



2022-23 CLEMSON BASKETBALL
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Brownell gives early assessment of Clemson's retooled roster

BY DAVIS POTTER, CLEMSON INSIDER
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Clemson's men's basketball still has one last scholarship available for next season's roster, though there's no guarantee at this point the Tigers are going to use it.

In other words, Brad Brownell largely knows what he has to work with from a personnel standpoint. He is entering his 13th season in charge of Clemson's program with a roster that features its share of turnover as the Tigers try to get back to the NCAA Tournament after a 10th-place finish in the ACC this past season.

Clemson is welcoming five signees to campus this summer, three of which are guards that will be part of a revamped backcourt after the Tigers lost David Collins (eligibility exhausted), Nick Honor (transfer) and Al-Amir Dawes (transfer) off last season's team. The group is headlined by Boston College transfer Brevin Galloway and combo guard Dillon Hunter, the brother of current Tiger Chase Hunter.

There are also seven holdovers from last year's squad, most notably the starting frontcourt tandem of Hunter Tyson and leading scorer PJ Hall. With the roster getting a head start in preparation for next season with an international trip to France looming in August, Brownell recently gave *The Clemson Insider* an early assessment of the group's similarities and differences compared to last year's team.

"It'll be interesting to see what our team is like next year," Brownell said. "I think we'll still play through PJ a good bit because he's one of the better players in the league."

As a sophomore, Hall averaged 15.5 points and 5.8 rebounds as one of the ACC's most improved players. He did it while playing through a fractured left foot that has since been surgically repaired.

Regardless of who's handling the ball in the backcourt, Brownell said the Tigers will continue to make sure the 6-foot-10, 240-pound is involved on the interior, something Brownell didn't feel like they did well enough in the early going last season. Hall averaged just 3.5 points in 9.8 minutes per game as a true freshman.

"That was one of the challenges of last year's team was I think he emerged as a high-profile player and really our most talented, best player earlier than everyone anticipated, even myself," Brownell said. "I thought it'd take him until the middle of December or Christmas to really become (that kind of player), but it didn't. He was ready to go in November, and I think it was challenging for some other guys on our team to understand that here's a guy that didn't play much as a freshman, but he's really our most talented player and we've got to do some things within the way we play to make sure he's our No. 1 option."

With Galloway, true freshman Chauncey Gibson and the Hunter brothers part of a backcourt that includes Alex Hemenway and redshirt freshman Josh Beadle, Brownell said Clemson will "still look to shoot the 3, try to share the basketball and play the right way." As for how he expects next year's team to differentiate, Brownell said having and keeping a clean bill of health will go a long way in determining that.

"We couldn't do some things defensively that maybe we like to do because of PJ's injury," Brownell said. "He just wasn't as mobile. ... If he gets healthy, we can play a little bit different defensively if we want to."

Brownell threw Tyson into that equation, too. Clemson's fifth-year senior decided to return for one more season with the Tigers after missing eight ACC games with a broken collarbone this past season. Tyson still finished as Clemson's fourth-leading scorer (10.0 points per game) and third-leading rebounder (5.5).

"There was obviously a major dropoff when he wasn't out there not only because of his points and rebounds but leadership and just his toughness. A captain," Brownell said. "He's a competitive guy that just brings a lot to our team, so having him back will be huge for us. I'm excited for him. He's going to have a good year next year."

Three standing out among Clemson's freshman hoopsters

BY DAVIS POTTER, CLEMSON INSIDER
AUGUST 1, 2022

Clemson men's basketball coach Brad Brownell has gotten an up-close look at his revamped roster for a few weeks now as the Tigers prepare for their upcoming foreign tour in France, and he's largely been impressed with what he's seen from the Tigers' freshmen.

"It's just a really good class," Brownell said.

Of the five scholarship newcomers Clemson had added this offseason, four of them were playing high school basketball this time a year ago. Former Boston College guard Brevin Galloway was the Tigers' lone addition from the transfer portal.

Dillon Hunter, Chauncey Wiggins, Chauncey Gibson and RJ Godfrey are all enrolled after signing with Clemson either this spring or last fall, and they've joined Galloway and the Tigers' holdovers from last season this summer to take part in their first practices, 10 of which Clemson is allowed before departing for France on Wednesday. Brownell said Hunter, Wiggins and Godfrey have been particularly impressive with their size at their particular positions, versatility and high basketball IQ.

Hunter, the younger brother of current Tiger Chase Hunter, was the gem of the class, backing off his verbal pledge to Baylor before inking with the Tigers. The 6-foot-3, 190-pound combo guard is capable of playing on or off the ball, but Brownell called him a "natural point guard."

The Hunter brothers spent time as their respective team's primary ball handler during some recent 5-on-5 team periods that were open to the media for viewing, and Brownell said Hunter, whose strength has most impressed his coach, is "going to get a lot of time" at the point during the team's games overseas.

Wiggins, an Atlanta native, is a 6-9 forward who's capable of playing both inside and out. As for Godfrey, the 6-7, 225-pound small forward has a body type beyond his years, Brownell said.

"They're both good players. They're different," Brownell said. "RJ is much more physical. Very physical and competing in the paint and at the rim. Chauncey still has to get better in that area, but he's a skilled guy that can make shots, dribble and pass. They can both dribble and pass, they

can see and they've got tremendous size.

"That was a big thing when we went out for the class was we're going to go get positional size. We'll see how guys develop and all of that, but we're going out and coming back with a bigger team. Now we're becoming a bigger team, and I think that's probably a good thing moving forward."

Gibson, who signed with the Tigers out of Kimball (Texas) High, also gives Clemson more size on the perimeter as a 6-5, 190-pound wing. Brownell said Gibson has strides he needs to make with his overall strength so that the increased physicality that comes with making the transition to the college game doesn't bother him as much, but Gibson has caught on quickly from a mental standpoint.

"When he gets two years from now, he's going to be a big kid," Brownell said. "And he's got a great attitude. He really comes into work and is pretty bright. Learns things pretty quickly. One of the faster learners of the freshmen."

Clemson's trip to France will include a maximum of 10 games against international competition. It will give the newcomers their first chance to compete against someone other than their teammates, something Brownell believes the group needs as it continues to get acclimated to the college game.

"We have a great group of kids. They're phenomenal," Brownell said. "They're some of the nicest kids I've ever coached. I worry about us being a little too young and a little too nice. There's a competitive fight that you've got to have to win, and we've got to grow that part of it up because we're going to need some of these young guys. Hopefully the trip will give us some things to work through."

Clemson's trip to France about more than just basketball

BY DAVIS POTTER, CLEMSON INSIDER
AUGUST 4, 2022

Clemson's men's basketball team's trip out of the country won't be like the last one.

In 2019, the Tigers traveled to Italy representing Team USA in the World University Games. There was the usual routine of practicing, scouting and game planning, which paid off as Clemson won gold that summer.

There won't be any of that this summer in France, where Clemson arrived Wednesday for its latest foreign tour.

"We don't treat the games the same," Clemson coach Brad Brownell said. "There's no scouting. We don't practice before. We literally just go over and play. Part of that is on purpose because I want some of the trip to really be the cultural experience."

Clemson will spend 11 days in the country with stops in Paris, Normandy, Nice and Monaco. The Tigers will play just three games during that time, but with five newcomers, including four true freshmen, spending the summer getting integrated during practice, guards Chase Hunter and Alex Hemenway and senior forward Hunter Tyson said they're all eager to see how the pieces come together during the Tigers' first tastes of competition against other teams.

"Just to see how we play there and just see



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how we gel together,” said Hunter, one of seven holdovers from last year’s team. “We’ve been doing a lot of stuff with each other (in practice), so playing against some other competition will be good for us.”

But there will be plenty of down time in between games, and Brownell and his players plan to take advantage of it by doing plenty of sightseeing and visiting some famous landmarks. One of them needs no introduction.

“I’m excited to see the Eiffel Tower, but I’m petrified of heights,” Brownell said. “So I will not be going to the top of the tower. That’s 100% assured.”

When it comes to historical significance, though, there’s one spot that Brownell and some of his players have at the top of their list. The team will get a chance to visit the beaches of Normandy, where American troops joined Allied forces in June 1944 for the D-Day invasion during World War II. It’s still the largest seaborne invasion in history.

“That’s going to be unbelievable, and I think that will be an incredible experience for all of us,” Brownell said. “It’s something we need to do a little more historical background on.”

The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial located there contains the graves of nearly 9,400 soldiers and more than 1,500 names inscribed on the Walls of the Missing, most of whom died during the D-Day landings and ensuing operations, according to the American Battle Monuments Commission.

“I know we’re going to be able to go to the beaches of Normandy, and I think that’s really going to mean a lot to see that there were guys our age that were storming the beach back on D-Day,” Tyson said. “Just to see all their graves and see the historic site, I think that’s going to mean a lot.”

Hemenway echoed his teammate’s sentiment.

“I’m a big historical guy, and I love seeing all of these sites and all of these historical venues,” Hemenway said. “I think it will really put it into perspective just how significant it is that dudes our age were going and giving their lives for our country. I think that will be a really neat experience.”

Brownell said he’s looking forward to using the trip as an opportunity to grow closer with his players off the court.

“When you go have these kinds of life experiences with your players, you have a much better chance to bond, grow, get to know them better and spend more quality time with them,” Brownell said. “It’s not just about basketball. I think that’s really important now as well.”

What We Heard from ACC Tipoff: Hunter Tyson

BY MADISON STEPHENSON, CLEMSON INSIDER
OCTOBER 13, 2022

Clemson graduate senior Hunter Tyson spoke to The Clemson Insider on Wednesday at the 2022 ACC Tipoff at the Westin in Charlotte.

Tyson detailed what led him to the decision to return for a fifth season.

“Probably, several different reasons,” he said. “One thing would be the relationships I’ve built with my teammates and my coaches. Clemson is

such a special place, and I was not quite ready to leave yet.”

Coming into his fifth season, Tyson has been a constant for the Tigers. After suffering a broken clavicle versus Florida State last season, the forward is looking to remain healthy and perform the best he can this season.

“I want to be the best here I can,” Tyson said. “We have a lot of young guys, but we also have some experience, and just try and do everything I can do to get the best out of everyone on the team and go as far as we can.”

Tyson, who scored double-figure points 13 times last season, has the experience and maturity to be a key leader for the Tigers.

Being a leader, Tyson is giving guidance to some younger players who may be stepping into more significant roles for the first time.

“Telling them that I’ve been through it and I know what you guys are going through,” Tyson said. “Being a freshman can be hard and your confidence can get low sometimes, but if you stick with it, it will be worth it in the end.”

Over the summer, the team went on a trip to France, which both junior guard Chase Hunter and Tyson regarded as important in building team morale and unity.

Tyson reflected on what that trip meant when it comes to building team culture.

“That trip was a surreal experience,” he said. “Not only was it great for basketball, but as far as the team, it really brought us closer together and I really think that will help us in the long run.”

It may be the trip to France and the overall excitement for the start of the season, but Tyson emphasized the team’s confidence and energy is at a high.

“The energy is really high,” he said. “We have a really good environment going on with the guys. Everyone’s really excited for practice every day and just trying to get better in every way possible. So, when the season comes, we will be ready.”

With the season opener versus The Citadel quickly approaching, Tyson is looking to hold onto each memory he makes with the team this season.

“Being able to spend every day with the guys,” he said. “We will [have] ups and downs together through the season and the experiences that we’ll share, that will last a lifetime.”

What we know about Clemson basketball entering 2022-23 season

BY MATT CONNOLLY, ON3 SPORTS
OCTOBER 14, 2022

CLEMSON — The ACC basketball preseason media event was held earlier this week in Charlotte.

Clemson coach Brad Brownell was joined by Tigers guard Chase Hunter and forward Hunter Tyson at the ACC Tipoff to preview the upcoming season.

We attended the media day and spoke with all three members of the Tigers basketball program who were on hand.

Here’s what we learned about the team as Brownell enters an important season in Year 13 at Clemson:

PJ Hall progressing well

Not long after Clemson star PJ Hall returned from one injury, he suffered another one. Hall went

down with a knee injury this summer after playing through a hurt foot for much of last season.

According to Brownell, Hall is “ahead of schedule.” The hope is that he will be able to play some time in November.

“He’s been dealing with a lot. Two major off-season injuries is hard. And he’s done really well. He’s that kind of young man,” Brownell said. “But he had an episode where he got frustrated and a little down. And we’ve had to kind of pick him back up. He’s past that now, because he’s back in a better place where I think he sees the end at least coming. But that’s tough, man.”

Hall has just started resuming some basketball activities but is not taking part in any drills that require contact at the moment.

“He’s shooting. And that’s really about it right now. He’s not doing a bunch of dribbling. He’s started to do some running, so he’s running and doing a little bit of shooting, just trying to get in shape and get stronger,” Brownell said. “We’re hopeful in the next couple of weeks he’ll be able to do a little more with us.”

Chase Hunter will be Clemson starting PG Brownell confirmed what we reported earlier this offseason, which is that Chase Hunter is set to take over as Clemson’s starting point guard.

Hunter played mostly shooting guard last season and averaged 6.7 points, 2.7 rebounds and nearly 2 assists per game.

The junior feels comfortable at point guard, though, and Brownell feels good about what he brings to the position.

“Chase has played 2 and 3 most of his career, but he’s always been a guy who’s our second ball handler,” Brownell said. “So he’s handled the ball against presses. He’s initiated plays. Some teams deny your point guard, and he’s always been able to bring the ball up and get us into offense. He’s really good on ball screens, making reads. So the ball will be in his hands a lot.”

Tyson, who has played with several high-level guards during his time at Clemson, had high praise for Hunter.

“I think Chase has the best vision of anyone I’ve played with since Shelton Mitchell,” Tyson said. “His vision is like — he sees it all. And I love playing with him. He gets me shots all the time. He gets all of our guys shots all the time. I think he’s doing a really good job stepping into that role.”

Mitchell helped Clemson to the Sweet 16 in 2017-18.

In addition to Chase Hunter, his younger brother Dillon Hunter and redshirt freshman Josh Beadle will also get some time at point guard. Dillon Hunter is a true freshman who was originally committed to Baylor.

Update on Tigers newcomers

Speaking of Dillon Hunter and Josh Beadle, there’s plenty of optimism around the program, in part due to those two.

Beadle redshirted last year but could have a breakout season in 2022-23. He is battling for a starting spot and has really grown this offseason.

Brownell was asked who on the team has taken a big step forward from the end of last season and could be a surprise player. He singled out Beadle.

“I think the guy that has kind of been lost is Josh Beadle. Just because he was redshirted, and



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sometimes when you're redshirted you're forgotten," Brownell said. "He's added 10 or 12 pounds of muscle. He's more confident. He knows a lot more than he did when he got there. And he's one of those guys that's got another gear. Like he's got a gear of quickness that can let him get by people."

Tyson added that Beadle is a complete player who should provide a boost for the Tigers this season.

"He can do it all. He can shoot it. He can pass it. He can put it on the floor. He can finish against a big," Tyson said. "And he's so athletic. I mean outrageously athletic. He's just a really fun guy to watch."

Other newcomers for Clemson include transfer Brevin Galloway from Boston College and freshmen RJ Godfrey, Chauncey Gibson, Chauncey Wiggins and Hunter

Galloway should get a good bit of playing time immediately for the Tigers and could be a starter after transferring in from BC.

"I think Brevin will play right away. Certainly is an older guy that brings some physical strength to the wing," Brownell said. "He can shoot the ball and has some ACC-level experience. We wanted at least one guy that has been in high-major games and knows what this is about."

Of the true freshmen, Godfrey seems like the guy who is most ready to play immediately from a physical standpoint.

"RJ Godfrey is big. I mean he's 6-8, 230. He's physical. He's tough," Brownell said. He's got the physicality and athleticism to play right away. He's got to learn the game the way we want him to play it, but he'll be out there."

Wiggins should also help immediately as he is a skilled forward who can score in a variety of ways.

Adding weight it still a priority for him, but Tyson loves the freshman's game.

"Chauncey Wiggins – every bit of 6-9, maybe 6-10," Tyson said. "He moves like a guard and can shoot the cover off the ball. His potential is outrageous. He's got a chance to be really, really good."

Hunter's game has some similarities to his brother Chase's, although his shot isn't as consistent as his older brother's at this point.

"Chase's brother Dillon is a 6-3, 190-pound freshman guard, which is big and strong," Brownell said. "He's played high level high school basketball. So he's experienced more than most."

Gibson has flashed at times, and while he needs to get stronger and more consistent, he has good size and is a good shooter.

"Chauncey Gibson for a guard is 6-5 and long. He needs to add weight, but positional size. And that's part of what we were after is positional size and more versatility – having guys that can play a couple of different positions," Brownell said. "Our freshman class I really like."

Full Circle: Clemson basketball transfer Brevin Galloway glad to be 'home'

BY SCOTT KEEPFER, GREENVILLE NEWS
NOVEMBER 7, 2022

CLEMSON – Talk about coming full circle.

Brevin Galloway's basketball career, which began with basketball camps at Clemson as an 8-year-old, will conclude – at least collegiately –

back in Littlejohn Coliseum as a 25-year-old.

The pathway home has been circuitous to say the least.

Galloway, who played three seasons at Anderson's Hanna High before playing a final season at Seneca, began his college career at the College of Charleston under former Clemson assistant coach Earl Grant, but missed two seasons due to injury.

He then transferred to Boston College when Grant was named head coach of the Eagles prior to the 2021-22 season.

After playing what he believed to be his final season at Boston College, Galloway discovered last April that he had another year of eligibility remaining.

"If I could get another year of college sports, I definitely wasn't going to turn it down," he said.

"They all did a great job and here I am – my seventh year of school," Galloway said. "But it was the longest 3½ weeks of my life, trying to get cleared by the NCAA and figuring out which school I was going to go to. It was exciting, but also stressful at the same time."

After briefly considering Georgia, South Carolina and Furman, Galloway opted for Clemson.

"Clemson was in the picture immediately," said Galloway, who didn't get an offer from Clemson out of high school. "I knew I wanted to come back home and I was familiar with Coach (Brad) Brownell. This is the best fit for me and I'm happy to be a Tiger."

Galloway will make his Clemson debut Monday night when Clemson opens the season against The Citadel at 7 p.m. at Littlejohn Coliseum.

He's expected to be a leader in many ways.

"Clemson was in the picture immediately," said Galloway, who didn't get an offer from Clemson out of high school. "I knew I wanted to come back home and I was familiar with Coach (Brad) Brownell. This is the best fit for me and I'm happy to be a Tiger."

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Galloway already has found the rims at Littlejohn Coliseum to his liking. When Boston College played at Clemson last January, Galloway was the catalyst in an upset that saw the Eagles rally from a 23-point deficit to a 70-68 victory.

Galloway scored 18 points in the win, making five three-pointers, including the game-winner with 26 seconds remaining.

Plenty of family and friends were on hand to witness his memorable homecoming.

"The team (Boston College) got 60 tickets and I think I had 52 of them," he said. "As soon as I walked into Littlejohn I felt at home, felt a special energy in the air. I felt like it was magical. I told my teammates, 'We have to win this game, I have to make this happen.'"

"It was on my bucket list almost, so that game was really special. To do the things I did in that game was really great because I'm here now. I'm here now and to come back and remember what I did last year is a good feeling. Even if I go crazy this year and get All-ACC, I'm still going to refer to that one (game) as my best memory in college basketball."

Galloway's younger brother, Braden, played football at Clemson, which gave Brevin an insight into the university and the athletic department.

He's glad he's finally in the mix at Clemson and is expecting a successful season despite the Tigers being tabbed for an 11th-place finish in the 15-team ACC.

"I think we'll be very dangerous," Galloway said. "I'm excited about it because I feel like it's my time and our team's time at the same time. Hopefully we can do some big things this year."

"Seeing my brother be a part of Clemson and how they treated him, I can't wait to be a part of the Clemson family. When you look at that paw, it's like 'Yeah, I know what that is.' I'm so ready to be a part of that."

How Clemson basketball and Brad Brownell became the ACC's surprise No. 1 team

BY CHAPEL FOWLER, THE STATE
JANUARY 19, 2023

PJ Hall won't lie: the chant hurt. He heard it almost a year ago, walking off the court with his teammates after another loss, but remembers it like it was yesterday. "Let's go Duke!" "Let's go Duke!" After an 18-point home loss to the Blue Devils in February 2022, it was a clear reminder of where Clemson stood in relation to Duke on the ACC men's basketball food chain. One program was at the top. One was not.

Oh, how things change. Eleven months after leaving Littlejohn Coliseum bruised and battered, amid a disappointing season that put Clemson coach Brad Brownell on the hot seat, Hall was once again thinking about the chant. But this time it was with joy.

And hindsight.

And a smirk.

Pouring in a season-high 26 points in front of a raucous crowd to help topple a ranked Duke team, 72-64, and extend Clemson's best start in 70 years of ACC play will do that to you.

"We got our tails handed to us last year," Hall said last Saturday. "We were down a guy and fighting to play every game with injuries. We got kinda beat into the dirt a little bit and got, in our own arena, (people) chanting, 'Let's go Duke.' So it felt pretty good to have this place packed out and kinda shove it back in their face."

It was the perfect contrast: where Clemson was, where Clemson is. And, as Brownell would point out, where Clemson still wants to go.

Picked to finish 11th among 15 teams in the ACC's preseason poll, the Tigers have exceeded expectations and then some, rising above UNC, Duke, Virginia and a host of contenders to seize the No. 1 spot in the conference standings near the midpoint of the 2022-23 season.

As of Wednesday, Clemson is 15-4 overall, first in the ACC at 7-1 with a one-game lead over Miami and Wake Forest, 10-0 at home and ranked No. 19 in The AP Top 25.

The Tigers came back down to earth a little bit Tuesday night, losing by 10 points at Wake Forest to snap a program-record 11-game ACC winning streak dating back to last season, but that's only an asterisk within their season.

Consider: The Tigers started off 7-0 in the ACC. That's their best ever start in 70 years of league play, dating back to 1953. Clemson hadn't even reached 5-0 since 1996-97. Clemson also debuted at No. 19 in The AP poll, marking its first



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appearance since Jan. 18, 2021 (No. 20) and only its fifth total appearance since 2019-20.

And with 12 more ACC games to go, the Tigers are already on the verge of breaking their single-season ACC wins record (11 in 2017-18). In a league where UNC, Duke and Virginia have won 11 of the past 13 ACC regular-season championships, that would put Clemson in serious position to claim its second ever and first since 1990.

A PUBLIC CHALLENGE

Those are all early signs of a team built to play (and perhaps hang around) in March ... which hasn't happened a lot under Brownell. Entering this season, his 13th at the helm, the veteran coach by way of UNC-Wilmington and Wright State had led Clemson to three NCAA Tournaments in 12 years.

That lack of Big Dance consistency stands out like a sore thumb on a résumé that, as Brownell has correctly pointed out, isn't exactly lacking.

Clemson has the sixth most wins in the ACC since 2017-18, and Brownell, 54, is the winningest coach in program history, responsible for four of its seven all-time double-digit ACC win seasons and one of its four all-time Sweet 16 runs during a memorable 2017-18 that remains the high mark of his tenure.

But he spoke openly about his disappointment in the last season, in which the Tigers finished 10th in the ACC and missed the postseason altogether. So did new director of athletics Graham Neff, who wrote in an open letter to season-ticket holders last March that Clemson men's basketball "did not meet our expectations" in 2021-22.

"There were a number of reasons for the results, but we realize this is a bottom-line game," Neff wrote, and he issued the program a challenge: Return to the NCAA Tournament. Next year.

Brownell — who got his last contract extension through 2025-26 from former Clemson AD Dan Radakovich — has taken that public challenge on the chin. And, in what's becoming a rarity for college basketball coaches who need to win now, Brownell's done it in homegrown fashion. "I've said it a lot of times: There's a lot of teams out there with the guys wearing the same jersey, but there's not a lot of true teams ... and with everything going on, it's probably even more challenging for coaches to create that atmosphere," he said.

"I'm just blessed, this year, to be coaching a group of kids that allow you to coach them and care about each other and have one goal in mind. And that's to do their best for Clemson."

Despite losing two starting guards to the transfer portal last cycle, the Tigers' 2022-23 basketball roster features 11 high school recruits and just one transfer — and even Brevin Gallo-way, a graduate guard who came in from Boston College, grew up in nearby Anderson and started his career at the College of Charleston.

In other words: Clemson's resurgence has essentially been led by Clemson guys, some of them former reserves who have steadily improved year after year — crockpot guys, to borrow a favorite analogy of football coach Dabo Swinney.

Graduate forward Hunter Tyson leads the team at 15.8 points per game and is second in the ACC with 10 double-doubles. Junior guard Chase Hunter has boosted his average from 6.7 points

to 14.0 points per game, the fifth largest jump in the conference. And Hall, a junior center, has overcome a summer knee injury to average 13.7 points per game and shoot 52% from the field.

Galloway — who was the hero against Duke with a season-high seven points and two key late buckets — also starts and averages 10.8 points, while senior guard Alex Hemenway is averaging 9.8 points per game and is shooting 50% on 3-pointers.

Amid Hall's offseason rehab and Hemenway's midseason (he hasn't played an ACC game yet due to a foot injury), backup forwards Ian Schiefelin and Ben Middlebrooks have also emerged. And don't forget young guns Josh Beadle, Chauncey Wiggins and R.J. Godfrey, all of whom are developing freshmen.

"When I got here, I was like, 'Dang, bro. I love every single one of these guys,'" Galloway said. "It was, like, the second week. We were brothers from Day 1. That's helped us out along the way."

THE WINNING FORMULA

Clemson's built a reputation this season as a smart, veteran team. Though they're top 5 in the flashy categories such as scoring offense and 3-point shooting, the Tigers are also No. 1 in the ACC in free-throw percentage (they shoot 79.5%), No. 1 in team field-goal percentage defense (opponents shoot 39.8%) and No. 3 in team-wide assist-to-turnover ratio (1.37).

They also have a knack for mid-game adjustments. Last Saturday's Duke game marked the fifth time this season and the fourth time in ACC play that Clemson has won a game after trailing at halftime, something Hall describes as a "testament to our coaching staff."

Clemson also has a strong NCAA Tournament argument to date with a 4-2 record in Quadrant 1 games, a 2-0 record in Quadrant 2 games and current No. 8 seed projections in the latest round of bracketology by ESPN and CBS Sports experts.

As for lingering concerns? Clemson does have puzzling nonconference Quadrant 4 losses to rival South Carolina and Loyola Chicago, two teams bound for the bottom of their conference standings that still beat the Tigers in November and December. Analytics also don't love Clemson.

The NCAA's often-critiqued NET rankings deem the Tigers the 58th best team in the country behind seven other teams in the conference, including four (N.C. State, Duke, Virginia Tech and Pittsburgh) they've beaten head to head. The well-regarded website KenPom.com, meanwhile, has Clemson at No. 59 behind six other ACC teams in its power rankings thanks mostly to a middling strength of opponents (No. 117 among 363 Division I teams). That heats up in February as Clemson hosts No. 17 Miami and also visits preseason No. 1 UNC (59-1 against the Tigers in Chapel Hill), No. 10 Virginia and N.C. State.

One also can't overlook the day-to-day challenges in the ACC, which Brownell routinely touts as one of the best leagues in the country — and the perfect way to keep his team locked in amid a record-breaking start full of comebacks, extinguished hot seats and chants (the good kind). "I said before the Duke game that win or lose we're gonna have a really hard game at Wake Forest," Brownell said Tuesday. "Now we're gonna have a really hard game at home on Saturday against

Virginia Tech ... we have a day off, which is probably needed, and then we better get ourselves prepared and ready for battle."