

STATE BASKETBALL

2015-16 Men's Basketball Media Day October 1, 2015 - Dail Basketball Center

HEAD COACH MARK GOTTFRIED

Opening Statement:

"It's that time of year again. We are ready to go. We are excited as always for basketball to get started. We are ready to start truly practicing and building our team. Our team this year - one thought I have - we are a team that has a lot of question marks. A lot of players that need to take a major step forward. It's important to note Ralston and Trevor did a lot for our team last year - took majority of key shots - and they were very dependable. They counted for over 40 percent of our scoring. We are a team that is very unproven behind the 3-point line. We will have to think about how we are going to generate some offense. We have a lot of guys that are very anxious for their opportunity. Their chance to step forward...they are going to get it. BeeJay, Malik and Lennard averaged 11 points a game. We are going to need a lot more from them. We have a lot of holes to fill and a lot of guys that need to step forward. For us it's not how we start it's how we finish. Learning a lot about ourselves and becoming a good basketball team. We are a team that has a lot of question marks. For instance, I look and see North Carolina has a guy Marcus Paige started 105 games college career, and Cat Barber is the closest with 51 starts. Tells you where we are in that perspective. We have a lot of competitive and eager guys that now have an opportunity to step forward. Last year our schedule was the 6th-toughest in the nation last year. We have put together a schedule that hopefully, by the end of the year, will be one of the toughest. It's going to be a challenging schedule with some very competitive teams. Our league will get 8-10 teams in the NCAA Tournament. Our league will become the league we all thought it was - dominant around the country. It's time to play. We're ready.

On NC State replacing some accomplished 3-point shooters:

"We have good shooters, they just haven't done it yet. We are going to find out if Terry can make 3's. Cat will get better and was showing it in our summer workouts. We will see if Caleb can be a more consistent 3-point shooter. We've got to be better. Maverick was one of the best perimeter shooters in the country, as far as high school players go. We will see if he can translate that into college level."

On Maverick Rowan being added late to the roster after reclassifying:

"Maverick is going to be an exciting player. We are used to players getting here in the first of July to take summer classes and get academically prepared and spend some time in the gym. He might be behind in this way. He is settled in and knows what we are doing but once we start practicing and he gets caught up, he will be a good player. You never know how freshman will adapt - some take longer than others. He has good tools, he's a good shooter, he's got a chip on his shoulder - an edge to him. Very confident. What's important is his high school teams won. In Pennsylvania, he led his team to win a state championship his sophomore year. He moved to Fort Lauderdale and took a team that had never won a state championship and ended up winning the state championship. That says something. He has good size - a good 6-7. Not quite 6-8, but is learning everyday and getting better in the weight room. Excited to see how he can help us this year."

On what Terry Henderson can bring coming to NC State from West Virginia:

"I think Terry has been well-coached. Bobby Huggins did a good job over at West Virginia. He walked in and you can tell that he is well-schooled, especially with defense. What I like about him is that he does a lot of things well, he is an above average rebounder for a perimeter player. He is an above average passer. I look for him to have a good year, we need him to seeing that he has college experience. He's played in tough games and environments so I'm thrilled to see him here."

On is NC State will need to change playing style with new personnel:

"I don't think we will change a lot. We're a team that runs the high post offense, although I feel we have the new version. Last year, Cat and Trevor showed us how good they are utilizing the ball screens and we took that to adjust our playing style. I feel like November and December is the time for our staff to learn who can do what. By learning, we will adjust as we always do."