

# The Carolina Journal

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*The snow is really becoming a pain in the  
but things seem to be clearing up around campus*

## Sun Belt tourney one step away from NCAA

By Nancy Davis

Three days of exciting Sun Belt action and then an automatic bid to the NCAA playoffs; a festival of events and the fight for the right to represent the Sun Belt in the Mid-East Regionals. A year ago it would have all seemed like a dream. This year it will come true.

But for who is the question. All six charter member schools will travel to Charlotte in an attempt to take the Sun Belt championship title away from last year's owner, the University of New Orleans. UNCC has every intention of being the representative school, but is not sure where they will be seated in the tournament pairings.

A series of five games, beginning Friday, Feb. 23, will determine the winner. The regular season's first and second place teams will receive first round byes and will not begin playing until the semifinal round. Friday's first round will be a doubleheader with the third and sixth place teams playing at 7 p.m. followed by a meeting of the fourth and fifth place teams at 9 p.m.

At the same times on Saturday night, semifinal action will pit the first place bye against the winner of Friday's second game and the second place bye against the first game's winner. The championship game will take place on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham will not be eligible to par-



*Vic Bubas, Sun Belt commissioner.*

ticipate in the tournament. The Blazers are waiting for final clearance from the NCAA to participate in the national championship.

This is the first year the Sun Belt Conference champion will qualify for automatic entry into the NCAA championship tournament. The Sun Belt ranks as one of 16 conferences (of the 24 qualifying for automatic entry) that will receive a first round bye.

This bye is given to the 16 conferences with the best win-loss percentage in NCAA playoffs over the past five years. The Sun Belt is currently tied for fourth place with a .600 mark. Other Sun Belt teams will be eligible for an at-large selection to the tournament.

Murfreesboro, Tenn. will be the site of the Mid-East Regionals at Middle Tennessee State University. The Sun Belt Conference champion will be playing against the champions from the Big Ten, the Southeastern Conference and the Mid-American Conference. Murfreesboro and Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., will host the second round. The Mid-east Regional will be held at Butler University at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis, Ind. and the finals will take place at Salt Lake City, Utah.

For UNCC, though, it all begins at the Sun Belt Tournament. Ticket books for all five games are still available by calling 597-2354.

## WFAE inspected for grant

By Kathy Espin

Those who know the staff of WFAE as the fun-loving, but hard-working group seen around the radio station in the basement of the Cone University Center would have been surprised to see them at the WFAE Community Advisory Board luncheon last Friday.

Imagine Bo Pittman, Chris Wright and Paul Stribling in coats and ties, and Cheri Patterson acting the gracious hostess.

The luncheon, sponsored by the radio station, featured a slide show, produced by Larry Ferguson of the Learning Resources Center, which demonstrated the format and the goals of the station.

Other guests at the luncheon included two representatives of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), Betsy Dirnburger and Cheryl Strange, who had come to UNCC to inspect the WFAE facilities to see if

the station qualified for a proposed planning grant.

Pittman told the *Carolina Journal* Friday night the station has received a \$25,000 grant from CPB.

This grant, along with a \$120,000 Health, Education and Welfare grant and other funds raised by WFAE will enable the station to increase the power from 10 watts to 100,000 watts next July, increasing its possible audience from 20,000 people to 1.5 million.

In addition to an increase in wattage, the station is also working to establish a side band broadcast which would allow transmission of reading programs for the blind and other educational aids while broadcasting the fine arts entertainment format on the main channel.

Pittman said the station is now working with public television station WTVI on setting up simultaneous

color television and stereo radio broadcast of symphony orchestra concerts and other fine arts programs.

"We can see nothing but growth for WFAE," Pittman said.

## UNCC boasting Wildcat victory

It was a neck-to-neck race for too long, until UNCC finally decided to stick their necks out further to go ahead and beat Davidson and John Gerdy 93-83. In their first meeting, ever, fears that the snow would keep the crowds away, were swept aside, as area fans filled the coliseum.

There will be no trophy and no changing of the coliseum floor's color. However, UNCC fans have the triumphant right to say "We beat Davidson."

This afternoon, a coin will be tossed to decide (between South Florida and UNCC) who will get the second place bye for the first round in the Sun Belt Tournament, beginning this weekend.

State tournament action for the Lady 49ers begins tonight at 5 p.m. in the Mine Shaft. The Mean Green women will head for Campbell College Thursday in the second round of tournament action if they win tonight against Guilford College.