

# Sports

## Tar Heel mid-terms

by CHARLES MILLS  
Sports Editor

As the 1987-88 basketball season charges past the midway point, the Tar Heels have shown a mixed sign of brilliance and disarray. Many prognosticators saw the Heels as a top 3 team entering the season, while others said the Heels would be lucky to finish in the top 10. There were a number of questions to be answered as the season began. Would J.R. Reid suffer from the dreaded sophomore jinx? Would Scott Williams be able to recover from the devastating tragedy that befell his family during the fall? Could Jeff Lebo be an effective point guard? Well, I'm going to show you their mid-season report cards and give a general evaluation of the key players.

J.R. Reid: A+. What can I say that hasn't already been said? Reid got off to a slow start this season, but was always the man when his teammates got him the ball. At his current pace, he will rewrite the UNC record books, granted he stays 4 years.

Ranzino Smith: A-. The senior from Chapel Hill has finally begun to do what everyone always thought he could do. Smith has scored numerous big baskets all season long and taken full advantage of the 3-point shot. Though injuries slowed him down during the first part of the season, a healthy Ranzino Smith will be a valuable asset down the stretch.

Scott Williams: B. Williams has made great strides since his freshman year. His offense and defense have been very consistent, though a lack of upper body strength and foul trouble are still areas of improvement for the future.

Steve Bucknall: B. Bucknall has been consistent on defense and has improved his scoring ability. His free throw shooting has been a strong 75 percent, but he needs to work on his ball handling.

Jeff Lebo: C. I know Lebo has a tough job running the point and looking to score, too. I know he had a fabulous final 5 minutes against Georgia Tech hitting 5 consecutive 3-pointers. But I also know that Lebo's jumpshot can as truant as a schoolboy with spring fever. When Lebo goes cold, there's usually no defrosting him for the night. I will give him credit, though. I didn't think he would be able to run the ballclub and make as few turnovers as he has.

Reserves: B. Kevin Madden has to be given time to adjust after a season off the court, but his play has been steady and he has shown he can sink the long jumper.

Pete Chleutt and Rick Fox have performed well in relief. Both have a lot to learn but still contribute almost everytime they are called on to do so.

King Rice has been disappointing to date. He shoots the basketball even less than Duke's Billy King. Rice hasn't shown the acceleration with the ball that

## Incoherent thoughts

by CHARLES MILLS  
Sports Editor

Sometimes you have a lot on your mind, but not enough about one thing to write a lot about it. In times like these you write about all the little things and put them down in one column.

Let's begin with black quarterbacks. In the past, people have said blacks weren't smart enough to play the position. This past season in college football, 3 out of the top 5 teams were led by a black quarterback. And Redskin quarterback Doug Williams proved a black quarterback could win a world championship and set records in doing so.

As of this writing, Brigham Young University was ranked third in the country while their starting lineup featured only one black player. BYU is a Mormon school, which explains the lack of black players and the Cougars play in a fairly weak conference, but let's give credit where credit is due.

The recent firing of longtime CBS football analyst/prognosticator Jimmy

"The Greek" Snyder was a sad happening. I don't believe Snyder can be considered a racist for his statements. It seemed that he had been drinking and said more than he should have, but at the same time, his comments were an attempt to show why black athletes seem superior to white athletes in certain sports.

Professional boxing has become a travesty. There are too many titles, too many weight classes, too many sanctioning bodies, and too many mismatches. As a longtime fan, I have grown disenchanted with the whole sport.

In an unrelated story, after years of diligent investigation, I have finally found the answer to a question that has baffled mankind. I have discovered the identity of the first student to receive a ticket for a basketball game in Smith Center. The mysterious figure is one Scott Logan, a senior from Winston-Salem. Logan camped out for 2 whole days to receive this honor, but has never received any recognition. So I'm here to say congratulations to a dedicated fan.

That's it for now.

past Carolina guards have possessed.

The Tar heels have been able to fight and scrap and find a way to win. The games they won weren't blowouts, but the

games they lost were close. This young team has a long way to go, but they are a typical Carolina basketball squad, which may prove good in the long run.

## Alvin Ailey: 30 years of excellence

by BIRSHARI GREENE  
Staff Writer

On March 30, 1958, twelve black dancers performed the premiere of a new work called *Blues Suite* in New York. This was the start of the renowned dance group today known as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. It was started by Ailey himself, who at the time was an actor as well as dancer. After 30 years of hard work, determination, and compromises, Alvin Ailey has given the dance world several outstanding contributions. He made a place for black dancers in the mainstream of world dance, as well as created and headed the "first major repertory modern ensemble, a company that is today the most versatile and world renowned of its genre."

When Ailey first started he wanted to just dance and verify the black experience on stage, although in the mid-1950's, he worked as an actor. Then in 1954 he came to New York to dance in his first show. He soon realized that his heart was really in choreography. He figured he could create the ballets, and then sometimes cast himself in them. Ailey in 1958 founded his own company, and it was a hit. He said that it was time for him to concentrate on what he called the 'creation of dance' — style, essence and illusion. And they (his company) had it!

Through Ailey's determination, over the years he has kept his company

together, as well as earned many honors. He was given the Capezio and Dance Magazine Awards. In 1982 Ailey received the United Nations Peace Medal. He has also been asked to create ballets for some prestigious companies such as the Paris Opera Ballet, the American Ballet Theater, the Joffrey, the Royal Danish, and the Bat-Dor in Israel.

He also choreographed Barber's *Antony and Cleopatra* for the Metropolitan Opera. Finally, Ailey has a school, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and a smaller company, the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble. With all these accomplishments, Ailey still takes pride in having found some of modern dancing's greats such as Clive Thompson and Judith Jamison.

Ailey's American Dance Theater performed here on February 1 at 8:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Their program's theme was "In the Black Tradition." This program included such pieces as "Moving On", "Love Songs", "Revelations", "Pilgrim of Sorrow", "Take Me to the Water", and "Move, Members, Move." It was an exciting performance with an excellent sense of SOUL and harmony — not to mention natural rhythm. The company's work was moving, giving one a true feel for the "essence of blackness". If you're ever in New York, or can catch them on the road — do so. It's a most valuable cultural experience.

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