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Busses start rolling again today



(Photo by Robin Colby)

Students and faculty, ready for bus strike to be over, start catching the bus again today.

By Kathy Espin

The "Mean Green Shuttle Machine" is rolling today as members of the United Transportation Union went back to work after a 57 day strike.

Union members voted Saturday to accept a contract by a vote of 123 for and 30 against. The contract called for a 51 cent increase this year and a 55 cent increase next year and an increase of hospitalization benefits from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Striking drivers went back to work at 5 a.m.

Jerry Hudson, UNCC Public Safety Director, said University members holding spring bus passes can begin riding the bus today and new passes are now on sale.

At the end of last semester, Hudson predicted the strike would be over before the beginning of this semester. No plans were made at that time to

accommodate bus pass holders.

Last week Hudson started a van shuttle from Southpark Shopping Center and the Square. The shuttle was open only to people holding spring bus passes but Hudson said he had planned to allow other students needing transportation to ride before the strike ended.

Hudson said the Public Safety office is trying to arrange carpools and van pools for students outside the Charlotte area. Letters have been sent to all students living outside the 282 ZIP code area. He said 37 students have responded so far expressing interest in sharing rides.

Bus passes cost \$15 per semester. Anyone interested in buying a bus pass or arranging a carpool should contact the Public Safety office in Reese building or call 597-2200.

Tournament, state playoffs on schedule for Lady 49ers

By Nancy Davis

It's been an exciting, but hard season for the Lady 49ers who have reached the halfway mark of their season with a shining 9-2 record. There has been a one point win over Davidson and a two point win over Mars Hill, both at the buzzer, not to mention an overtime loss to Radford

"We have a tendency not to get up for the games that aren't Division I or II," Wilkins said, referring to the struggle against Division III team Wingate. "I'm going to have to work on that, too," Wilkins said, adding she realizes the team needs some "external motivation."

Beginning Monday, the women face

team brought their own cheerleaders with them. Even with three games during the spirited Homecoming week, Wilkins is hesitant in saying she may receive more support.

Coming up for the women is the big invitational Sun Belt Tournament on Feb. 8-10. Wilkins has been busy making plans for the big tournament in which the women's basketball teams from conference foes such as New Orleans, Georgia State and South Alabama will be present. The pairings have been made, with UNCC having a bye in the first round on Thursday, Feb. 8. However, the games will be played before the men's game against UNC-Wilmington and ticketholders will be able to see both games.

UNCC will begin tournament play Friday night against the winner of the Georgia State/New Orleans game. Georgia State recently beat the women's team of UNC-Chapel Hill in the Omni and Wilkins expects it to be a "very tough game" if the 49ers see action against Georgia State. "We will need a lot of support for that tournament," Wilkins said.

In Division II, UNCC is ranked fifth in the state. The Dunkel Rating system bases its ratings on the margins in the scores and also predicts how much a team should beat another team by. After Christmas, UNCC was ranked behind first place High Point, Pfeiffer in second, Winston-Salem State third, Mars Hill fourth and was tied with Lenoir Rhyne at fifth. The victory



(Photo by Robin Colby)

Paula Bennett has been a standout for the 9-2 Lady 49ers.

"The students are much more supportive than they've ever been . . . The crowd at the Lenoir Rhyne game was a bright spot in the season."
—Judy Wilkins

over Christmas.

The four-year-old basketball program has had the usual setbacks and bad breaks which accompany most young teams. However, through it all, UNCC has never let the possibility of being in the state championship wander far from their sight. This year the 49ers, coached by Judy Wilkins, are definitely serious contenders in the NCAAIAW, Division II state playoffs.

"I am very optimistic about the remainder of the season, more now than I was . . ." Wilkins said. Last week's heartstopper at Mars Hill, in which sophomore Robbin Eudy threw in a last second shot to win it for the 49ers, should have put the women on their way to a winning streak with large scoring margins. However, this hasn't been the case so far.

According to Wilkins, the team has suffered from some mental lapses.

four opponents at home. Tonight it is Coker in the Mine Shaft at 6 p.m. Wilkins had predicted Coker to be similar to the game against Wingate, but only if the team is up and the support of UNCC is there. "We have 10 diehard fans who travel even on the road when they can," Wilkins said. "The students are much more supportive than they've ever been," the four year UNCC coaching veteran continued. "The crowd at the Lenoir Rhyne game was a bright spot in the season."

After experiencing a disappointing year in 1977-78 concerning support from the cheerleaders and pep band, Wilkins still feels neglect from these groups. On the road, UNCC has played some rough games against schools which almost always had their cheerleaders present. At the Lenoir Rhyne game played in the Mine Shaft, the neighboring Hickory

over Mars Hill should put UNCC in fourth place now.

If UNCC wins the state championship, the regionals could possibly be played in Kansas City. Upon finding this out, the team anxiously began making plans to travel Kansas. With dreams of flying instead of cramping up in the athletic van, some even thought of putting "Kansas" on the backs of their practice shirts. "We're going to have to start saying stuff about Kansas in practice," one player said, "to get us up for the rest of the season."