

Writer Weary Of Cage Tempo

Tired of 52-50 and 49-48 basketball games? Sick of seeing teams freeze the ball the last seven minutes of each game? Do you believe college basketball is getting boring?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, then you are probably an ACC basketball fan. Whatever happened to those 100-95 and 90-98 games? Why do the teams in the ACC and Big Ten play freeze ball?

Well, for the last few seasons it seems, the ACC teams have played "to avoid losing" rather than "to win." Teams like North Carolina and N. C. State, that once scored 85 a game, are now scoring 55 or 60 per outing. It's getting ridiculous.

The one element that caused the college game to surge ahead of the pro game was the unpredictability of each contest. Every pro game was a run-and-gun-athon that produced a 120-105 score and no defense. By contrast, some college games would be 64-60 and others might be 90-88. There was always a measure for mystery in each college game because it did not have the 24-second shot clock to force the action.

However, there is no mystery to ACC games this year. The scenario is always the same. The first 30-32 minutes of the game is a mixture of passing and dribbling that keeps the score low and the game close. The final eight to 10 minutes is freezing the ball and trips to the foul line. In a word — dull!

Close games are exciting, don't get me wrong. But sacrificing the entire game for the excitement of the last two or three minutes is ruining college ball. It just is not worth the effort to sit and watch a game for two hours — just to see a team make six free throws in the final two minutes to win a game.

I have seen a bunch of close ACC games this year — more than in any previous season. But I haven't seen a good game all season, in terms of good offense and good defense.

Good defense is not causing the decline in points scored. All of the teams (except Virginia) play scared. So they hold the ball for two minutes, throw the ball around 20 times, then take a shot or get fouled. That's it. Virginia is the only ACC team that tries to score a lot.

It's understandable why weak teams like Duke, Clemson, and Maryland would try to cut the game in half by holding the ball. These teams are abysmally short on talent. But Carolina, State, and Wake Forest have no excuse for this type of play.

State proved how slow-down play can cost a favored team the game the other night. The Wolfpack, at 13-2, was visiting 4-9 Duke and heavily favored.

State zipped to an 18-7 lead, but must have looked at the scoreboard and realized that ACC games are supposed to be close. The Pack then started playing overly cautious and lost the game, 49-48. State should have won that game by 15 points. Their talent is that much better than Duke's.

But superior height and talent mean very little if a team chooses to sit back and hold the ball. State played right into Duke's hand and lost.

The "new caution" in ACC games is evidenced by Carolina. The Heels have been No. 1 this year and no one can argue their tactic has been successful. But, looking back, the Heels have steadily decreased their scoring effort through the years.

Back in 1969, a great UNC team scored over 90 points in 15 different games. In 1970 the Heels hit the 90-mark on 11 occasions, and in 1971 they topped that plateau 17 times. The next six years Carolina topped the 90-mark 11, 11, 13, 10, 13 and 9 times.

But in 1979, the number had dropped to six times; and last year, the total was one game over 90 points. Carolina's highest total this season was 82 against Kentucky, and that's because a non-ACC team plays to score and that raised the point total.

The best game this writer ever witnessed was the 1974 ACC championship game. State beat Maryland 103-100 in

LEW HEGE



overtime in that classic. The best game I've seen this year in the league was a 65-60 UNC win over Virginia. (Note the scoring difference.)

From the 90's in 1970, to the 80's in 1975, to the 70's in 1980 — the trend is there. 1982 will see the averages hover around the 60-point mark, with some games being in the 40's and 50's. What can we expect by 1990—scores like 25-18? Fifty years ago, teams played ultra-cautious and scores were in the 20's and 30's. Is basketball history set to be repeated?

Well, for one, I hope not. I don't like 3-0 football games and 1-0 baseball games. And I don't like 50-45 and 40-36 basketball games either.

Most of the ACC teams are weaker this year than in recent seasons, as are the teams in the Big Ten. The offensive talent is just not there. But this is no excuse for staging these "sleep-walking" symposiums and calling it big time basketball.

So boring was the Clemson-Duke exhibit Saturday, this writer viewed two other games — both fast-moving and exciting. The Louisville-Virginia Tech game, won 78-76 by Tech, was far superior to that Duke-Clemson thing.

Folks up in Lexington, Ky. refer to the ACC as the ABC, "Absolutely Boring Conference." Despite UNC's win over the Wildcats this year, the Kentucky people are 100 per cent correct.

Our neighbor to the south, the Sun Belt Conference, employs the 45-second shot clock. This writer has never been an advocate of the shot clock in college ball, fearing that college ball may go the way of the NBA.

But if the current trend continues, and it probably will, I hope the ACC will adopt the shot clock. It would force the teams to play ball instead of stand around. A 45-second clock would still give the teams some time to set up a shot or stall the ball in a close game. The NBA's 24-second shot clock does not provide for those tactics, but a 45-second clock would.

A second thing this writer would like to see would be a change in the number of time outs allowed in a game. Presently, each team gets five and can use them at their discretion during a game. Frequently, a team will save all of their time outs until the end of the game, then call one after every score in an attempt to catch up.

Often a team behind 12 points will do the same thing, prolonging a game by five to 10 minutes that has long been decided. A more intelligent rule would do away with the five time outs used at any point in the game — and allow each team two or three time outs per half — like football. This would speed up the game at the end. And goodness knows, the ACC needs something to speed up their games.

Maybe the league is trying to get Somninx to sponsor their games.

BEST QUOTES OF THE WEEK: Phil Carter, basketball coach at Charleston (S. C.) Baptist College, after being told he couldn't use a TV set to watch game tapes until the secretaries in the athletic department office finished watching the soap opera, "General Hospital." "Who says college athletics don't have their priorities right?"

Bill Hanzlik, a guard for Seattle of the NBA, was shaken up in a game with Dallas and was dizzy. When Hanzlik missed the free throws, he apologized to his coach, Lenny Wilkens: "Sorry, but I aimed for the basket in the middle."

Eagles Trip Northampton On Last Shot

Center Jerome Cooper tapped in a missed shot with two seconds left, giving Warren County a 54-52 victory over visiting Northampton County last Friday night.

With David Henderson, still sidelined with a broken wrist, the 6-6 Cooper took control of the boards, hauling down a school-record 29 rebounds.

The Eagles, 5-2 in Roanoke River play and 10-6 overall, used a balanced scoring attack to gain the win. Joe Greene led the way with 11 points, with Cooper, John Falcon, and Kenny Crews chipping in 10 points apiece. Mark Ellington added eight and Robert Burchette four for the Eagles.

Leading the Rams' scoring were Long with 20 and Carlton with 12 points.

Cooper's shot capped a stirring comeback for

Warren County, which trailed 29-19 at the half. The triumph was the Eagles' second of the season over Northampton. In December, the Eagles nipped the Rams 67-64 in Conway.

Girls' Game
Continuing their turnaround, Warren County's girls took a hard-earned 44-41 win over the Lady Rams. The win was the fifth straight for the Eagles, 41-29 losers at Northampton earlier in the season.

Angela Fleming again led the Warren County scoring, firing in 17 points. Peggy Williams had eight, Evontia Williams seven and Sharon Smith added six points for the winners. The surging Eagles are now 5-6.

Cathy Green led the Rams with 16 points, while all-star operative Angela

Daye added 15 points.

Northampton won the junior varsity game, with a 52-45 win over the Baby Eagles.

Weather permitting, the Eagles were scheduled to journey to Northwest Tuesday night. Warren County will return home Friday night to meet North

Edgecombe, then will travel to Weldon next Tuesday night.

Henderson, out the past six games with an injury, is expected to return to action this week, giving the Eagles a much needed boost. The 6-5 All-America is averaging 25 points per game in 10 games.

J. Graham, Norlina Split Cage Twinbill

Kim Ward and Stanley Jefferson tossed in 10 points apiece to lead Norlina to a stirring 26-19 win over John Graham in a middle school game Monday afternoon at the John Graham Gymnasium.

Ward, a lanky southpaw, picked up two fouls in the first 45 seconds of the game and rode the bench until the second quarter. But in the last 18 minutes of the clash Ward scored 10 points and led the Blue Waves' rebounding.

John Graham took an early lead, but Norlina used the shooting of Jefferson to take a 9-8 halftime lead. The game was razor close until Alan Ellington hit a free throw with 1:30 left to ice the victory. Ellington, Mark Taylor, and Seward chipped in two each for the Waves.

The taller Yellow Jack-ets were led by Derek Alston with 10 and Bobby Kearney with four points. Derek Greene and Bennie Perry had two each, while

Sean Moseley had one point for the Jackets.

Girls' Game
John Graham hit their first four shots of the game, absorbed a Norlina comeback, then went on to score a 31-17 victory over the Wavelettes.

The Yellow Jackets hit four quick outside shots to take an early 8-2 lead. But Norlina came roaring back to trim the margin to 14-13 at the half.

The Wavelettes then grabbed a 15-14 lead in the first minute of the second half, but John Graham quickly regained the lead 30 seconds later. From that point Norlina went cold, scoring just two points in the final 11 minutes of the contest.

Angela Boyd led the Jackets with eight points, Nicole Tunstall had seven, Fatima Crawford had six, and Kim Dunston added four for John Graham.

Shelia Justice and Patricia Crawford topped the Wavelettes' scoring with seven and four respectively.

Halifax Club Takes Battle Of Powers

ENFIELD — Warren County's game with Southeast Halifax was billed as a "battle of the powers" in the Roanoke River Conference. But the "battle" turned into a massacre for the Eagles in the second half, and southeast came away with an easy 73-54 win.

Warren County, ranked one notch above Southeast in the polls, (in 9th place), took command of the game in the opening quarter, blitzing to a 18-9 lead. But from that point, Southeast destroyed the Eagles, outscoring the visitors 21-15 in the second quarter, 20-6 in the third, and 23-15 in the fourth quarter. The last three periods showed the dominance of Southeast, with that big 64-36 scoring gap.

Joe Greene paced the Eagles with 10 points, Jerome Cooper had nine, and John Falcon added seven points. Cooper led the Birds with 18 rebounds, while Mark Ellington had four assists.

Southeast, now 12-2, had a three-man scoring machine. Jones, with 22 points, McDaniels with 21, and Cooper, with 19, paced the winners. The loss was the worst suffered by the Eagles this year.

Eagles Cop Girls' Game
Coach Bob Lynch's Lady Eagles, making a bigger turnaround than the San Francisco 49ers, held on for a 57-54 win over a good Southeast team.

Using their pressing defense, the Eagles shot to a 33-25 halftime lead. Southeast then staged a comeback, and took the lead with just over two minutes to play. But the visitors put on one last surge, and outscored Southeast 7-2 during those final two minutes.

Peggy Williams put Warren County back on top converting a three point play that gave the Eagles a

one-point advantage with two minutes left in the contest.

Southeast went ahead again, but with one minute to play, Angela Fleming scored on a follow shot to give the Eagles the lead. Warren County then stole the ball with their press and Jean Williams was fouled. Williams made one of two at the line, extending the lead to two points with 30 seconds remaining. Sharon Smith iced it with another free throw with three seconds left to give the Eagles their fourth straight win.

"Our press had them exhausted at the end and that's why we won," said Lynch. Warren County forced 39 turnovers by Southeast, but Eagle foul problems kept the game close.

Sharon Smith topped the victors with 20 points and five rebounds, while Fleming had 11 points. Peggy Williams had nine points and as many rebounds, Jean Williams had eight, Evontia Williams added six, and Teretha Bullock chipped in three points.

Southeast's Constance Hunter, an All-East player at Enfield last year, topped all scorers with 30 points. Angela Hunter added 12 for Southeast.

Jayvees Lost Again
Southeast took the jay-vee preliminary game with an 87-79 win over a gutsy Eagle team. Warren County outscored Southeast 30-27 in a wild fourth-quarter shoot-out, but couldn't overcome an early deficit.

Amos Durham scored a personal high 25 points for the Birds, while Kenneth Shaw and Phillip Austin added 18 and 16 each. Austin grabbed 17 rebounds for WC, while Durham had seven.

The jayvees are now 3-10, following this loss and one to Northampton Friday night.

WCHS Highlights

By MARGARET FOSTER

The student body elected class officers on Friday, January 23. Freshman class president is Pamela White and there will be a run-off for vice president between April White and Debbie Richardson.

Other officers are Sallie Durham, secretary and Florie Davis, treasurer.

The sophomore class will have a run-off for president between Acie Hendrick and Almerna Mayes. Vice president is Donna Capps, secretary is Angie Carter and treasurer is Robin Eaton. Kelly Redcross was elected parliamentarian.

Junior class officers are: Lisa Green, president; Gail Ayscue, vice president; and Angela Fleming, secretary. There will be a run-off for treasurer between Ivan Barnes and Loria Dunston and a run-off for parliamentarian between Ava Williams

and Brenda Hicks.

In the senior class, there will be a run-off for president between Margaret Foster and Mark Ellington. Other officers are: Charlie Fields, vice president; Connie Fogg, secretary; David Henderson, treasurer; and Stephen Jones, parliamentarian.

Run-off elections are scheduled to be held this week.

On January 23, the Carter G. Woodson Historical Society presented a film on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The film, "Amazing Grace," recalled the important events in the life of the slain civil rights leader.

On Tuesday, January 26, the Eagles travelled to Northwest. The Eagles will host the Rams of North Edgecomb. Everyone is asked to come out and support the Eagles.

Local Students On List

A total of 24 Warren County students earned Dean's List status for the fall quarter recently ended at Vance-Granville Community College. To achieve the distinction, students must maintain grade point averages of 3.2 or better while taking at least 12 credit hours during the entire quarter.

High-ranking students from Warren County were as follows: Warrenton — Sharmaine D. Bullock, Wesley Williams, Rosa M. Baskett, Linda A. Bunch,

On Dean's List

Charles Ellsworth Lyles, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Lyles of Macon, has been named to the Dean's List at North Carolina State University. Lyles is an electrical engineering major.

Witchcraft
Jealousy, envy and "lots of mother-in-law trouble" are cultural institutions for a Southern Mexico Indian tribe. The Zoque Indians accuse each other of witchcraft for signs of affluence, says an anthropologist who has studied them 16 years.

THE SEATTLE SUPERSONICS
BRILLIANT CENTER

JACK SIKMA

IS KNOWN FOR HIS
REBOUNDING ABILITY
(852 LAST SEASON),
HIS PASSING SKILLS AND
FOR HIS ACCURATE SHOOT-
ING. HE'S A CONSISTENT
PLAYER WHO IS SO WELL
LIKED IN WASHINGTON,
HE WAS HONORED IN A
"JACK SIKMA APPRECIATION
NIGHT" LAST MARCH.

SIKMA MADE THE ALL-
ROOKIE TEAM WHEN
HE JOINED
THE PROS.
HE WAS A
FIRST ROUND
DRAFT PICK
OUT OF
ILLINOIS
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY.
THIS BIG BLOND STAR
STANDS 6'11" TALL.

SPORTS SPECIAL

THIS 3-TIME N.B.A. ALL-STAR HAS ONE OF SPORTS MOST LUCRATIVE CONTRACTS NOW.

Stuckey To Speak

N. C. State Wolfpack line coach John Stuckey will be the featured speaker at the February meeting of the Eagles Club, to be held Monday night at the Warren County High School Library on U. S. 158.

Stuckey will give a talk on the recruiting in the ACC, Wolfpack football, and may show a highlight film.

One target of the Pack's recruiting efforts is Joe Greene, Warren County's All-East tailback, who reportedly is leaning toward State at this time.

All local football fans are invited to hear Stuckey speak Monday night. The meeting starts at 7:30 p. m and will last for no more than one hour.

Trimester System Explained At Meet

Warren County High School was the site of a Title I ESEA Parent Advisory Council meeting on Monday at 7 p. m. The main focus of the meeting was the explanation of the "trimester" academic system used at Warren County High by Benjamin Terrell, principal.

Mrs. Audrey Davis, Title I ESEA home-school coordinator, welcomed all parents. In order to acquaint all parents with one another, they were asked to introduce and inform the other parents about themselves. The parents sharing in the introductions were Hermentia Davis, Norman Hedgepeth, Kathleen Paschall, Travis and Judy Pulley, Willie and Sarah Brannock, Jeanette Crews, George E. and Bessie Shearin, Veila Solomon, Carolyn Williams and Jeanetta K. West.

Ms. Davis went into detail about the Title I program at the high school and the Parent Advisory Council component. She encouraged all parents to become involved in their children's education even though many teenagers express negative feelings when parents become involved in their school life. She admonished them to "Speak up when there is a concern. Talk to the teachers, principal and other persons involved when you have a concern. They will only be solved when all the persons involved work them out together."

Terrell explained the trimester academic system after he was introduced by Ms. Davis. The reasons given for the

implementation of the trimester system were to provide more time for students to study in more depth their subjects, acquire more units for graduation (possibly from 18-24), expose more students to extracurricular activities by having them at the end of the school day instead of after school when transportation would be a problem and eliminate the possible need for summer school. Students would be able to obtain the required units if there was a failure in one "trimester" by retaking it the next trimester. The next trimester could be spent on another subject after the subject in the previous trimester was completed.

Terrell entertained questions from the floor. There was a lively exchange of information in which the parents gained a greater understanding of the working of the school. Mrs. Jeanetta West, District Advisory Council Chairperson, encouraged all the parents to get involved in their children's education and continue to take an active role. Ms. Davis expressed thanks to the parents for taking the time to attend the meeting and agreeing to become parent advisory council members. The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served.

Miss Richardson Named Finalist

Zenia Richardson, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Zolzie Richardson, has been selected as a finalist in the 11th Annual Miss North Carolina National Teen-ager Pageant to be held at Meredith College in Raleigh on April 9, 10, and 11.

Contestants will compete for \$750 cash, a \$4,000 scholarship to Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., a tuition scholarship to Barbizon School, and an all-expense paid trip to the Miss National Teen-ager Pageant, which is televised.

Each contestant will participate in the Community Service Program of the National Teen-ager Pageant. Judging is based on scholarship, leadership, poise, personality and appearance.

Cage Schedules

Warren County Recreation
Men's Basketball Schedule
January 30

1:00 Roses vs. Black Hawks
2:00 Norlina vs Shoe Barn
3:00 D&S vs Littleton
4:00 Club 43 vs Blue Mud

Warren Academy
Basketball Schedule
January 28

Hobgood Academy - away
5:00

January 29
Council Christian - Home
6:30

February 1
N.E.W. - Home 5:00

February 3
Enfield Academy - Away
5:00

Warren County School Menus

Subject to change without notice.

Feb. 1-5
MONDAY — "Fish-wich," cole slaw, French fries, applesauce.

TUESDAY — Fiestada, buttered corn, green beans, peaches or plums.

WEDNESDAY — Vegetable-beef soup, crackers, bologna-cheese sandwich, fresh apple.

THURSDAY — Pork chopette, creamed potatoes, green peas, carrot strips, angel biscuit.

FRIDAY — Lasagna, shredded lettuce with dressing, buttered corn, gelatin with toning.

All schools will be served the same lunch menu, with Norlina Middle School, John Graham Middle School and Warren County High School having a second choice.

Breakfast
Breakfast will be served grades K-6.

MONDAY — Cereal, sliced peaches, milk.

TUESDAY — Pineapple, breakfast rounds, juice, milk.

WEDNESDAY — Bacon, cheese toast, juice, milk.

THURSDAY — Apple turnover, fruit, milk.

FRIDAY — Cinnamon toast, juice, milk.