The Big Four Tournament Is Just A Memory

are interesting affairs. More often than not they are held to make money

By Elson Armstrong, Jr. couple a teams that the college home team can beat, basketball tournaments thus giving the home folks satisfaction all the way around.



Heisman Trophy Candidate NEW YORK: Southern California tailback and Heisman Trophy candidate Marcus Allen buttons his jacket to the cold air while visiting New York City recently. Allen accumulated 2324 yards rushing and broke at least 10 NCAA records in leading Southern California to a 9-2 record in the college season. The Heisman Trophy. presented to the "outstanding college football player in

Make no mistake, all for the host team and the December tournaments competition is usually a don't fit this mold. The

all the marbles. since the ACC rivalries wayside? were so intense, especial-Carolina teams were in- and all of them valid. volved (Duke, Wake First, despite it's

nament - held annually suit. in the Greensboro Col- The games in the Big iseum — was drawing Four didn't count in could boast.

weren't lucky enough to December. at the change to catch the the Big Four opened

Classic in Philly, or the cess, national attention, Champions, were ranked and Carolina and try to get their teams in Great Alaskan Shoot heart-stopping games, No. 1 in the nation and America's No. 1 & 4 condition to play in the Great Alaskan Shoot heart-stopping games, Out often produce a first and memorable upsets, rate field and seldom, if the Big Four Tournaever, the home team wins ment is now just a envisioned memory. The last one In December, 1971 was held in December, some bright basketball 1980. Why has one of the fans in piedmont North country's richest basket- and unranked. So what Carolina decided that ball events fallen by the

There are several ly when the four North answers to that question

Forest, N.C. State, orth tremendous fan appeal, Carolina), that the fans the Big Four gradually would love it if they stag- lost favor with most of ed their own tourna- the coaches involved. Dean Smith of North From the word 'go', Carolina was the first to the event was a smash. In publicly want out and no time at all, this tour- shortly, the rest followed

crowds in excess of league standings but they 15,000 and often the did affect overall wonfield was stronger than loss ledgers. Smith and any other pre-Christmas the others realized that a tournament in America lofty national rating could be affected by the The tournament tourney and on top of became a sort of that it was possible to miniature ACC Tourna- play your hottest rivals ment. The ticket scalpers as much as four times a were abundant and feel- season. Most coaches ings reached fever pitch. would rather play in-Some fans who normally tersectional games in

see a game live, jumped In December, 1974 as

Holiday Classic in New Big Show in Greensboro. play, N.C. State, the happens? Wake and nament, most coaches is to schedule tough interpretation. Classic in Philly, or the cess, national attention, Champions, were ranked and Carolina and try to get their teams in They believe this helps North Carolina was ranked No. 4, most fans

State/Carolina final because Duke and Wake tourney unbeaten. Forest were unheralded

teams had to play in the big one. Some, as State, post season action. consolation game.

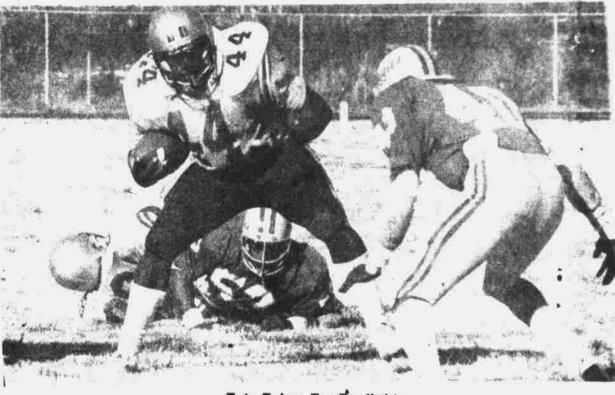
With an expanded ing rugged ACC battles. NCAA post season tour-

have opted to play a In December, 1977, all rather soft December four teams entered the schedule to try to gain

their teams prepare for

Duke and Wake Forest are filling the Big Four void with addiconfidence for the com- tional home games.

All four institutions At Carolina, the idea (Continued on Page 11)



Tate Fakes For Daylight

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

Aggie defender in the annual Eagle-Aggie classic. The Eagles belted the Aggies 35-7 in Greensboro with Tate Cond field goal in Durham.

NCCU junior tailback/fullback Bennie Tate fakes an rushing for 131 yards in 20 carries. It marked the first

