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NEW LADY TITANS HOOPS COACH DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT

JAMESTOWN – Guilford Technical Community College's women's basketball team opens the season at 5 p.m. today (Nov. 4) at Wake Tech in Raleigh under a new coach who says he doesn't know what to expect from his GTCC team.

Bobby Allison, a coach with a 215-19 record and several championships and coach of the year honors in New York, said, "I have no expectations."

It's a new league and remotely removed from Mohawk Community College in Utica, NY, where Allison built a reputation as a phenomenal coach and recruiter.

His team is opening the season against one of the powers in Region X of National Junior College Athletic Association athletics.

The Lady Titans will be at home Saturday (Nov. 7) to take on Bennett College, a four-year school from Greensboro.

GTCC was the surprise team in Region X last season – its first year to play basketball. The team won the District I tournament and missed the national playoffs by one game. Alison became the coach after Coach Treka McMillian left to become an assistant coach at Western Carolina University.

Only one player returns from that Cinderella team of a year ago – Erika Parter of Columbia, SC. Allison has been on the recruiting trail since he was named coach in late July. He didn't have to look far for two prime recruits. Amanda Campusano and Rhonda Young, both from Bronx, NY, and players last season for Allison at Mohawk Valley, are now on the GTCC squad. .

"It made sense for these girls to transfer because of moves made by their families. We had other girls who wanted to come down here but it was best for them to stay in Mohawk Valley," he said. "Both Amanda and Rhonda love it down here," Allison said.

"Campusano is probably our best perimeter shooter. She was a starter at Mohawk Valley last year, and knows how to play the game," he said.

"I like Rhonda coming off the bench," Allison said. "We have some kids coming off the bench who could be starters. Our starting five are not necessarily our five best players but they are the five who play best together.

"I like having someone like Young coming off the bench and giving us a spark," he said.

Allison described his starting team for the early season:

- Campusano, a 5-5 sophomore guard, who is expected to be a leader on the court.
- Alison Cousins of Atlanta, a 5-7 freshman guard, who is "very quick and a good passer. She is our best on-the-ball defender.
- Dragana Tomic of Belgrade Serbia, a 5-8 forward, who is "a very creative player. She is very flashy and can put the ball on the floor and go for the basket."
- Bria Wilkins of Greenville, NC, who is "really athletic and a good player on the open floor. She also is a good shooter." Her twin sister, Brittany Wilkins, also is on the team and is a good wing defender and rebounder for a guard.
- Andria Walker of Burlington, a 5-11 center who played at Eastern Alamance High School. She is very strong and is aggressive around the basket.

Allison described the other team members:

- Daquondria Cuthbertson of Spencer, 6-1 forward. Probably the team's best true post player. "We expect her to get better after she gets through playing volleyball and can practice more with us."
- Ulonda Harris of Reidsville, 6-4 forward. "She is a developing player and we hope by the end of the season she will be helping us."
- Jessica Hill of Thomasville, 5-11 forward. She is a very good shooter from the high post.
- Jasmin Johnson of Greensboro, 5-8 forward. She is an undersized post player but she is very strong; and does a good job rebounding.
- Erika Parter, 5-5 guard. She is one of the team's better shooters.
- Geya Norwood-Shaw of Rocky Mount, 5-6 guard. She is a very talented player and a good shooter. She played one season at Methodist University.
- Makeea Suggs of Greenville, NC, a 5-11 guard. One of team's fastest players; very athletic and runs the floor well.

"Our team is very athletic and that should be able to keep us in every game. We play man-to-man-pressure defense, and I know we will play real hard." Allison said. "I am not accustomed to losing and I don't accept it either," he said.

That's a philosophy that the GTCC team can expect to hear repeated many times during the season.

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