

A Sports Editorial

Hardwooders Face 3 Major Problems

BY JOHN LAFFERTY

Holding a 6 win 19 loss record, Charlotte is preparing to venture to Rocky Mount Thursday to play in the DIAC tournament.

With this record, the Forty-Niner hoopsters will be totally dismissed by most of their passive followers. However, the Charlotte team should not be dismissed so lightly. In conference standing, Charlotte is tied for fourth, with a 6-6 record. They have defeated every team in the league, with the exception of Lynchburg, at least once. They have done this well under tremendous adversity.

There are perhaps three major problems facing the Forty-Niners now. First is the nonconference schools which can give financial aid to draw better athletes, and as a result should be expected to have much better clubs than one in which many players must work in order to help themselves through school.

Secondly, a totally new team was fielded this season, composed of boys who had never played together until the first game.

Finally, the team has been forced to fight against tremendous student opposition, which seems to make it a point to joke about the team, not humorously, but belligerently.

The first problem cannot successfully be reckoned with until a better athletic program can be built, which can only happen when and if the final two issues are corrected. It would not be advisable to either begin to award grants at this early stage of the schools growth, in that UNC-C is attempting to build an academic rather than an athletic reputation, or to limit play to those schools which hold policies similar to ours. With only six schools in the conference, it would be extremely difficult to set up a schedule on inter-league play. Dr. Harvey Murphy adds other reasons. "It helps the boys to develop their individual skills by playing better teams. Also, as part of the university system, we should play a good, representative schedule."

The second problem has been solving itself throughout the season.

According to Dr. Murphy, this is the first year the team has achieved personnel stability, a large step forward. A brief assessment of the problems which faced the team at the first of the season, with a commentary of the work which has been done in order to correct them will show the other steps which the team has undergone in order to better itself.

First, the team had been overscheduled. It had far too many games to close together. Next season, the team will play only twenty regular season games, and perhaps a good tournament. The team was young, and inexperienced. They were unfamiliar with each other, and Dr. Murphy was unfamiliar with them. This is partially solved by play this season, and by an off season training program.

The greatest problem was the team's weakness on fundamentals, which must be learned before the team can hope to begin to get ready for a game. According to Dr. Murphy, this weakness has caused Charlotte to lose several games, because it could not control the ball. This problem has been worked on during practices sessions all season, and Dr. Murphy feels that the team has now begun to master these basics of the game.

A final problem was the small number of players on the team, which forced a small number of boys to play almost without rest.

This can be solved only through greater student interest, which will hopefully result from a better team.

The third problem is one over which the team has no control. Student opposition has an extremely demoralizing effect on any team. Indifference to hard work without sacrifice hurts, but malicious sarcasm and joking are worse.

Dr. Murphy attributes this disinterest in athletics to the deviated loyalties which characterize the average student. Rather than a feeling of closeness to the school, as is found on many campuses, the student remains strongly attached to his former high school, his former friends, and his family. In many cases, the student holds a greater feeling of loyalty to another college.

It is pointless to beg for a gung-ho support of any phase of the school. However, Dr. Murphy made the following statement. "Any boy who works hard and sacrifices his time and effort for a team is due recognition. He must earn honor. He should not be made the recipient of sarcastic joking, because he should, by his hard work, have earned respect."

The team makes no excuses for a record which could have been better. More support would have been nice, but not essential. Officiating, which Dr. Murphy described as overall very poor, was not biased either for or against us. All of our opponents were not completely superior, in that the team lost to several evenly matched clubs. They can however work their hardest in order to do their best. This season, they have tried hard, and have done well, when the adversities under which they have played are considered. Next season they will do better.

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Redmond & Charlotte Roll

BY JOHN LAFFERTY

Bill Redmond led all scorers with 19 points as Charlotte defeated St. Andrews College, 78-55 Wednesday night, Feb. 8. With Lemmond, Redmond and Anthony hitting for a combined 21 points the Forty-Niners went into the half holding a 30-24 lead.

The Charlotte team opened up in the second half, with Redmond hitting for 12, Hurley and Overcash for 9 each, and Anthony adding 8, to convincingly down the visitors.

The game could be described as one of the best "team games" the Forty-Niners have played.

Hoopsters Eye DIAC Tourney

BY DONNA HUGHES

The DIAC Conference Tournament will be held on the North Carolina Wesleyan campus from Thursday, February 16, through Saturday, February 18.

Thursday night will bring the Forty-Niners into play with Wesleyan to determine who will remain to battle first ranked Lynchburg on Friday night. Presently, Charlotte is tied with Wesleyan for fourth place, both having a 6-6 record in the conference.

The seven teams forming the conference are Charlotte, Wesleyan, Greensboro, N. C. Methodist, St. Andrews, Lynchburg, and Charleston.

"Of the seven teams in the conference, we have beaten everybody but Lynchburg by a good margin," said Jerry Anthony. He continued to explain that when the Forty-Niners met Lynchburg they were short two starters due to injuries.

"We ought to have a good chance in the conference," Jerry concluded.



Coach Murphy credited the win to good ball control, and a general strengthening of fundamentals.

Rebounding by Lemmond and Anthony gave Charlotte the boost it needed to take the shots. Over-

cash also played one of his best games, showing that he had the ability to explode.

Five Forty-Niners hit in double figures in the teams sixth win.

Generals Teach Charlotte Lesson

BY PAUL BOSWELL

The Generals of Washington and Lee University taught a lesson in fancy shooting as they forged out a decisive 76-46 victory over the Forty-Niners Friday night in the Independence High School Gym.

Charlotte's roundballers fell behind 4-0 before scoring on a Lane Hurley free throw, and could never a

gain the lead as the Generals continued to rip the nets with accuracy throughout the contest.

Washington and Lee began on a hot handed shooting spree that saw them sink all of their first 14 field goal attempts. They ended the contest with a fantastic 52.2%

from the floor while Charlotte could only muster frigid 29.1%, connecting on 16 of 55 attempts.

Both teams fared badly at the charity stripe, Charlotte hitting for 51.8% and Washington and Lee for 54.5%.

The game was a fast moving event, with Washington and Lee using a devastating fast break to increase their lead throughout the game. The Virginians turned Charlotte ball handling errors into points as they pulled away to a 38-21 halftime advantage.

"Hoss" Cartwright led the winners with 19 points while Robbie Snipes paced the outmanned Charlottes with 11 points.

The General's entire team scored in the non-conference contest as they raised their season mark to 14-3.

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