Southern Illinois	T.B.A.

27	Wednesday	LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY	7:30 p.m.
30	Saturday	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	1:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

4	Wednesday	at Villanova University	7:30 p.m.
7	Saturday	UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME	4:00 p.m.
10	Tuesday	UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND	8:00 p.m.
21	Saturday	BROWN UNIVERSITY	2:00 p.m.
23	Monday	at University of Wisconsin	9:00 p.m.
28	Saturday	at Loyola Marymount University	10:00 p.m.
31	Tuesday	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (ESPN2)	6:30 p.m.

JANUARY

2	Thursday	ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY	6:00 p.m.
6	Monday	VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY (ESPN)	7:30 p.m.
11	Saturday	at Seton Hall University (BE Game of the Week)	12:00 noon
15	Wednesday	at University of Miami	7:00 p.m.
19	Sunday	WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY	12:00 noon
25	Saturday	at St. John's University (at MSG)	8:00 p.m.
27	Monday	CANISIUS COLLEGE	7:30 p.m.
29	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 Georgetown University	7:30 p.m.
15	Saturday	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	2:00 p.m.
18	Tuesday	at Rutgers University (ESPN2)	7:30 p.m.
22	Saturday	at University of Notre Dame (NBC)	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 (ESPN/ESPN2)	
6	Thursday	at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT (ESPN/ESPN2)	
7	Friday	at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT (ESPN)	
8	Saturday	at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT (ESPN)	

CAPS AND BOLD INDICATE HOME GAMES SCNE - SportsChannel New England
Times and dates subject to change

1996-97 PROVIDENCE COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

6	Wednesday	NOR'EASTER STORM EXHIBITION	7:00 pm
		<i>United Way Night</i>	
14	Thursday	AUSTRALIA SPARTANS EXHIBITION	7:00 pm
		<i>WHITECO Girls Club Night</i>	
22	Friday	OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY	7:00 pm
		<i>XTRAMART Schedule Poster Giveaway</i>	
24	Sunday	at University of Rhode Island	2:00 pm
27	Wednesday	at Purdue University	7:30 pm
30	Sat-Sun	at ECAC Holiday Festival (Worcester, MA)	
	Saturday	Long Island vs Holy Cross	1:00 pm
		Providence vs Dartmouth	3:30 pm

DECEMBER

1	Sunday	at ECAC Holiday Festival	1:00/3:30
4	Wednesday	WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY	7:00 pm
		<i>Family Day</i>	
7	Saturday	at University of Notre Dame	1:00 pm
28-30	Sat-Mon	at Univ. of Central Florida Holiday Tournament (Orlando, FL)	
	Saturday	George Mason vs Western Michigan	1:00 pm
		UNC-Charlotte vs Northwestern State	3:00 pm
		Providence vs Auburn	6:00 pm
		Central Florida vs Eastern Washington	8:00 pm

JANUARY

2	Thursday	VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY	6:00 pm
		<i>CYO NIGHT</i>	
5	Sunday	at Georgetown University	2:00 pm
7	Tuesday	at St. John's University	7:00 pm
9	Thursday	RUTGERS UNIVERSITY	7:00 pm
		<i>Faculty-Staff Night</i>	
12	Sunday	UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI	1:00 pm
		<i>Family Day - Post Game Autographs</i>	
16	Thursday	SETON HALL UNIVERSITY	7:00 pm
22	Wednesday	at University of Pittsburgh	7:30 pm
25	Saturday	at Syracuse University	2:00 pm
29	Wednesday	at Rutgers University	7:30 pm

FEBRUARY

2	Sunday	UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT	4:00 pm
		<i>Parents' Weekend</i>	
5	Wednesday	at Boston College	7:00 pm
9	Sunday	ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY	1:00 pm
		<i>National Take a Girl to the Game Day</i>	
16	Sunday	NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY	1:00 pm
		<i>Alumni Weekend/Bud Light Daredevils</i>	
19	Wednesday	GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY	7:00 pm
		<i>Senior Night</i>	
22	Saturday	at West Virginia University	2:00 pm
25	Tuesday	at Villanova University	7:30 pm

MARCH

1-4	Sat-Tue	at BIG EAST Tournament (Storrs, CT)	
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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. Wynne recorded 23 double-doubles, the highest total in the nation. Wynne 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 Tahnee Heins, sophomore Christine Koren, and junior Sandy Mitchell competing for the two top spots. All the pieces fit this year for the Pirates, as they try to relive some of the NCAA Tournament

Ebiho Ahonkhai, and All Rookie Team member Sylita 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 McCoway. 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 Marianna 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 Schoff will be looked to to step up, as will junior guard Teakya 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

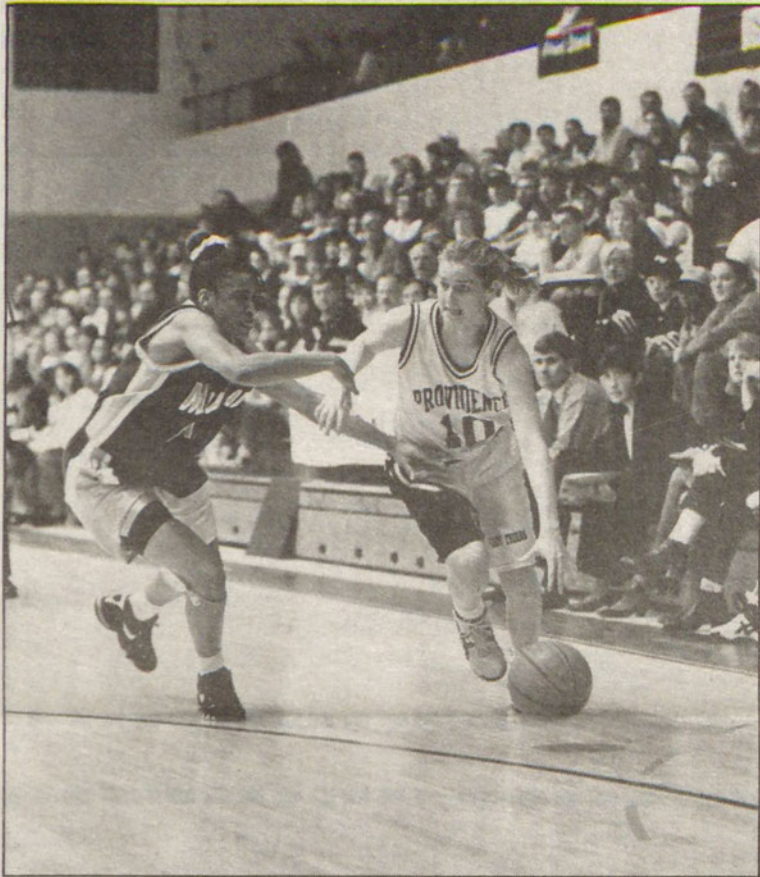
A team hoping to continue last year's 21-7 success will be Villanova. This will be a tough task, considering they lost four starters to graduation. Head coach

Harry Perreta does have junior forward Jen Beisel coming back, who last year averaged 8.6 points and 4.4 boards per game. Ready to step up this season are sophomore guard Shanette Lee, Jen Sliwa, 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 upperclassmen, including Toya Squair and Kim Beezer. 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.

continued on page 9



Jen Davis '97 turns the corner

1996-97 to be an exciting year in the Big East.

Connecticut, coming off a 34-3 championship season under coach Geno Auriemma, hope to continue their domination of the Big East. The Huskies return 11 players and lost four to graduation. Among these losses is last year's Big East Player of the Year, Jennifer Rizzotti. Returning this season is senior center Kara Wolters who, last year, averaged 18.9 points per game. Also returning is junior forward Nykesha Sales, a second-team All Big East player. Look for Amy Duran and Tammy Arnold to step up this year. Last year, Connecticut averaged 81.1 points per game, leading the conference. Look for similar results this season.

The team with the best chance to catch them is Notre Dame. They hope to improve on last year's 23-8 record in order to keep pace with the Huskies. Coach McGraw returns nine players while losing only two. Returning is senior forward Katryna Gaither, who averaged 19.8 ppg, and senior guard Beth Morgan, who last year shot a conference-best 43 percent from beyond the arc. Look for Molly Peirick and Rosanne Boham to step up this season. The Irish will be an improved team this season, but won't be able to overtake UConn.

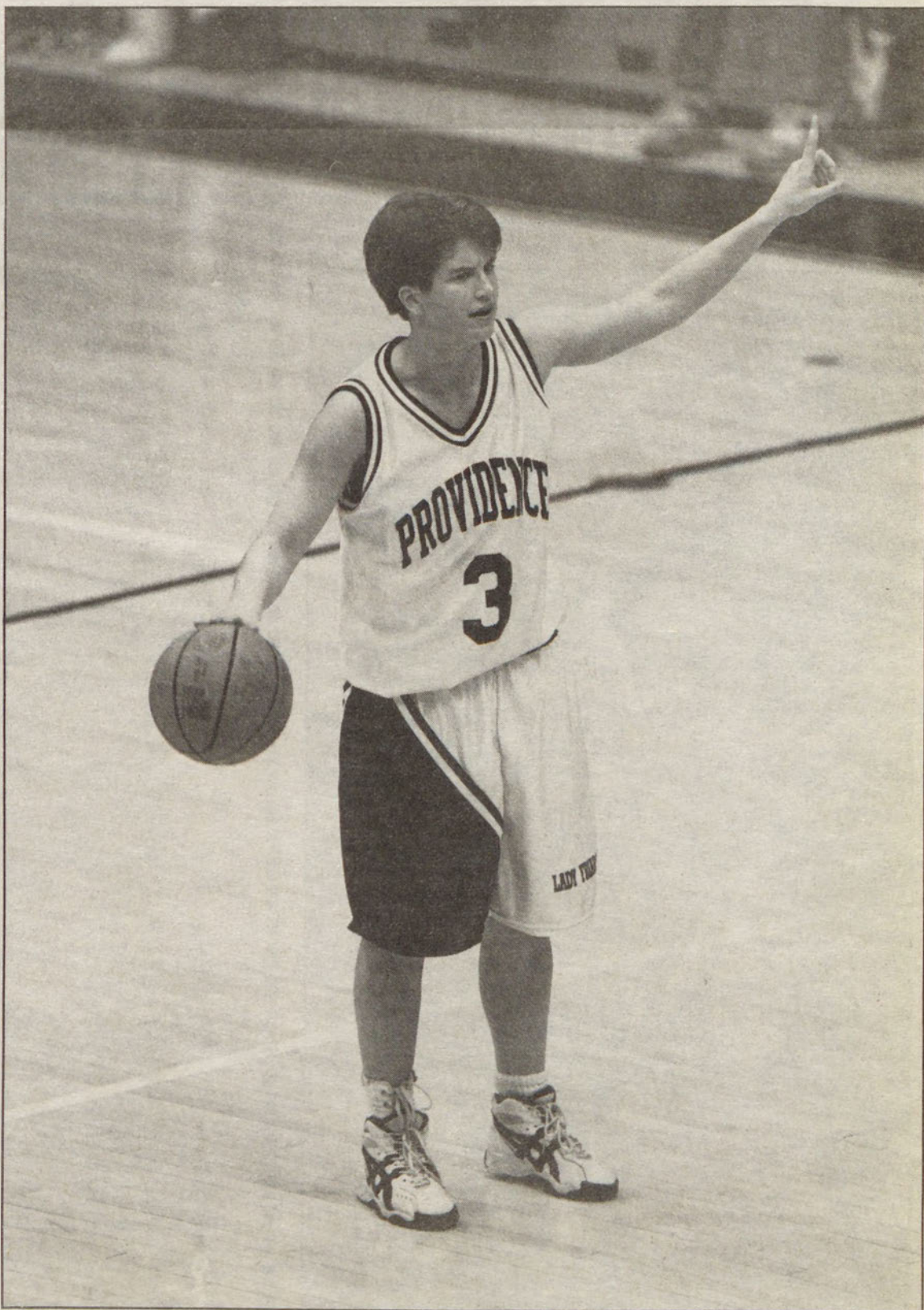
Seton Hall is coming off a 16-13 season under coach Phyllis Mangina, returning ten players and losing only one. Top returnees include senior forward Dana Wynne, the nation's top returning

success they experienced in years past.

Miami, after a 14-13 season under coach Ferne Labati, hopes to build on last year's successes, which included a share of the Big East Seven regular-season crown. Returning this season are junior forward Octavia Blue, who led her team with 16 ppg, as well as junior center Jennifer Jordan and senior forward Desma Thomas. Look for junior guard Cassandra Wimes to step up and lead the backcourt. Returning 10 players while returning four, the Hurricanes look to improve this year in search of national recognition.

Brandy new head coach Jim Jabir inherits a 12-15 Providence team, which returns nine players while losing four. Returning this season is senior center/forward Nadine Malcolm. Last year she averaged 24.2 ppg and was a Big East second-team All Star. Also returning this season are seniors Mandy Saunders and Jen Davis. Look for Kerri Chatten and Julie Wheeler to play well. The Lady Friars were third in Big East scoring last year, averaging 75.4 ppg but allowed the most points in the conference with 76.2 ppg. An improved defense and good production from key players should put the Lady Friars in the Big East hunt.

Georgetown last year finished 12-15, eleventh in the Big East. The Lady Hoyas return eleven players, while losing only one. Returning is last year's Big East Rookie of the Year, Kimberly Smith, as well as senior forward



Mandy Saunders '97 will be directing the Friar attack

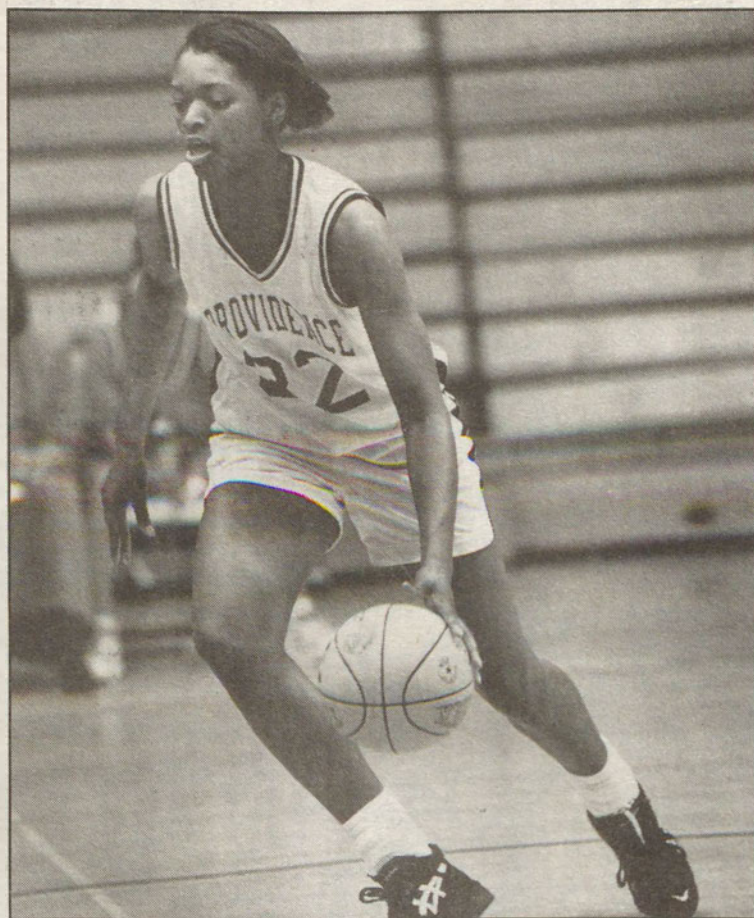
1997 All-American Candidate NADINE MALCOLM Optimistic for Lady Friar's Season

by Ryan Donaghy '99
Contributing Sports Writer

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 end 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 PC history, no other woman has reached the 1000 point plateau more quickly than Malcolm, who accomplished the task in just 54 games.



Nadine Malcolm will be a key factor for the Lady Friars

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 Jim Jabir is one example 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 Malcolm. Coach Jabir adds, "Nadine does not realize [what an asset] she is. She can effect 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 effect her. Malcolm states, "I don't really think about All-America that much, I just go out and do my job the best that I can." She hopes that the rest of the team 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 her go on to play professionally."

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 optimistic and anticipating great performances at all games. "We need fans to come out and support us," says Malcolm. "We are a tough, hard-working team who needs to see the PC fans in the stands."

An Introduction Head Coach Jim Jabir is a New Face On Campus

by John Carchedi '98
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. Now he's trying 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 Foley who resigned a month earlier. Admittedly, the Brooklyn, New York native is leaving a good thing at Marquette, but the Friar 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."

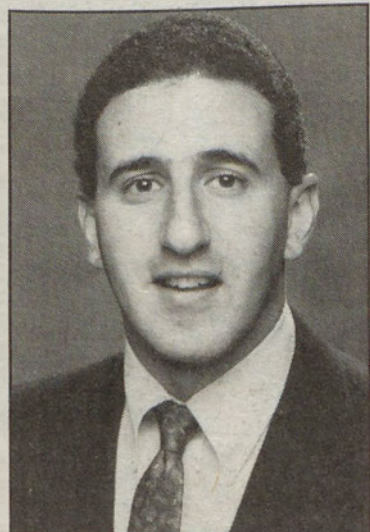
The man can rebuild. When Jabir arrived on the Marquette campus in 1990 the Golden Eagles had suffered through 16 losing seasons in 20 years of existence. After a disappointing first season, Jabir guided the squad to a remarkable 22-9 mark and a berth in the NIT. The next two seasons brought more success and two invitations to the NCAA tournament.

"It was hard to leave Marquette, because we'd been there six years and really built the program from nothing," noted Jabir. "I left the 12th ranked recruiting class in the country to come here and that's difficult."

"And I like the challenge of building something. At Marquette

we had 16 losing years. We got there and in two years we were in then NIT, 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 Jabir hopes to accomplish. So



Head Coach Jim Jabir

the man, and assistant coaches Mary Helen Walker, Serry Jones and Kerri Reaves, have recently completed a tour of the nation, hitting 17 homes in 17 different cities in just 19 days.

"We have to go out and very aggressively and very positively sell our strengths and I think we've been doing that well so far this recruiting period," assessed Jabir. "I think kids want to play in the Big East, I think kids want to get a solid education. We have a family at-

mosphere here and a lot of values, and I think a lot of kids want that. Our style of play is very aggressive, we shoot a lot of threes, we run a lot of transition offense. So we're offering that package."

Coach Jabir is 34 years old with a wife and two kids, Lauren (5) and Shane (3). Now, fellow college students, work with me for a moment. While we may consider month long road trips to be heaven, imagine having to leave a young family at home.

"As my kids get older, they understand when I'm gone, and it's harder because all of the sudden they miss you more," noted Jabir. "When they were younger it's just 'feed me and change my diaper and I'm fine'. But now it's the deal where they're older and they understand when you're not around. But as my kids get older I try to spend as much time with them as I can."

Jabir graduated from Nazareth College in 1984 and earned an assistant coaching position at the school the following season. He spent the '85-'86 season as an assistant at Buffalo State, and the following year, just three years after he graduated, became the head coach at Buffalo State where the club went 14-11 and earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament. The NCAA appearance was huge, and allowed Jabir to climb another rung by becoming the head coach at Siena.

Over the next three seasons with the Lady Saints, Jabir and company compiled a 50-29 record and earned the young coach the stint at Marquette. After spending the past six years in the midwest, Jabir is happy to be back east and

continued on page 9

The New Kid in Town

by Scott Palmieri '97
Sports Writer

The only new player for the Lady Friars squad this season is Meghan Hinds, a 5-10' freshman guard from Perrysburg, Ohio. Hinds was a three sport athlete at Notre Dame Academy. In hoops, she was a First Team All-City four consecutive years, Toledo City League Player of the Year twice, and was named Second Team All-State as a junior and senior. She holds her school's record for most career points and as a senior led her team to the Toledo City League Championship.

Hinds, originally from Connecticut, chose Providence for its academic reputation and the friendly atmosphere she felt on her visits here. "I liked the team a lot when I visited," said Hinds who has continued to get along well with her teammates. "I also wanted to play in the Big East."

Hinds signed before the departure of Coach Foley and was disappointed about the change at first, but after meeting with new coach

Jim Jabir and his staff she felt much better. "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

"I'm adapting to the run and gun style of play and I'm getting to know the other players play"

getting to know how the others players play." Hinds and her teammates are all excited about the coming season as they count down the days until practice.

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



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 Simpkins, 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 Jamel. 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 Head Coach Jim Jabir's first year at Providence.

Jabir, a 1984 graduate from Nazareth, comes to Providence after ten years of coaching at Marquette, Siena, 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 went .500 last season despite numerous injuries. Eight of last year's twelve letter-winners return, including four of the five starters. This squad went 16-16 last year and won the Big East 7 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 .529 shooter overall including an impressive .358 from the arc and .815 from the line. Kerri Chatten completes the frontcourt. After a disappointing beginning to last season and a broken nose 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 a consistent rebounder all year, averaging nearly nine a game.

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 ca-

hasn't decided his starting five, but he has reviewed films from last year and is already making plans for the offense. "We're probably going to have to run a three guard offense with Jen Davis, or maybe Meghan Hinds, playing the

swingman position." In response to the injuries that have afflicted this team over the past few years, Jabir has instituted a vigorous conditioning program under conditioning coach Kevin Keenen

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.



reer-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 offense.

Sophomores 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 rebounders Sullivan and Simonelli getting major playing time in a shallow frontcourt.

Coach Jabir has high hopes for not only this year, but the future of Providence Women's Bas-

ketball in general. "I would like to do for Providence what they (Gino Auriemma) 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

"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"

