

Dennis Sanders

DTH Sports Writer

Basketball Country

RALEIGH — Saturday night, twelve thousand people with time on their hands and a basketball game to watch. It is cold outside — a biting cold — but inside, the expectation of what is to come for the next two hours is generating warmth.

This is N. C. State's Reynolds Coliseum. Basketball Country. And despite the changed faces that appear in the Coliseum now, and despite the fact that State doesn't win as much as in the past, basketball in Reynolds hasn't changed much in the past seven years.

The Year; 1959

It is 1959. A good year for Atlantic Coast Conference basketball in general, and a good year for N.C. State basketball in particular.

Dixie Classic time, Christmas has just passed, and everyone is happy. The Big Four — State, Duke, Wake Forest and Carolina — are playing in the annual extravaganza. They are not playing with duds, they are playing with fire: Cincinnati, with Oscar Robertson, is unbeaten. Michigan State, with 6-5 jumping jack Johnny Green is unbeaten. Carolina at this time is playing the likes of Big Lee Shaffer and accurate York Larese.

N. C. State, though, doesn't read the newspapers. With Mutt and Jeff — 5-9 guard Lou Pucillo, the collegiate Bob Cousy of the day, and 6-8 John Richter, the conference's leading scorer — State is playing to win.

The coach is Everett Case who, before his death, brought big-time basketball to the South and led State to the pinnacles of cage success.

On a given afternoon or night during the four-day classic, 12,000 basketball fans sit . . . awaiting what is to come . . . generating warmth to offset the biting cold that is outside. They do not wait in vain.

The Wolfpack, a home-town favorite, sneaks by an opening foe then, on successive days, puts a big hurt on both Cincinnati and Michigan State to win another Dixie Classic title.

Basketball Country.

The Year; 1966

It is 1966. A cold — biting cold — Saturday night in December, and 12,000 people with time on their hands are waiting for N. C. State to run on to the court for a warm-up drill.

There are few changes. The coach — now Norman Sloan, a State alumnus — is different. The players are different. But the Coliseum is the same and the emotions of 12,000 basketball fans are the same.

The Wolfpack runs on to the court and, in unison, 12,000 leap to their feet and scream for two, three, four minutes. That has not changed.

But there is a pep band now, and it blares with "The Caissons Go Rolling Along," and during the rendition, 12,000 yell, "Go, State" to urge the Wolfpack to great heights.

There are more girls at State now, and there are more pretty, girl cheerleaders. They brighten the evening and the scenery in Reynolds Coliseum. The make the writers along press row glad they came. They wear short — very short — skirts.

Game time. Lights dim, spotlight shines on the center of the floor. Cheers when State players are introduced, good-natured boos for the opponents, boos for the referees. It could be 1959 easily, but it is 1966.

It is a slow game, marked by mistakes that come from inexperience. State waits five minutes to hit a field goal, and by then, Wake Forest has put it out of reach.

The Wolfpack loses. They will lose a lot this year, but this may be the last year they are pushed around. They have a young, energetic, enthusiastic and intelligent coach who dislikes losing. They have a lot of sophomores and juniors who will — in a year's time — become basketball players.

And they have 12,000 screaming fans in a traditional Coliseum who will yell their heads off win or lose, rain or shine. That's the way it is during a basketball game at N. C. State.

That's the way it has always been.



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LARRY BROWN calls instructions while Dean Smith and John Lotz watch their athletes restrict Penn State to the outside.

—DTH Photos by Ernest H. Robt



Alcindor (56 Points) Proves Self In Debut

From the Associated Press

Now it's known. UCLA's 7 foot, 1 3/4 inch Wonder Boy, Lew Alcindor, is not a myth. He's a flesh and blood fact, and that spells trouble in college basketball for the next three seasons.

The most publicized basketball player of the decade made his varsity debut Saturday night and scored 56 points in leading the top-ranked Bruins to a 105-90 victory over Southern California.

The former star for Power Memorial High School in New York City shattered all UCLA scoring records for a single game with his 56 points coming on 23 field goals in 32 shots and 10 of 14 free throws.

Under UCLA rules newsmen were not allowed in the dressing room after the game, but Alcindor was quoted as saying, "I wasn't satisfied with my performance. I thought my shooting was adequate, but my defense could be much better. I didn't have many opportunities to pass off, so I shot more than I ordinarily might."

Alcindor's performance made it obvious why UCLA was picked as No. 1 in the preseason Associated Press poll to regain the national collegiate championship after failing to win a third straight title last season.

"Alcindor is such an awesome scorer that sometimes he scares me," said UCLA Coach Johnny Wooden. "He needs experience and work on his defense, but nobody is going to stop him from scoring. I was surprised that USC used

a man-to-man defense and we probably won't see this defense too much this year."

Kentucky was impressive in its opening game, swamping Virginia 104-84 on the first big Saturday night of the new season. Louie Dampier pitched in 31 points to lead the third-ranked Wildcats as they chalked up career victory No. 753 for Coach Adolph Rupp at Lexington, Ky.

Texas Western, the defending national champs and second-ranked at UCLA, crushed Abilene Christian at El Paso 85-46 for its 30th victory in 31 starts.

Cage Seats On Sale Now

Carolina's ticket office announced a sellout of all tickets which were available to the general public for the Tar Heel's game with Duke here March fourth.

Student and staff tickets for Friday's game with Tulane continues this morning.

The ticket office has announced that seats for the Princeton game on Jan. 2 will go on sale Dec. 2.

BELTING BAUER

NEW YORK (UPI) — Hank Bauer, manager of the Baltimore Orioles, hit safely in 17 consecutive World Series game from 1956-58 while with the New York Yankees.

Frosh Face Duke Tonight

By OWEN DAVIS
DTH Sports Writer

With their first collegiate victory tucked neatly under their belts, the UNC Tar Babies hop to Durham tonight to challenge arch-enemy Duke. Tipoff time for the freshman skirmish will be 8 p.m.

Both squads enter the contest with opening-game wins. Duke won handily in its initial game against Warren Wilson College and Carolina whipped Clemson Thursday night.

The contest was originally scheduled as a warmup for the varsity Duke-South Carolina game but somewhere between Mike Grosso and the ACC athletic committee the varsity match was called off.

According to Coach Larry Brown, the Baby Blue Devils are "bigger than us." He said, "But so is every other team we will play." Duke has two 6'8" boys, Steve Jackson and Doug Smiley. Jackson is a high school all-American fromansas City and Smiley is from Montana.

"They also have two real good guard prospects," Brown said. "They have a 6'2" kid named Kulmeyer and another 6'2" guard named Posen who is probably their best prospect. Posen scored over 20 points in their first game." Brown said, "I sure wish we had Charlie Scott."

Defense was the strong point of the Tar Babies in the Clemson battle in Brown's estimation. "We played very well defensively," he said, "and we also played very unselfishly which always helps. I think our unselfishness is going to be the highlight of the year."

The Tar Babies were able to substitute liberally which pleased Brown a great deal. "We got to see a lot of boys play which is good for the team. We were able to see how different boys would react in a game situation."

The Tar Babies are still lacking in several areas. "We are

going to have to continue to improve on defense," Brown stated. "Our game wasn't real good but it was about like the first game always is.

We will definitely have to get better on the boards and block out better."

With his band of dwarfs,

the Tar Babies will certainly have to get excellent positioning on rebounds. Otherwise they will be clutching air as their taller opponents easily control the ball when it caroms off the boards. And Duke's guards are only two inches shorter than Carolina's center.



LARRY MILLER

PLUMBED IN 26 POINTS FOR HIGH-SCORING HONORS IN SATURDAY NIGHT'S ROUT OF PENN STATE

MACN.

Notre Dame's Still No. 1 Despite 'Bama Record

From The Associated Press

Notre Dame is the national major college football champion for the first time since 1949. The Irish handily defeated Michigan State in The Associated Press' final poll of the 1966 season while Alabama, the defending titleholder, placed third.

The Crimson Tide's 31-0 victory over Auburn last Saturday, their 10th in an unbeaten-untied string, made no distinguishable impression on the AP's national panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

The Irish finished on top with 41 first place votes and 506 points. Michigan State had eight votes for the No. 1 position and 471 points. Alabama was named the top team on seven ballots and accumulated

428 points.

Four among the 52 selectors put Notre Dame and Michigan State in a deadlock for the title. Each team received 10 points for the first place tie. Otherwise, points were awarded on the usual basis of 10 for a first place vote, nine for second, eight for third etc.

Michigan State completed its season two weeks ago Saturday by playing a 10-10 tie with Notre Dame, the result marring otherwise perfect records of both teams. The Irish wound up their season a week later by wallowing Rose Bowl-bound Southern California, 51-0.

There were no other changes in the rankings. Georgia finished in fourth place, followed by UCLA, Nebraska, Purdue, Georgia Tech, Miami

1. Notre Dame 9-0-1
2. Michigan State 9-0-1
3. Alabama 10-0-0
4. Georgia 9-1-0
5. UCLA 9-1-0
6. Purdue 8-2-0
7. Georgia Tech 9-1-0
8. Georgia Tech 9-1-0
9. Miami, Fla. 7-2-1
10. South Methodist 8-2-0

Others receiving votes, listed alphabetically: Arkansas, Army, Florida, Houston, Mississippi, Oregon State, Southern California, Syracuse, Tennessee, Virginia Tech, Wyoming.

of Florida and Southern Methodist.

Notre Dame, which ranked ninth in 1965, opened the 1966 season by defeating Purdue 26-14. Then came victories over Northwestern, Army, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Navy, Pittsburgh and Duke before the Michigan State game.

The Spartans' triumphs came against North Carolina State, Penn State, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio State, Purdue, Northwestern, Iowa and Indiana.

Alabama beat Louisiana Tech in its opener. The Tide then defeated Mississippi, Clemson, Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Mississippi State, Louisiana State, South Carolina and Southern Mississippi. The shutout victory over Auburn was the Tide's sixth of the season.

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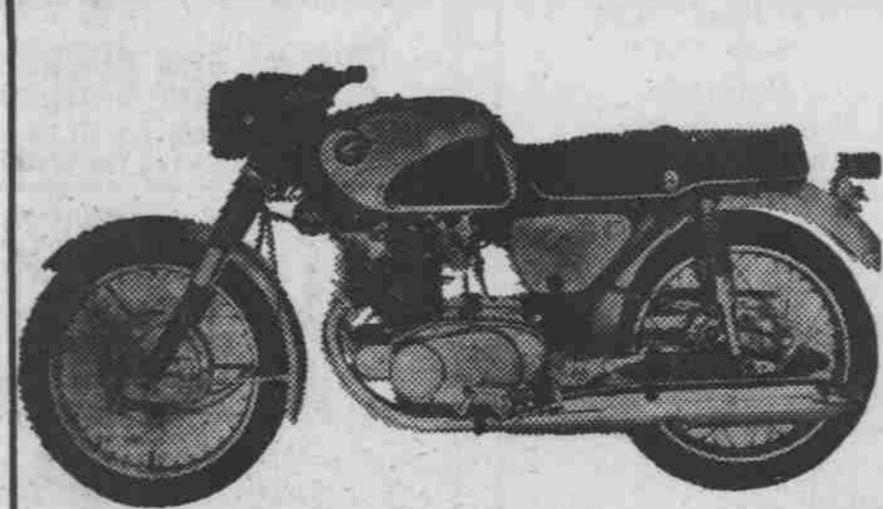
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