



Davidson

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Last season was supposedly a rebuilding year for the Wildcats, but coach Bob McKillop made quite a recruiting coup when he brought in freshman Stephen Curry, who made an immediate impact to help lead Davidson to a school-record 29 victories.

Curry, the son of former NBA sharp-shooter Dell Curry, drilled a Division I single-season freshman record 122 3-pointers while leading the 'Cats and the Southern Conference in scoring at 21.5 points per game.

As a freshman, Curry had the confidence and love of the spotlight rarely seen in a player so young. He scored 30 points in Davidson's 82-70 NCAA Tournament loss to Maryland, a game the Wildcats led throughout before folding late. Despite the loss, it was something of a coming out party for Curry, who did his thing on the national stage and set himself up as one of the more interesting players to watch for this season.

Of greater consequence is that, with Curry leading the way, Davidson could spend a good bit of the season at a higher elevation than Southern Conference teams are accustomed.

Curry is the established lead dog, but the Wildcats will have many more weapons to choose from. Curry will be joined by the four other starters from last season in back-court mates Jason Richards and Max Paulhus Gosselin and forwards Boris Meno and Thomas Sander.

Richards was second in the nation in assists at 7.3 per game and was key in setting up Curry's jumper as well as Sander and Meno on the boxes. Richards is a returning All-Southern Conference performer and is the kind of creative point guard who makes everybody around him more successful.

Richards and Curry seemed to heighten their performance as the games grew in importance last season. They combined for 53.2 percent of the Wildcats' offense in Davidson's first two wins in the Southern Conference Tournament before Curry dropped 29 on the College of Charleston in a 72-65 win in the finals.

Sander and Meno are polished posts and shot better than 45 percent from the floor and were an integral part of Davidson's inside success, averaging 14.6 of the Wildcats' 40.1 rebounds per game. Sander, second-team All-Southern Conference, holds a career shooting percentage of 54.7 percent. Meno, a native of Paris, is an athletic shot blocker in the middle who scored in double figures 18 times and had double digits in rebounds on 11 occasions.

Gosselin set a career scoring high three times last season as a sophomore. The last was a 22-point effort against Chattanooga.

McKillop is a well-known tactician whose teams play with discipline and force opponents into mistakes, usually making easy baskets off of turnovers. The Wildcats' offense is predicated on patience as — despite their high-scoring profile — they will often milk the clock, content to wait for the high-percentage shot. And with all of their shooters back, opponents must defend the perimeter first or risk being blown away by a team that knows how to execute McKillop's game plan.

William Archambault, an unsung hero and only a sophomore, came off the bench to hit 58 3-pointers last season as a freshman, while Richards made 53, complementing Curry's 122.

McKillop, a native of Queens, N.Y., has been wooed in the past by Seton Hall and St. John's, but seems happy at the private school 30 minutes north of Charlotte. He has led Davidson to eight regular-season divisional championships and four Southern Conference Tournament championships in his 19 years.

One of McKillop's major talents has been the recruiting of international players. This season's roster will feature players from Nigeria, Turkey, France and Canada.

With 10 players returning who gave key minutes, the Wildcats should be the favorite to win their 10th Southern Conference title and become a dangerous foe in the NCAA Tournament.

—Ken Cross



Photo by Max Turner/Davidson College

Stephen Curry

AT A GLANCE

COACH: Bob McKillop — At Davidson and overall: 340-222, 19 years
2005-2006 RECORD: 29-5 overall; 17-1 SoCon (1st)
LAST NCAA MISS: 2005
2007-2008 HONORS CANDIDATES: Stephen Curry and Jason Richards combine to form one of the top backcourts in the nation. Curry led the NCAA with 122 3-pointers while Richards was second with 7.3 assists per game.
KEEP AN EYE ON: William Archambault, a 6-6 guard who came off the bench to finish second on the team to Curry with 58 3-pointers.

KEY PLAYERS

(*Returning starter; 2006-2007 average)

G	Jason Richards*	6-2	190	Sr.
McKillop's quarterback plays with immense desire (13.5 ppg, 7.3 apg)				
G	Stephen Curry*	6-1	180	So.
Led the nation with 122 3-pointers in 2006-07 (21.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg)				
G/F	Max Paulhus Gosselin	6-6	195	Jr.
Athletic player who makes great decisions (4.8 ppg, 3.1 rpg)				
F	Boris Meno*	6-8	220	Sr.
Rebounding wizard who leaps out of the gym (11 ppg, 8.2 rpg)				
F	Thomas Sander*	6-8	220	Sr.
Unselfish player who shot 48.6 percent last season (13.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg)				
F	William Archambault	6-6	210	So.
Deft touch; determination thrives against bigger players (7.9 ppg, 2.8 rpg)				
F	Andrew Lovedale	6-8	215	Jr.
Adds depth in post playing with explosion and power (4.9 ppg, 5.9 rpg)				

KEY LOSSES

None

RANKINGS

Scoring: 81.3 ppg (2nd SoCon, 7th NCAA)

Scoring defense: 68.7 ppg (8th, 170th)

Rebounding margin: plus-6.5 (1st, 14th)

Turnovers: 14.6 tpg (4th, 163rd)

Assists: 14.6 apg (1st, 26th)