Hicks' fills roles for ND as career draws to close

By TERRY LYNCH
Sports Writer

Sometimes success is just a matter of waiting your turn.

For guard Scott Hicks, it is this formula that has led the senior Irish co-captain from Indianapolis to grab his share of the limelight in his final court campaign. Hicks' solid play in the backcourt with teammate David Rivers has been a constant force on the tournament-bound Irish team.

But there's been a lot more to it than that. Scott Hicks wasn't in a van accident in the summer and...
Hicks chases Tourney dream

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If I have to shoot an outside jumper, then I’ve got to hit it. If I have to go to the boards or play the point or whatever the case may be, then I’ve got to be prepared and go out and do it.

“When you’re a senior, everybody looks at it as your most important year,” continued Hicks. “But by just being a senior, that means that Donald and I have to lead by example.”

Combined with co-captain Donald Royal’s team-leading 15.6 points per game, these two seniors will be missed by next year’s team. But some other people might welcome the two players in the basketball world.

Will Hicks play in the NBA?

“Oh, obviously, that’s hard to say right now,” says Phelps. “I’m just going on what the NBA guys have told me, and they’re all in love with Royal. They think they can use him as a small forward or even a guard.”

Royal also sees Hicks’ emergence as a matter of time.

“It’s a matter of just waiting your turn,” said Royal. “With David’s accident, it was a difficult situation for him to get in. But he made the best out of it. He went out and proved it.”

For Hicks, the story of his season is still being written. There’s still more one step to take before it’s all over.

“Our goal at the beginning of the season was to go as far as we can in the tournament - and that’s a national championship,” said Hicks. “If we play hard and do what we have to do, we can capture the dream.

Scott Hicks

Hicks soaring drives and rebounds have been a hallmark of his four years in an Irish uniform

NCAA Tournament Lists

How Conference Teams Have Fared In Men’s NCAA Basketball Tournament NCAA Division One, 1985-1996

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Losses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Coast</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>68.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big East</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>63.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>57.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Ten</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>54.4</td>
</tr>
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<td>Metro</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>69.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Eight</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
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<td>19</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Ten</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>47.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Athletic</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: NCAA Division I

Most Consecutive Seasons In NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament Division I, current through 1985-1986

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Seasons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(one title, 1982)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(one title, 1984)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villanova</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(one title, 1985)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama-Birmingham</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina A &amp; T</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John’s</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: NCAA and SFS Research Group/Geoffrey Sauer

In an act typical of the closeness of the Irish basketball team and its fans, Hicks introduced his mother to the crowd following his final game at the ACC.
Rivers' recovery spurs ND wins over top-ranked foes

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"It was frustrating, but it wasn't frustrating to the point that I was going to dwell on it because I was coming from what I had experienced in the accident," said Rivers. "I sort of laughed at the minor injuries. I didn't really put that much emphasis on them because I had come back from near death. An ankle injury isn't that bad."

"When I was having a crisis, everyone was there for me. It helps out a lot because you know there are people out there pulling for you." - David Rivers

The Irish dropped two close weekend games on the road following the victory was a very special moment."

"Well... I've always been taught to expect the unexpected."

David Rivers

By DENNIS CORRIGAN
Sports Editor

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - When Notre Dame takes to the court Thursday afternoon to face the Blue Raiders of Middle Tennes­see St., it will be facing a team that has nothing to lose.

"I don't think we'll be in awe," said Blue Raider head coach Bruce Stewart Sunday after he learned his squad will not bow out meekly.

"We don't want of be satisfied just being in the Tournament. We want to prove there is a reason why the NCAA put us there." The Blue Raiders have plenty of ammunition. Senior guard Duane Washington keys their fast-paced attack. In addition to averaging 10.4 points per contest and hand out 15 assists - the second-highest season total in Notre Dame his­tory. It has been a tough season for Rivers, but now he looks back on it in a way that also looks ahead to the NCAA Tournament.

"We've played since Christmas. It will probably be a fun role to be the underdog." According to Stewart, who has a record of 62-31 in three years at Middle Tennessee St., his squad will not bow out meekly.

NCAA Tournament Lists

Most Losses by NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Champion

Villanova 1985 25-10
North Carolina State 1983 26-10
Indiana 1981 25-9
Marquette 1977 25-7
Louisville 1986 32-7
Michigan State 1979 26-6
Kentucky 1958 23-6
City College of New York 1950 24-5
Oregon 1939 29-5

Source: Modern Encyclopedia of Basketball

Irish Statistics

PLAYER
Donald Royal
David Rivers
Scott Hudson
Matt Stevenson
Sean Connor
Gary Vale
James Jackson
Scott Pederson
Joe Fredrick
Tony Jackson
Steve Nogoski
Michael Smith

Through Sunday
PCT FT-FTA PCT REB AVG PF A BK ST TP AVG
963 476 349 50 152 88739 64.6
25 28 12 1 5 61 2.1
124 4.4 14-29 338 3-9 600 6 0.3 23 1 1 5 31 1.3
3-5 1-3 2-3 1 1 2 1 0 0.4
5-5 2-3 3-6 0 0 5 0 0.5
4-1 1 1-2 1 0 1 0 0.5
798 27.5 29 50 395 55 179 1.3
959 36.5 14714 334 440 119 142 428 108 2.7 71 153 46 625 14.7
28 28 10 2 2 16 1.3
124 1.9 120 4.4
925 36.5 115 10 20 2 3 0.2
14 7 2 0.4
14 1 4
39 13 13 6 2 9 13 1.7
147-1409 637 14 113 4.7
48 142 88739 64.6
98 202 681 1409 1463 437 316 461 785 765 28.4 584 309 58 159 1170 58.6

Rivers fought back to resume his role as Notre Dame's floor leader. "This was what it was all for."