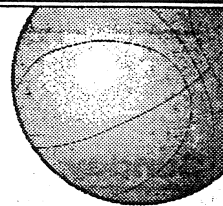


# College Basketball Tipoff '95



A look at the  
upcoming  
season, as  
practice begins



LEONARD  
LAYE

If he really was "10 Feet Tall and Bulletproof," as one of his songs suggests, Travis Tritt might make be on as many recruiting lists as country music charts.

Instead, Tritt will stick to his trade but still make a college basketball debut of sorts this season in a music video to open ABC/Raycom's telecasts.

Tritt, a Marietta, Ga., native, will compose and perform a song for the theme, "Whoop It Up With ABC Basketball On The Weekend."

Rick Ray, head of Charlotte-based Raycom, which produces the ABC games, came up with the idea.

It's similar to the concept of ABC's Monday Night Football introduction, with Hank Williams Jr. The video will be done next month in Atlanta.

Tritt was scheduled to appear with ABC/Raycom officials, several coaches and a couple hundred friends last week at a tipoff dinner at Denim & Diamonds, a Texas-style restaurant and bar in (honest) midtown Manhattan. Plane problems left him stranded in Atlanta.

Never at a loss for words, Wake Forest coach Dave Odom filled in at the podium in Denim & Diamonds. And filled in and filled in. When he began telling his audience that he knew he had one of the nation's best players in Tim Duncan but had lost this player and that player and might not be so good, some others at the head table had had enough.

ACC Commissioner Gene Corrigan walked up behind Odom and wrapped his hand around Odom's mouth. Rick Barnes of Clemson, Jeff Jones of Virginia and Pat Kennedy of Florida State picked up Odom and carried him back to his seat.

They'll have more trouble with him in a few weeks when Duncan becomes his sidekick.