

# Kaleidoscope

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## NCAA by '85-'86

# UNCA jumps to Big South

By Dale McElrath

UNCA is moving up in the world.

On Feb. 23, the UNCA Board of Trustees unanimously approved a proposal by the athletic department to join the newly formed Big South Conference and apply for NCAA Division II status.

The Big South will include: Augusta (Ga.) College, Campbell, Armstrong State (Ga.), Columbus College (Ga.), Radford (Va.), Coastal Carolina and Winthrop.

USC-Spartanburg is expected to announce its membership in April.

The move will require the addition of baseball, golf and cross country at UNCA for the 1984-85 season.

"The baseball team will play at McCormick Field and the golf team will use one of the courses around here," said UNCA Athletic Director Ed Harris, "so we won't have to build facilities too soon."

Next year the men's basketball team will begin playing a schedule composed of 50 percent NCAA Division I and II teams and 50

percent NAIA schools.

The women's team will continue to compete on the NAIA level because there are currently no programs for women in the Big South.

"There's no women's program at this time, but there's a movement in that direction," said Harris.

"Two or three of the schools want to start their women's program on an equal basis," Harris said. "I think there will be some discussion of that in our conference meeting in May."

Until a decision is reached, the women will either remain in the NAIA or move up to NCAA Division II play.

The men will compete within the NAIA during 1984-85, but the Bulldogs will also participate in the Big South's five conference championships in baseball, soccer, cross country, tennis and golf next year.

The Big South expects all conference members to achieve NCAA Division I status by 1985-86.

Harris says that the move to the Big South is the right move at

this time.

"Our problems with the independent division of District 26 contributed to the need to consider the move now," said Harris.

"Lenoir-Rhyne and Barber-Scotia are considering joining conferences and are not willing to play us next year. Gardner Webb also has decided not to play us next year," Harris said.

The UNCA athletic budget must expand to fill the needs of the new programs.

The athletic budget for this year is about \$200,000. Next year this will increase to \$350,000 and the projected budget for the 1985-86 school year is \$600,000.

To provide for this increase, UNCA's student athletic fee will go from \$36 per semester this year to \$47 per semester next year.

It is expected to increase to \$50 per semester in 1985-86.

In addition to increasing fees, the Athletic Department will also attempt to raise \$100,000 through a scholarship fund-raising drive.



**Gubernatorial Gumption:** Neither the ice, nor snow, nor cold last Tuesday could keep away five of the seven Democrats running for governor of North Carolina. Shown fielding questions in the Owen Conference Center, they are, left to right: Jimmy Green, Eddie Knox, James Ingram and Tom Gilmore. Rufus Edmisten was present also. See story on page seven.

Photo by David Plunkett

## Highsmith hospitalized

By Anna Paulette Witt

UNCA Chancellor, Dr. William E. Highsmith, is not receiving visitors, but is doing well following a mild coronary incident Friday, according to Dr.

Alf Canon, Jr., director of university relations.

Highsmith suffered the attack about 1 p.m. while lunching at the Biltmore Country Club, said his secretary,

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Chip Pensa, left

Photo by David Plunkett

## \$10,000 haul

### Pensa ponders first purchase

By David Proffitt

Chip Pensa has discovered a job that pays \$60,000 an hour.

The only problem is scarcity of employers.

Pensa won \$10,000 last Thursday night in a contest sponsored by Apple-Tree Chevrolet during home basketball games at UNCA.

To win, Pensa had to make three successful shots -- a layup, a foul shot, and a shot from half-court.

"The layup was the hardest," said Pensa, "because since it's the easiest everyone expects you to make it."

"The half-court shot was just luck. I had practiced it before and

never made it."

Apple-Tree Chevrolet has sponsored similar contests before, said Krafton Locke, general manager.

"University officials approached Apple-Tree with the idea and we accepted it since it was a community kind of thing."

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