

## Cougars Hold ABA's Hopes?

By RUSTY CARTER

Even the best of the prophets of old would have been hard-pressed to predict what may very well happen to professional basketball here in the Old North State. Those Cougars that you keep hearing about surely are but kittens in the professional ranks, but the potential they are building isn't just a scratch but a deadly scar to the ABA and the NBA.

Most forecasters figured North Carolina would join the numerous states and cities struggling to make pro-ball go. Financially, they should have had trouble breaking even as soon as the novelty wore thin. But the home-states are surviving, and not only are they alive, but crowds are increasing and professional confidence creeps higher as draft rights are revealed.

Until the present slump the Cougars were rolling for a first year team and still are one of the few yearlings who have not witnessed near financial bankruptcy. And for another feather in their hat, the Cougars put two stars in the All-ABA game—UNC's own Doug Moe, the only unanimous choice, and Duke's Bob Verger, the league's leading scorer.

### Familiar, Potent Faces

The item that most forecasters must have overlooked when they were unsure of the North Carolina's future of professional ball Jim Gardner. Even though he can't topple the Democratic establishment, his promotional techniques are astounding. If you don't agree, just recall how many Hardee burgers you've eaten since you've been in North Carolina.

Well, just as Gardner gave Hardees the "loudest taste in town" he's making the Cougars the loudest echo in the American Basketball Association.

It took him no time to become commissioner, and even less to lay the ground work for what could be one of the truly feared teams in pro-ball. Financially, his tri-home court idea has been the salvation of the Cougars and the constant influx of super-stars is the handy work of his promotional genius.

The Rocky Mount native has turned out to be the one prophet who may be right, yet don't forget it is his time as well as his money that is making the difference. The hours and the dollars of this season obviously have been gigantic, just to draw a crowd. But next year the architect of the Cougars may well rest.

### Burgers and Cougars

His deal with NBA and UNC great Billy Cunningham could be the impetus to pack the three coliseums and hopefully the win column as well. The "Kangaroo Kid" joins the forum of North State stars. Just look what the Cougars might have: Doug Moe, Bob Verger, Bill Bunting, Gene Littles, Randy Mahafey and Larry Miller as a corps of familiar but yet potent stars. Then there are big men Rich Niemann and George Peoples.

All this stacks up as possible contention but the real rumblings are those Gardner has created concerning possibly the greatest basketball player ever—or at least the greatest drawing card. The Cougars have the rights to Pete Maravich and the league may well chip in for the million or more dollars it would take to keep him in the ABA. If he comes back to his homeland, the new team might well become an instant financial success but more than that, the ABA will have delt a blow to the supreme NBA and North Carolina's Cougars would have set the pace.

It's highly likely the Cougars will be quickly eliminated if they even make the ABA playoffs, and if they lose the "Pistol" after all that's over, next year could again be a struggle to import the stars necessary to win. But regardless of either, the first year team is showing more than predicted by even the optimists—but Gardner.

He has made the quick burger something people no longer chafe on, and he's now determined to make the Cougars something the ABA can't swallow. His early ingredients of familiar, deadly talent resemble the beginning of his objective.

## Old West Straightens Avery Heads, 80-19

By MIKE LEAFE  
DTH Sports Writer

Old West I demolished the Avery Heeds 80-19 in intramural basketball action last Monday night. L. Taylor led all scorers with 22 points, with Braduer and Wilson supplying plenty of support. They scored 18 and 12 points respectively. Only two Avery players scored, Stewart with 14 and Jennings with 5 points.

The Granville E Vikings, one of the finer teams in Intramural play, trounced the Granville C Celtics 72-30. It was a team effort, as no Viking scored less than 8 points. For Granville C, Upewich scored thirteen points and Cowan 10. For the Vikings, Tommy Blackwell pumped in 20 points, Lee and Summerfield had 14 each, and Graves and Sain tallied eight apiece.

Morrison E Blue raced past the Morrison B Balls in 72-27 manner. The victor was never in doubt as the Blue led 31-5 at halftime. McClellan and Hogan tossed in 8 points for Morrison B, while the Blue were paced

by Cassel's 25 points and with 16 coming from Christian.

The Manly Midgets paced by Lenderman's 18 points, and eased by the Mangum Rebels by a tight 31-30 margin. Manly, ahead 17-12 at the half, faltered when Mangum, paced by Kayes' 8 points, surged in the closing minutes. Some clutch fouls shooting by the Midgets enabled them to head for the playoffs.

MBA I edged the Med School Acromegals by a scant 52-51 spread. Rusty Clark, former Tar Heel great settled for 24 points and most of the rebounds. He got good support from Hershey (11 points) but the Medics were not able to diagnose this one. Led by Hall's 19 points and Hendrix's 12, the MBA's pulled off an upset.

Other scores included: Morrison D Fiftys 42, Morrison A Dorks 33; Granville C South 39, Granville H Flasks 16; Teague Dribblers 44, Teague Stuffers 34; Law TBA 62, Social Incests 30; MBA II 28, City Planning 20; Law Red 54, Social Outcasts 48.



PREVIS

## Boosts Morale With Lockerroom Antics Previs: Carolina's 'Court-Jester'

By CLINT ROSWELL  
DTH Sports Writer

Meet Steve Previs, an outgoing, self-assured student athlete. His famed locker-room antics include various impersonations of his fellow teammates which have earned him the title of "court-jester", and more significantly, have buoyed the injury-plagued Tar Heel morale.

The solid 6-2 happy-go-lucky sophomore from Pittsburgh, Pa. has aspirations of acting but is presently unable to share theatrics with basketball.

"I want to be a drama major, but all their courses are offered only in the afternoon. I could not switch practice times and the department could not schedule morning classes," said Previs, "so I became an English

major."

Instead, he limits his routines and funny gadgets his father sends him to the dressing rooms and buses. His most noted sketch is his Dustin Hoffman portrayal.

His face suddenly contorts, his piercing dark brown eyes squint.

"Take it, I want you to have it, g'wanna..." says Previs emphatically with a remarkable

resemblance to Enrico Rizzo. He laughs and goes into his repertoire: the odd bent-over walk of Don Eggleston, the benevolent smile of Dave Chadwick and once in a while, he even takes a crack at the coaching staff.

But once the backcourt whiz gets out on the floor, his acting career ends. He is all

business. His ability and intense dedication have vaulted him into recent starting berths. He is now being counted on as a Carolina basketball by his coaches, fellow players and fans.

He has had his sophomore woes, but he is overcoming the confidence barrier that often humbles the inexperienced player.

"I did have some confidence problems earlier in the season, but right now I think I have the right attitude. I have gained it through experience," added Previs. "There is no substitute."

The right attitude is the winning spirit. A tradition here at Chapel Hill that has helped

Steve Previs more than anything. This desire has been a unifying bond that has brought he and his teammates closer on and off the court.

spirit. What it boils down to is who wants it the most."

Thus winning and the importance of team success has outshone individual glory.

"Everybody is rooting for everybody else on the team. All the guys on the squad are pals, buddies," smiled Previs. "We're one big happy family."

"Why send a paper card or candy for Valentine's Day? Send a real gift exclusive from the Pantyman—Carolina bikini panties (\$2.00) and nightie sets (\$5.00). Must be seen to be believed at the price. Call 929-7434 between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m."

## Grapplers Visit Maryland

By MARK WHICKER  
DTH Sports Writer

Ever since the Atlantic Coast Conference was established in 1953, and for two preceding years in the old Southern Conference, the Maryland Terrapins have won every league wrestling match. Carolina's matmen, now 1-6 on the year, travel to College Park Saturday afternoon for the dubious pleasure of taking on the powerful Terps.

Strangely, Maryland will be shooting for its first win of the season Saturday. However, the Terps decided to go big-time in scheduling six of the nation's top 20 wrestling teams before entering conference play. The result has been an 0-6 record, but the Terps are so disdainful of ACC competition that they have scheduled Carolina, State and Duke on successive days.

They have a 177-pound All-American in Randy Umbarger and another ACC champ at 126, John Baker.

Either Jim Zumwalt or Ron Earndardt will wrestle Umbarger and Tom Guthrie will tangle with Baker in a probable preview of the conference title match in that weight class.

UNC captain Carver Rudolph and 150-pound Tom Rumley are both still injured. Coach Sam Barnes has decided to move Luther Gartrell to 142, while Jack Ross and freshman Roger Morgan will fight for the 150-pound spot. David Barnes is the probable starter at 158.

Barnes plans to keep Mike Bryan at 118, Johnny Parson at 167, and Tod Parish and Craig Shinaman at 190 and heavyweight, although the two might switch places.

Maryland should have good strength in every class. Among the main problems for the Tar Heels, besides Umbarger and Baker, will be 158-pound Curt Callahan and 167-pound Joby Hahn.

straight shutouts in its matches against UNC, State and Duke.

Maryland is aiming for three

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