



## Where Is Mirken?

By Art Chansky

### The Chief Has Remained

During last Wednesday's annual senior farewell, experienced fans might have found themselves musing over the whereabouts of past Tar Heel stars they once cheered.

Those who care followed Cunningham to Philadelphia, Lewis to San Francisco and Miller to LA and back home again. The pro players are easy to track. Questions concerning them are readily answerable.

As for myself, when I watched Ed Fogler and Jim Delany receive their last hurrahs, my thoughts drifted to other players that were destined for athletic obscurity after leaving Chapel Hill.

I recalled a senior who accepted final game plaudits back in 1967 along with Bob Lewis and Donnie Moe and Tom Gauntlett. I remembered how he wore street clothes while his co-seniors were in uniform.

For a moment I couldn't remember his name. But then it came to me?

Where is Mark Mirken?

Actually, the search is not a far reaching one. It merely stretches up the road a piece from Avery Dorm to Van Hecke-Wettach Hall.

Mirken never left Chapel Hill after his star-spattered basketball career came to an anti-climactic close three seasons ago.

The Chief, as dubbed by teammates for his Indian resemblance, enrolled in Law School here at Carolina and presently ranks high in the Class of 1970.

But despite the promising life of law that faces Mark Mirken, he will always be a basketball player at heart.

"I stayed here for law school because I had a very satisfying undergraduate career," he said last week, between winks at nine-month old Andrew Mirken. "Plus, I had the chance to stay active in the athletic program. I can't really get it out of my system."

Though Mirken's ties with Tar Heel basketball are just officiating scrimmages and occasional coaching, they keep him close with a playing career that ended all too soon for injury.

"I took a charge from Ralph Fletcher one day in practice and went down for the count," said Mirken, referring to the mid-season hernia that ended his active career. "I played with it for four games, but the pain eventually forced me out."

Through it all, Mirken, 6-7 and 215, was still drafted by the Knicks of the NBA plus Denver and Oakland of the then brand new ABA.

It was an ironic ending for a man that rarely started and did not finish.

### -Held Cunningham To 10

"North Carolina first saw me play against Cunningham," Mirken said of his greatest Brooklyn (N.Y.) High school game. "The night before we (Midwood High School) played them (Cunningham's Erasmus Hall team), Billy scored 62 points against some school called West Vocational."

Mirken laughed. A fond memory seemed to be surfacing. "Our coach had been priming us for nearly four weeks," he began. "I covered Cunningham and was fortunate enough to hold him to 10 points while scoring 15 myself."

That was Mirken's junior season. He was actively recruited by Dean Smith and his staff for the next year or so before choosing Carolina over Columbia.

From there, Mirken's basketball prominence decreased steadily, despite several outstanding games.

After being red-shirted for a year, he saw limited action as a sophomore, spelling Cunningham for breathers. His junior season was his best, when he played about half the time and shared a forward position with Bob Bennett.

"I guess you could say my best college game was against Wake Forest that year," Mirken recalled, looking at a scrap book his pretty wife, Marti, had readily volunteered. "I had 14 points and 12 rebounds in 21 minutes. What a performance."

A big grin broke across the Chief's face as he winked again at little Andrew.

"We were going to name him Alexander, for my father," he diverted. "But I couldn't imagine hearing 'Field Goal By Alexander Mirken'."

### -Senior Year Was The Best

"I enjoyed my senior year the most, even though I missed half of it," he said. "By then we developed what Coach Smith had been preaching, and it was great to be a winner."

Mirken played sparingly early in the season, replacing a pair of green sophomores named Rusty Clark and Bill Bunting on occasion.

Then came the injury and his playing days were over. Just like that.

But he remained with the Tar Heels and watched from the bench as they won their first of three straight ACC and Eastern Regional Titles. When it was over, Mirken was as happy as a high scorer on a national champion.

"That was a great team," he laughed. "We had Lewis, Miller, Clark, Bunting, Grubar, Gauntlett, Brown, Tuttle, Moe and Fletcher. It was a great group and we had some wild trips."

To that group, Mirken, Chief with the large birthmark on his forehead, was the unofficial spiritual advisor.

"For some reason, I was the one most of the players came to with their problems, everything from academic to social," he said. "They must have thought I was a good listener or something. I must have selected majors for half of the guys on the team."

Mirken, along with buddy Donnie Moe, provided that first championship team with some of its funnier moments.

"One you can print took place during publicity picture day in Woollen Gym," he chuckled. "The photographer was up in the press box trying in vain to get a good angle shot on Bobby Lewis dunking the ball."

"He had moved to within a foot of the edge and still hadn't gotten the right position. I finally yelled up for him to take one step over and he'd have it. He started to and then stopped."

"Coach Smith didn't appreciate that too much and threw me out of practice."

Following graduation, Mirken married his high school sweetheart, Marti, an attractive brunette who was the captain of the Midwood cheerleaders.

"It's kind of storybook," he concluded. "The captain of the basketball team marrying the captain of the cheerleaders."

For the Mirkens, it's a storybook with a happy ending.



Chadwick

## Christianity & Basketball: Life For Dave Chadwick

By CLINT ROSWELL  
Ast. Sports Editor

Dave Chadwick not only eats, sleeps and plays a key reserve role for the Tar Heels, but he also talks roundball on his Sunday evening radio show. God only knows where he has found the time for Christianity, but it is a major part of his life.

"Christianity is something bigger than basketball," says Chadwick. "It has strengthened me as an individual and has made me able to face my problems."

Most of the problems for the intelligent 6-7 junior from

Orlando, Fla., have resulted from his sports-oriented and busy life.

As a sophomore, Chadwick had been inconsistent. He often appeared gun shy and did not play much. This year he has shown great improvement both offensively and defensively. His newly acquired aggressiveness coupled with his smooth style, has vaulted him into several starting roles and much action.

"Last year I was frustrated," recalls Chadwick. "This year I saw a good chance for me to play. I got the chance and I knew I had to knock somebody or get

aggressive to continue to play. "I think Christianity helped me develop a new attitude. In essence, if things were going well, fine. If not, I would just keep on trying."

Dave is an active Christian, and his steady church going habits were probably learned from his father, a Presbyterian minister. Dave, however, attends the Methodist Church here.

"The sects are not really different," explained Chadwick. "It is like two basketball players. They both shoot differently, but they both aim at the same goal. The goal is Christianity."

It has enabled him to be at ease with himself and less mistake-conscious on the court.

"I try to lose myself in the game or to stop worrying and just play basketball," Dave commented. "I feel like the more I play, the more aggressive I get, and it's becoming consistent."

Basketball is a way of life for Dave Chadwick and it extends off the court. He hosts a successful Sunday evening sports program which features the Tar Heels on WCAR. Sports announcing appeals to him and at the moment, it is his post college ambition.

"I have always loved basketball and I am fortunate that I am in the position where I can use it for a profession," added Chadwick.

## Carolina Foiled By State And Lose ACC Title Bid

By DONOVAN ALBRIGHT  
DTH Sports Writer

With the ACC Championship on the line, Carolina's undefeated fencing team lost their perfect record at the hands of still undefeated N.C. State by a score of 15-12 in a meet held in Chapel Hill on Saturday. It was also the Heels first loss of two years and only their second in the three years of the existence of fencing at UNC.

Head Coach Ron Miller felt as though his team "fenced well enough to win, but didn't adjust quickly or thoroughly enough."

The Tar Heels had the lead heading into the final series of nine bouts, but lost their momentum when the sabre team lost three straight bouts. Miller added, however, that he "couldn't criticize any individual or weapon for their performance."

The scoring for each

weapon was: foil, 5-4; epee, 5-4; and sabre, 2-7. Miller attributed as the biggest reason the sabre team lost as being that "we made a total of twelve judging errors against our own fencers."

The significance of this can easily be seen when it is noted that seven of the nine sabre bouts were decided by 5-4 scores and of those seven, Carolina only won only one. In the six losses, ten of the twelve judging errors were made. Had any one of them been reversed, it would have resulted in a win.

Miller added: "I was proud of the way our boys stayed in the battle through the last bout. It was the first time many of them have ever lost as a team, and many of them feel as though it will be their last."

The most outstanding individual performances for the Heels were turned in by Bob Knight who was 3-0 in epee, and Tom Ruff and Charlie Potent who were both 2-1 in

foil. The only way for Carolina to still share a part of the Conference Championship would be for State to lose one of their two remaining meets, an occurrence Miller termed "unlikely," and for UNC to win its remaining three meets. The Heels meet Duke in Durham on Thursday and finish the regular season at Virginia when they meet the Cavaliers and V.M.I.

## Rally Wednesday

An ACC Tournament send-off pep rally will be held on the steps of South Building Wednesday morning at 10:45.

All the Tar Heels, plus Coach Dean Smith and his staff, will be present for the rally. Tri-captains Charlie Scott, Ed Fogler and Jim Delany will have short speeches along with Coach Smith.

The Carolina pep band and cheerleaders will also be present for the rally which will be between classes Wednesday morning.

This will be the last chance for Carolina fans to cheer on the Tar Heels as they chase their fourth straight ACC Title in Charlotte.

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## Tourney Pairings Official (Finally)

Final pairings for this weekend's Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament at the Charlotte Coliseum became official following South Carolina's victory over N.C. State Saturday night in Columbia.

The pairings for Thursday's first round are as follows: South Carolina (1) vs. Clemson (8) at 1:30 p.m.; North Carolina (2) vs. Virginia (7) at 3:30 p.m.; N.C. State (3) vs. Maryland (6) at 7 p.m.; and Duke (4) vs. Wake Forest (5) at 9:15 p.m.

Friday night's semi-final round matches the South Carolina-Clemson winner vs. the Duke-Wake Forest victor at 7 p.m., followed by the Carolina-Virginia winner vs. the State-Maryland victor at 9.

The final game will be played Saturday evening at 8:30 p.m. There is no consolation game.

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