

Downs, and Alexander Kuehl lead the 49ers in blocks.

Johnson started playing basketball at the age of 7. He played basketball, football, and baseball, but he chose to stick with basketball in the end.

Johnson possesses definite leadership skills. His responsibilities during the games include keeping everyone's head into the game and keeping the offense and defense moving.

Kuehl, the seven-foot sensation from Germany began playing at the age of 17 and he hasn't stopped yet.

Kuehl says the team has a great chance to beat anyone in their conference, called the third-best conference in the country.

Kuehl works hard on rebounding, blocking shots, and making sure his injury from last season doesn't reoccur again.

Kuehl, along with Johnson, Downs, and Howard, wants to play where the money is. Shaquille O'Neal is who Kuehl looks to now for his inspiration.

Howard, a 21 year-old native of Gastonia, North Carolina began playing at six.

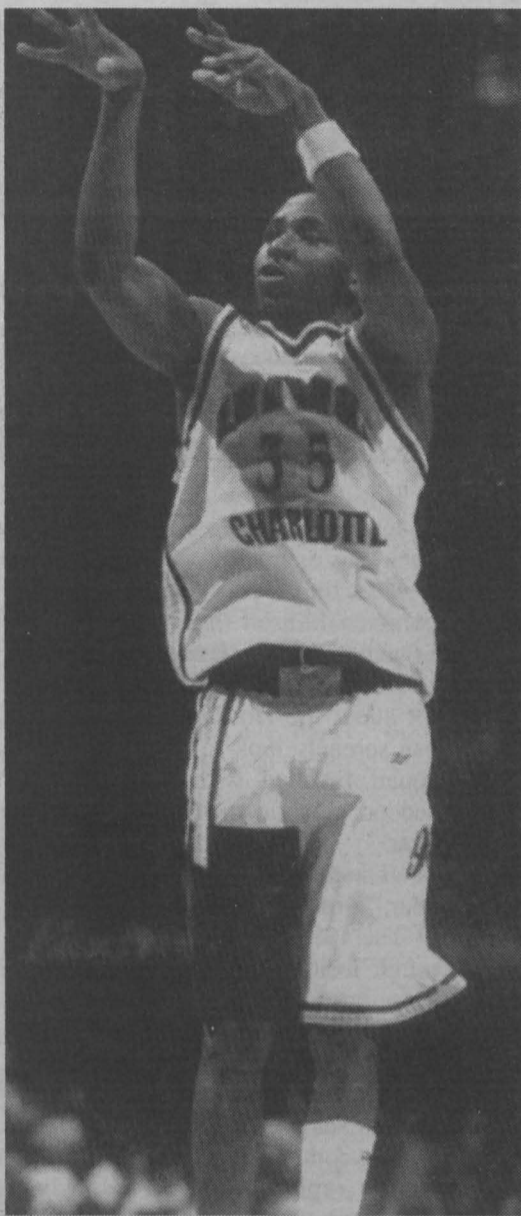
Howard says he can promise a better team this year. Last season there were problems. Howard says he doesn't care about what other teams have, because he "likes to focus on this team."

Downs is from Monroe,

Louisiana and he began playing basketball when he was 10. This 21 year-old senior is very excited about the new season and the new coach, feeling it is going to be a "fresh start."

Being a senior, Shanderic must show leadership because Coach Watkins is expecting a lot out of his seniors this season. Downs and Howard came to UNCC at the same time so they have experienced a lot together, ups and downs. The rest of the team works well together as well.

None of Downs' opponents intimidate him although he says "each night is going to be like a challenge." Like Howard, Downs wants to play pro basketball. He doesn't care where as long as there is a lot of money involved.



Shanderic Downs

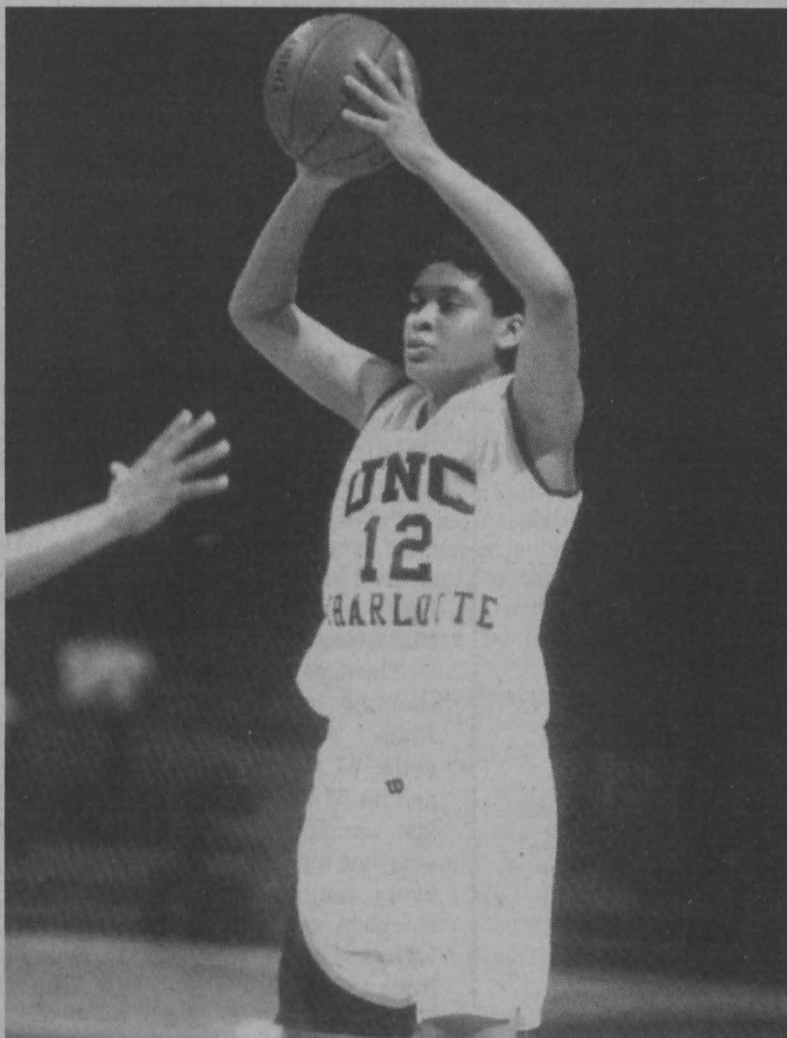
Jan. 10 at Charlotte, N.C.
7 p.m.

Women's Basketball Facts

Head Coach	Ed Baldwin (North Carolina Central '76)
Phone	(704) 547-4937
Record	132-94 (8 years)
Career Record	132-94 (8 years)
Assistant Coaches	
Ruth Watson	(Charleston Southern '80)
Tolanda Rose	(UNC Charlotte '89)
1995-96 Record	10-18
1995-96 Conference Record	4-10 (8th)
Letterwinners Lost	2
Letterwinners Returning	11
Returning Starters	
Charlette Hargrove	(6-3/C/Sr.)
Tamika Mackey	(5-11/G/So.)
Drewana Bey	(6-0/F/Jr.)
Top Newcomers	
Akiba Foston	(6-1/F/Fr.)
Jamie McDonald	(5-5/G/Fr.)
Claire Mollison	(5-10/G/Fr.)
Shemika Turner	(5-10/G/Fr.)
Last Meeting	Feb. 25, 1996 Tulane won 64-53



Women's Head Coach Ed Baldwin



Nikki Richardson

THEY'RE BIG.

THEY'RE ROUND.

**THEY'RE
RIDICULOUSLY
GOOD.**

**THEY'RE THE
THREE-FOR-A-
DOLLAR
CHOCOLATE CHIP
COOKIES IN THE
RAT.**

EAT THEM.