

Brickels tabs Wildcats for NCAA's

BY GEORGE MORRIS
Of The Gamecock Staff

This year Charlotte Coliseum will be the site for a first round NCAA championship playoff game, and Davidson coach Robert "Bo" Brickels expects to be there.

Brickels may be asking a lot of his team in this respect. Furman, defending Southern Conference champion, is favored by about everyone to win the title again. Favored, that is, by everybody but Brickels, who says:

"It all depends on what race you're talking about. Does the race mean who wins the most games during the regular season? If that's the race then I would surely pick Furman to win. They've got most of their people back, they've won it two out of three years, they finished strongly last year and I think they've got an excellent team.

"If you ask me who's going to win the conference tournament, then I would say Davidson. I think we'll be a better basketball team in March than we'll be to start with."

Experience will be one advantage Davidson will have as they try to make their coach's aspiration become truth. Four

'I would surely pick Furman to win the most regular season games.'



Bo Brickels

'If you ask me who's going to win the tournament, I would say Davidson.'

tempo of the basketball game. We hope defensively to make up for our deficiencies on the boards. I think we'll play man-to-man most of the way. However, we're going to have to zone some in order to protect those three people I mentioned."

Confronting Davidson will be an exceptionally tough regular season schedule. Brickels said of the schedule:

"I don't know who's got one tougher, really. I haven't looked at all of them but I don't know anybody, for example, that plays the top three teams in the country last year--North Carolina State, UCLA and Notre Dame--in a 19-day period.

Such scheduling is no accident, however, and the chances are that Brickels wouldn't trade his schedule with anybody's.

"That's what the schedule's supposed to do," Brickels said. "If we can win our conference tournament then we can go back to Charlotte for the first round, then we'll have played most of the people that could be there. We feel we will have readied ourselves to play in the NCAA tournament. After all, that's what it's all about."

starters--guards Greg Dunn and Jay Powell, forward Larry Horowitz and center Sheldon Parker--return from last year's team.

"We think we're going to be pretty good. In order for us to be really good against the people we have to play we feel that Dunn,

Horowitz and Powell have got to be in most of the time," he said.

"For the most part we'll be a ball club that tries to get a good shot. In the past we've been able to rebound well because our guards could get back in there and help us.

Our guards have got to get some of the long loose rebounds. If that's

the case then I doubt that we're going to get it down the floor quickly and get some offense before the other team gets back.

"Our weakness, I think, is the fact that we're going to have trouble on the boards against some people. If we do, then we are not going to be able to control the

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Phelps not shaken by player losses

BY GEORGE MORRIS
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Replacing two key players from last year's 26-3 season will be the main task confronting Richard "Digger" Phelps this year at Notre Dame.

Gone from last year's club are John Shumate and Gary Brokaw, both of whom decided to forfeit their final year of college eligibility for an early shot at pro ball. This leaves Phelps with the unenviable task of facing a tough schedule without two of the players counted upon to keep the Irish among the nation's best in basketball. Nonetheless, Phelps has a philosophical outlook toward this year's campaign.

"You can't worry about your losses, you have to worry about tomorrow. We're not looking back from what we were last year. It's a whole new team and a whole new season," he said.

"We're a young, inexperienced team and we're going to make mistakes," the fourth year coach comments. "We won't have a dominant big man like we had in John Shumate last year.

"Our biggest weakness is probably going to be rebounding. I don't know how we're going to get the ball; we're very small. We'll play (Bill) Paterno and (Adrian) Dantley at forward and they're both 6-5. Right now Pete Crotty is playing center and he's 6-8. That's a small front line compared to some, like South Carolina, Marquette, UCLA, Indiana, Kansas; just name a team and we're playing them," he said.

"Most of these teams have good big men who play a physical type of game. We're going to have to

Digger Phelps



open up our game more and bring them out from underneath. As far as strengths are concerned, we'll be able to run and press more than we have before. That's one way of making up for lack of size."

In the backcourt the Irish should be in good shape despite the loss of Brokaw. Senior Dwight Clay returns as a starter for the third consecutive year, and the 6-3 playmaker led the team in assists last year with 136. His counterpart should be defensive specialist Ray Martin. It is with these players that Phelps hopes to successfully replace size with quickness. He also plans to stay with the man-to-man defensive that has been so successful for him.

"We have a lot of depth at guard but our frontcourt depth is a question mark at this point. We'll have to be more aggressive and run more, trying to keep teams playing full court and try to wear them down. We hope to put them in a position where we can keep them away from the boards by running," he said.

"Of course," he jokes, "if that doesn't work, then in February we could be playing a zone and holding the ball."

Phelps hopes, however, that come February, the joke won't be on him.