

NIT Opens Tonite; Boasts Strong Field

NEW YORK (UPI) — The granddaddy of post-season basketball classics — the National Invitational Tournament — opens tonight at Madison Square Garden with one of its strongest fields in recent years and a favorite that is not even seeded.

In the opening first-round doubleheader, Miami, Fla., the highest scoring team in the

history of major college competition, faces St. Joseph's, Pa. at 7 p.m., EST, and New York University tangles with Syracuse at 9 p.m.

venture (16-7) at 2 p.m., and Pittsburgh (17-7) meets Drake (20-6) in a 4 p.m. nationally televised game on NBC.

DePaul, 11th-ranked nationally in the final UPI ratings, is seeded No. 1. Bradley second, Duquesne third and 16th-rated New Mexico fourth.

The Drake Bulldogs, 13th-ranked nationally and regular season co-champion with Wichita in the rugged Missouri Valley Conference, did not enter the NIT field until Saturday, after the seedings had already been made. The NIT selection committee had to wait until after Drake lost its

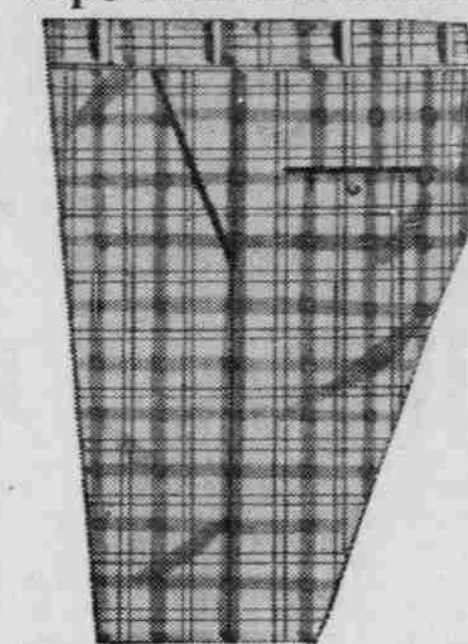
playoff game with Wichita Friday to extend an invitation. The Bulldogs defeated second seeded Bradley, winner of the NIT in 1957 and 1960, twice during the regular season en route to a 20-6 record, and, despite the seedings, many observers consider Drake the class of the field, on the basis of its schedule and performance.

The quarter-finals next Tuesday night pit Duquesne (15-6) against the Army-St. Bonaventure survivor and New Mexico

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Story Of Suffering

Don Skakle is an expert.

More specifically, he is an expert at winning tennis matches. As a UNC tennis star from 1946-50, he won 60 of 61 matches. As the present UNC tennis coach, he has captured five consecutive Atlantic Coast Conference Championships, and has yet to experience a loss in conference competition.

On the 24th of this month Skakle and his Tar Heel netmen will attempt to add to their remarkable record by inaugurating their 1964 season. They open hostilities with the Indiana Hoosiers, and the match will be played in Chapel Hill. But before action begins the casual observer may want to know something about this year's squad. How does it compare, for example, to the 1963 champs? What players will comprise the starting six? And what ACC teams will provide the toughest opposition to Carolina?

A talk with the amicable coach produced the desired answers.

"Overall we are going to be just a little weaker," Skakle said. "Keith Stoneman graduated in June and Bitsy Harrison is now in the Army."

Stoneman, lone senior on last year's team and ACC doubles champion in 1961 and 1963, was a smooth, steady player who lost just five matches in his three-year career here. He was seeded number 47 in the country. Harrison, a 6-7 Virginian, rated number 40 in the U.S., was a threat at all times because of his big serve and excellent timing. Had he not been drafted in September, Harrison would have continued to be a starter.

"Naturally it hurts to lose two players like Stoneman and Harrison," remarked Skakle. "That means the shoes for our number five and six positions are left open. For that reason we will not have the great overall strength and experience of last year, even though we will be somewhat stronger in our returning positions."

Big Four Brings A Mississippi Smile

And when Skakle talks about his returning lettermen, his face exhibits a smile that is as wide as the Mississippi River. George Sokol, Ted Hoehn, Charlie Shaffer, and O. H. Parrish—all lettermen and all very good tennis players—are back again. Just who will join these four to make up the first six is not certain. Two individuals who might see action, however, are Pete Myers, a senior and top reserve last year, and Carl Evans, the 1963 freshman champion in singles and doubles.

Sokol, of course, is the team's pride and joy. A blonde, 5-9 stockily-built kid, Sokol has performed on the number one Carolina court ever since he joined the varsity. Last May the Czechoslovakian-born netter won the ACC singles crown for the second straight year.

Surprising as it may seem, Skakle says that little George has improved his game during the past eight months. "George should have a good year. He gained experience last summer while playing in the Eastern Collegiate Championships and the NCAA finals. His overall game is stronger now, and his backhand stroke is nearly as strong as his forehand."

Hoehn, a red-headed senior who formed, with Sokol, the brilliant one-two freshman punch three years ago, also has improved, if that is possible. "Ted is already better," explained Skakle. "His service, volley, overhead shot—they've all been improved. Overall he's much above average in comparison to last spring."

In practice sessions this month Parrish, too, has displayed a progressing game. As a sophomore during the past season, Parrish broke into the starting lineup and at one time moved up as high as number three on the team ladder. Parrish, like Stoneman, plays a stable game and can hold his own against anyone in the conference.

Shaffer, the fourth letterman to return, was delayed in joining the team because of the overlapping basketball season. Thus Skakle does not yet know if Charlie has progressed as much as the other players. But he adds that Shaffer, a quick, strong, unusually agile athlete, "should be as strong, if not stronger, than last year."

"We're Looking Forward To Season"

As he talked Don Skakle was receiving telephone call after telephone call, and there were other business matters to attend to. But would he please give us a quick synopsis of ACC tennis competition this spring. "Clemson has a veteran team and should be near the top of the conference," Skakle expounded. "And Maryland may have a pretty good group too. It's a toss-up between Duke and Virginia as to which will follow these teams."

How about Carolina, coach? "I'll just say that we're looking forward to the season and that I expect us to do extra well in conference play."

Few tennis enthusiasts hereabouts will find reason to doubt his words.

DU Wins Ping-Pong Crown

By PETE GAMMONS

The All-Campus Championship game between the Ehringhaus-B Aces and ATO has been postponed until next Tuesday night at 7:30. Both won in their respective classes Monday over their White opponents.

In what turned out to be something less than an exciting day Tuesday, the picture was highlighted by Table Tennis. In the Fraternity Blue Finals DU won both singles matches and walked off with a 2-1 upset over DKE. Brick Oettinger and Morgan Dennis each won their singles, and clinched the title before Bryan Simpson and Bobby Gray could win the doubles for the Dekes. In the Dorm finals Battle-Vance-Pettigrew defeated the Parker Panthers, also by capturing the

singles. Gene Corpin and Larry Edwards won for Battle, while the Panthers' Ralph Howe and Mike Joyce took the doubles. Phi Delt-1 took the Frat White title by shutting out the TEP Tepids, 3-0. Bud Phillips and Tommy Chewning won the singles, while Nat Taylor and Rick Crowder won the doubles.

In Monday's soccer action Alexander crushed Carr, 5-0. They will meet St. A's Thursday, who Monday defeated Physics, 2-0, with Hal Minis scoring both goals. Tuesday's top game saw Chi Psi defeat SAE by virtue of two more corner kicks. The actual score was 2-2, but under-intramural rules the team with more corner kicks wins in the event of a tie. Other games saw Craige A beat Phi Kappa Phi, 1-0, and TEP blank Ruffin, 2-0.

Monogram Club Meeting Tonight

The Monogram Club will meet tonight in the Monogram Room in Woolen Gym.

President John Hammett says that it is essential that all committee heads and all members be there, because final arrangements will be made for the Varsity-Alumni game set for March 21.

Hammett reports that many former Carolina greats have already been lined up for the game and invites everyone to come out and watch the varsity get "slaughtered."

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DTH PICKS NIT WINNERS

(first round games)

St. Joseph's over Miami, Fla. St. Bonaventure over Army
NYU over Syracuse Drake over Pittsburgh

Kid Considers Olympic Offer

UNC's All-American basketball star, Billy Cunningham has received an invitation to try out for the Olympic basketball team.

The Kid will be one of 36 players, including Jeff Mullins and Fred Hetzel, representing the NCAA in the trials. Players from the National Industrial

Basketball League will also be competing for positions on the honor team.

If he accepts the invitation, Billy will become the first Tar Heel to compete in the Olympic trials. Since he will miss about two weeks of school during the trials, Billy says he must check with his instructors before making a final decision.

Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp will be in charge of the tryouts. Billy says that he would have to go to Lexington, Ky. on March

22nd and then to New York the first of April. He would be back in school on April 5th.

Twelve players will be chosen to represent the U.S. in Tokyo, site of this year's Olympics. Six alternates will be carried on the early summer tour of Hawaii, but they will not make the trip to Japan.

Steelemen Open First Varsity Year

By PAT STITH

At North Carolina, Lacrosse is the sport for boys strong enough to play football, fast enough to run track, and rough enough to play ice hockey. Men of Steele, they're called.

Coach Cony Steel recruited his team with those qualities in mind. After years of fielding a team on a "club" basis, UNC granted the sport varsity recognition this spring. Coach Steele is anxious that his boys get off to a good start.

The schedule offers a tough row to hoe. Steele's men face Virginia, the third ranked team in the country, and Maryland, ranked number four. Other opponents are Duke, Washington & Lee, Swarthmore College and Washington College.

Cony didn't begin this year from scratch. His "club" last spring played seven matches, winning three and losing four—all in overtime. His starters this year are all veterans off that team.

Several would be standouts anywhere. Sophomore Harvey Stanley, an All-Maryland goalie as a prep, is the defensive take-charge man. He handles his job as well as any around.

Another Baltimore boy, six foot, five inch attackman Jeff Parker,

1964 LACROSSE SCHEDULE

(Home games in boldface)

- Mar. 23—Washington College
- Mar. 25—Swarthmore
- Mar. 26—Swarthmore
- Apr. 3—Virginia
- Apr. 20—Maryland
- Apr. 25—Washington & Lee
- May 1—Freshman-Varsity Game
- May 9—Duke

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carry fireworks in his stick. Jeff scored 14 assists and 19 goals last spring, an average of better than four per game.

Six North Carolinians will play regularly. Co-captain Morris Griffin of Davidson plays first team defense. Tom Thayer of Asheville is on the attack, and Jeff Bischoff (Chapel Hill), Dan House (Greensboro), Stewart Ellington (Jacksonville) and Pumpkin Reid (Charlotte) play on alternating midfields.

Cony is optimistic about his team's prospects. "We're farther along now," he said, "than we were at the end of last season." But the squad has its problems. It's young (only four of 25 are seniors) and it must make up with desire what it lacks in know-how. But the Tar Heels are confident. They are, after all, men of Steele.

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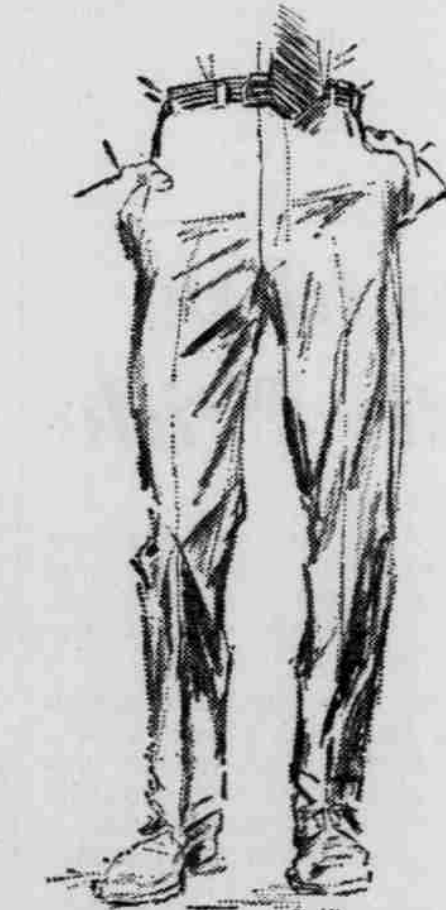
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