

Color Carolina Taller, More Dangerous

North Carolina's Tar Heels surprised most folks by winning 16 of their 27 games last winter. They were a team which was smaller than most foes, but which made up for it, in part, by shooting better than any other team in the NCAA.

Being small, the 1965-66 Tar Heels had to scrap for everything they accomplished. They hustled 100 per cent, but there were several good reasons why they didn't win at the same rate.

First, and most important, UNC suffered from a severe lack of board strength. Second, the pressure defense did not scare the really good teams. Third, the overall ball-handling and passing was not adequate.

There is an outstanding crop of rising sophomores to blend with most of the top varsity players of last year, and that supplies reason to believe that these maladies will be largely corrected this go-round.

The cast will again be headed by senior Bob Lewis and junior Larry Miller, but this

year there should be stronger support.

Tom Gauntlett, a long-range gunner and top-rate defenseman, returns to the backcourt. He is joined there by hold-over Donnie Moe and newcomer

soph, Joe Brown, who will also be counted on for vital contributions.

Adding depth to the up-front positions will be Ralph Fletcher and Jim Frye, both junior holdovers.

after having fallen twice to the Blue Devils in run-and-shoot affairs. Duke won, 21-20, in a game which broke a basketful of touney records.

The only way that game could be topped would be for UNC to have won it, and the 81-79 overtime conquest of Virginia in Carmichael Auditorium fills the bill for most exciting game with a happy ending. There was never much margin for either side, and then UVA's Jim Connelly stole a pass and drove the length of the court for a dunker at the horn which tied the regulation-time score at 75-75. Lewis' twisting rebound shot at the 45-minute mark won it.

The 1965-66 season held moments for every basketball-related emotion. The one that is most remembered is frustration. Because the Tar Heels were good enough to beat all those teams to which it lost — if there had been present the push that a little height and finesse would have supplied. Both should be present this year.

Frontcourt

At long last, Dean Smith is looking 'way up to his frontcourt crew, and he'll tell you that it's a comforting sight.

And we'll tell you that the guys he's looking up to could form the top baseline corps that UNC has rounded up since Lee Shaffer, Doug Moe, and Dick Kepley played together in 1960.

Lewis and Miller will start at the forwards, with Clark almost certain to be the center. All are adequate passers, and each can score big. Clark and Miller will outbounce most frontcourts, and Lewis will get his five-a-game.

Miller is as good as they come on defense, and Clark should be a one-man gang in the lane. Lewis is no defensive slouch, either, and has his sights trained on improvement.

Bunting will probably start if the third big man is needed, with Lewis moving to guard. Bill should also play a lot on a split schedule with Clark.

Mirken, a senior now, should resume his helpful and crowd-pleasing performances when called upon. Fletcher and Frye are also in reserve.

Then there is Joe Brown, who could be playing about as much as anyone before the season is very old.

Like the guards, Carolina's men-up-front will be well-



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rounded. And for the first time in many moons, the Tar Heels will have more than one strong rebounder. There should be at least five this time.

If the sophs come through as expected, Carolina will be hard to beat up front.

OFFENSE

Carolina's varsity shooters were true on 51.7 per cent of their field goal tries last season — and that, friends, was the top mark in the NCAA.

The three most accurate — Miller (54.8 per cent), Lewis (52.9 per cent) and Gauntlett (49.0 per cent) — are back. That trio — Lewis (27.4), Miller (20.9) and Gauntlett (9.8) — also accounted for 58.1 of the 80.9 points per game average of 1965-66.

Additionally, the top six frosh combined for 80.8 ppg and outshot their upper-class brethren with a 54.0 per cent mark.

Obviously, if the sophs measure up, an offense which looked like a million at times last year should be just as good or better this time around.

Lewis and Miller, who last year were the hottest double-barrel combo in the land, will again carry the main offensive burden — but it should not be nearly as heavy.

Consider this: Last season Lewis and Miller took 54.3 per cent of the floor shots attempted by the entire UNC team. They accounted for 57.0 per cent of the field goals made, and 60.2 per cent of the total points scored.

There is no doubt but that the dynamic duo could do it again and then some, but it doesn't appear that they will have to. Both figure to top 20 ppg again easily, but Lewis' mark may not be as high as last year — simply because the supporting cast seems to be more potent.

But if Smith makes Lewis the dominant center of the attack again — and he can't go wrong with that — the senior sharpshooter could hit record heights. The same is true of Miller.

The club will have a more complete "quarterback" in Grubar. He scores well (15 ppg as a frosh), but makes his major impression elsewhere. He's a stickout on defense and the fast break, and passes a la Larry Brown, the former UNC dandy who gained Olympic fame in the AAU and now helps coach the Tar Heels. Grubar will be a real good one.

There is concern over the apparent lack of team speed. But with Grubar, Miller, Lewis, Bunting, Gauntlett and Tuttle to work it, the fast break will be a more potent weapon. The running attack will be aided by the presence of men who can pull the ball off the defensive boards and get it out quickly.

Another offensive plus is that Clark and Bunting will score a good many rebound baskets which eluded Carolina last season. In turn, their presence will free Miller for more outside work — and his jumper is deadly from 25-30 feet away.

The offense should be fast enough, agile, and accurate. All of the probable starters

and several of the reserves are capable of leading the scoring on any given night.

That makes for a many-pronged attack which should outscore most opponents.

Defense

Carolina's defense collapsed at crucial moments against some good teams last season. The most notable were the game-long lapse in the 102-97 loss to West Virginia, and the last three minutes of bewilderment which threw away the VPI game, 81-75.

There is confidence that this phase will be better, although again, the untested sophomores hold the key.

Miller can go one-on-one against almost anybody in the college game. Clark should be a stopper in the middle. Gauntlett covered Duke's hot Bob Verga in the Durham game and held him to six points. Grubar and Tuttle should be about as effective, generally, as they were as frosh. And Bunting was a real "sticker."

Defense has been Lewis' short suit, if you can call it that, but his play here is still better than just adequate —

and he has vowed improvement.

Defense should be a strong part of the Carolina arsenal this year. It should force more turnovers, because of the way Dean Smith has set it up. That is, on a kind of "buddy system," which dotes on the element of surprise as one Heel defender leaves his man to go for a steal when the opponent with the ball comes near.

Backcourt

Carolina's backcourt was in good hands with Gauntlett and Yokley last year. It should be even stronger this time with Gauntlett running with any one of several possible mates.

Grubar seems to be the logical choice, although Lewis and Miller will probably be used out front from time to time also. Neither of the L&M'ers has ever played here regularly before, but both can handle it.

Moe, Bostick and Tuttle provide trusty relief. The guards will be a versatile group. Gauntlett and Gruba are all-round performers, and the others will be competent "situation men."



NUMBER TWENTY-TWO is, of course, Bob Lewis. And Lewis is, of course, the star of the Tar Heels.

is, of course, the star of the Tar Heels.

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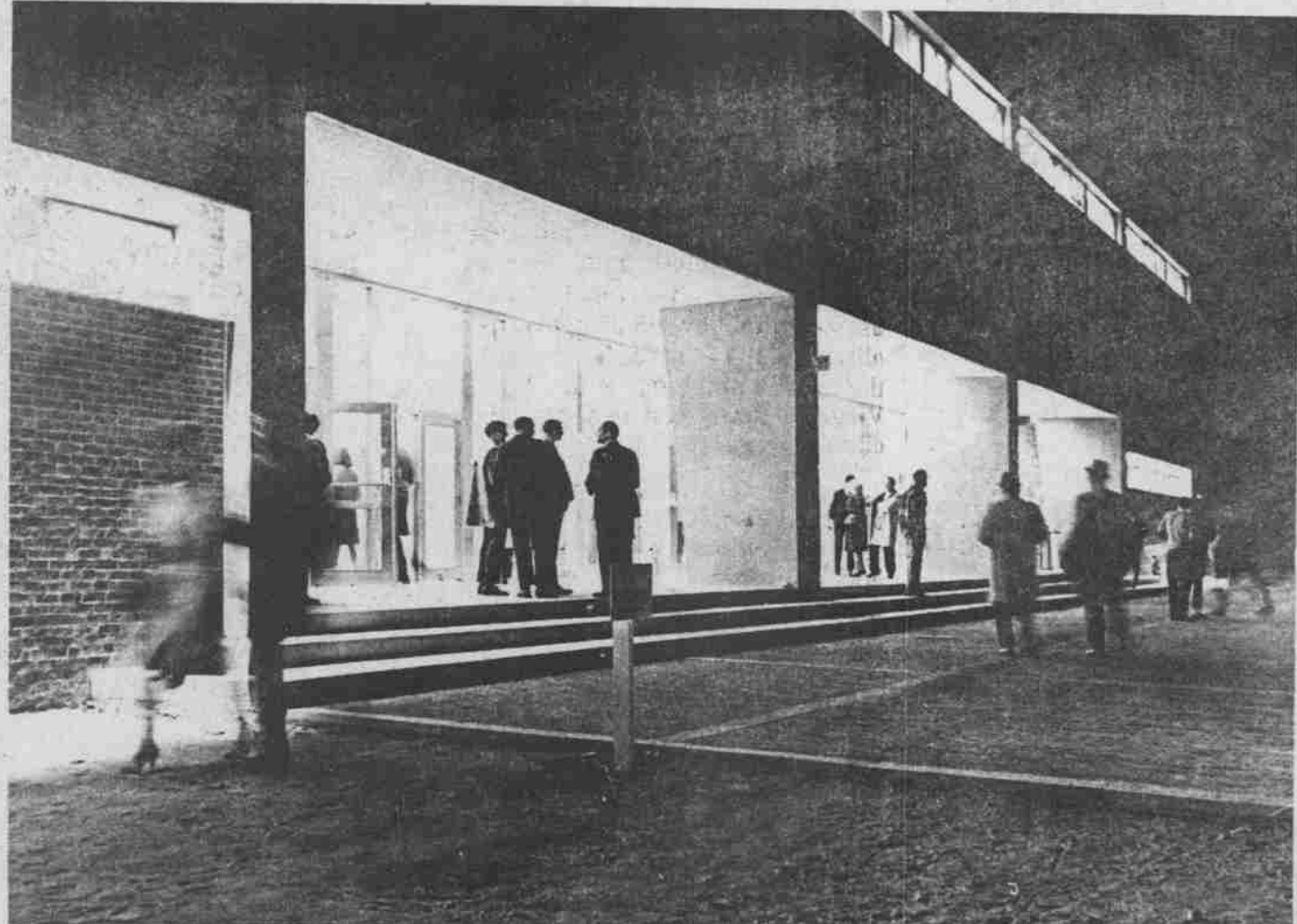
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ACROSS

- Laughing
- Animal of the deer family
- Boredom
- Musical instrument
- Man's nickname
- Knots
- Business title: abbr.
- Obese
- Ostrich-like bird
- Loosen, as a fastener
- Digraph
- Lamprey fisherman
- Levels
- World War I group
- Gold coin
- Slip
- Actress: —Dunne
- Plural ending
- Betrayal of one's country
- Latin case: abbr.
- Heart
- Chinese pagoda
- Boll
- Stylish
- Invest
- Spring
- Spirited horse
- Crows light

DOWN

- Save
- Chant
- Mother of Irish gods
- Pigeon
- Palm lily
- Capital of Vermont
- Mouth
- Monster
- Fish
- Follows
- Fuel
- Strained or forced
- Applaud
- Sediment
- Girl's name
- Spawn of fish
- Give over
- Day of the week: abbr.
- Mandarin tea
- Greeting of the Old West
- Where to find Pierre: abbr.

25. Name-sakes of Adam's wife

28. Rental contracts

29. Rising

31. Idea

32. Per-forms

35. Spawn of fish

37. Give over

41. Day of the week: abbr.

42. Mandarin tea

43. Greeting of the Old West

45. Where to find Pierre: abbr.

Yesterday's Answer

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