

Davis, Roche clash in 'play of year' contest

by Mark Whicker
Asst. Sports Editor

Wake Forest says good-bye to Charlie Davis and his three senior teammates tonight, but unfortunately the Deacon fans must say hello to John Roche first.

South Carolina invades Winston-Salem with tournament pairings at stake, and maybe the "Player of the Year" award also hanging in the balance.

The only other ACC game tonight sends Virginia to Maryland.

Wake Forest could tie Duke for third if the Tar Heels defeat the Blue Devils today and Wake beats South Carolina. On the other hand, should Duke stop Carolina and Wake upset the Gamecocks, the Devils would tie the Gamecocks for second place.

If South Carolina does the expected tonight and beats Wake, the tournament pairings are decided.

Carolina would meet Clemson in Greensboro Thursday afternoon at 1:30 and the South Carolina-Maryland game would follow.

Duke would meet State at 7:00 Thursday night and Virginia would play Wake Forest at 9:00.

The last home game for Davis, Gil

McGregor, Bob Rhoads and Neil Pastushok will bring the Memorial Coliseum crowd and Coach Jack McCloskey to a peak performance; McCloskey is widely known as an exceptional "single game" coach.

But Roche and the Gamecocks are playing better than ever, and one of the main reasons is center Tom Owens, pushing Randy Denton to obtain his third straight ACC rebounding title.

Owens and Tom Riker are hitting the boards like they did throughout the season, when they won the three-month preliminary battle and then lost the war.

Wake has had little success against USC in the past few years—the Deacs lost 84-64 last week in Columbia—because of South Carolina's height.

The "player of the year" battle between Davis and Roche will steal the attention away from the battle for rebounds.

Roche has won the award the last two years, over UNC's Charlie Scott, and many North Carolinians accused the selectors of racism.

At mid-season, Davis seemed a hands-down choice to break Roche's string, since the Gamecock was hitting

only 42 per cent of his shots and Charlie had a lock on the scoring title.

He is still the top scorer, with 26 points a game, but Roche is closing in. More important, USC Coach Frank McGuire has gone back to the style of play he used last year.

As a result, the Cocks have not lost since Feb. 4, and Roche scored 56 against Furman, 32 against Carolina, and 37 against N.C. State.

Davis outscored Roche 20-12 in Columbia, with Bobby Rhoads doing the defensive job on Roche, but many think Wake's inferior record (16-8 overall, 7-6 in the ACC) will hurt C.D.'s chances.

"If I get my average for the rest of the season," Davis said last week, "I really don't think the balloting should be close."

A hot-shooting night by C.D., a better board night by McGregor and Rich Habegger, a streak by Rhoads. Any or all of these factors could spell trouble for the Gamecocks, but despite the farewell to Davis and the threat of McCloskey's tactics, South Carolina will be favored to win its 10th ACC game.

Another match today Netters top Wolverines

by Bruce Gurganus
Sports Writer

"Your guys are tough," was the apropro comment made by Michigan tennis coach Brian Eisner here yesterday. The "guys" he was referring to were Coach Don Skakle's flashy young tennis players.

The previously unbeaten Wolverines were handed a 7-2 defeat in the Tar Heels opening match of the season. The weather was fine, the fans were froggy, and the competition was fierce as Skakle's talented squad wrapped up the win early by winning five of the six singles matches.

The lone singles loss came at the sixth position. Michigan's Kevin Senich downed senior Mike Kernodle 6-2 and 6-2. In the doubles, Forrest Simmons and Joe Garcia dropped a hard fought battle to Mike Ware and Senich by scores of 6-4 and 7-5.

But other than these two disappointments, the sailing was as clear as the weather. Freddie McNair led the charge with a tremendous win over Joel Ross 6-1 and 6-2. McNair's unbelievable

service returns and perfectly placed passing shots stopped Ross with ease.

Junior Jimmy Corn followed his sophomore teammate with a 6-0, 6-1 conquest of Dick Ravreby. Corn's steady ground strokes were at midseason form as he rolled to a surprisingly easy win.

At number three, sophomore Forrest Simmons came back beautifully from a second set loss to take Tim Ott 6-1, 1-6, and 6-4. This tough three setter proved the endurance of the hard hitting Simmons.

Freshman Richard McKee played smart tennis in whipping Ramon Almonte 6-4 and 6-2 at the fourth spot. This was the first win of what is certain to be a

long and successful career for the Virginia flash.

Another starting freshman Richard Hardaway fought back to take a tough third set 6-4, after winning the first 6-1 and dropping the second 2-6 to Mike Ware.

In the doubles action McNair and McKee proved that all their pre-season praise was well justified as they took a 6-2, 6-0 win over Ott and Almonte.

Corn and Hardaway won the third three set match of the day with 3-6, 6-2, and 6-4 struggle over Ross and Ravreby.

The Tar Heels, now 1-0 take on Michigan again today at 2 p.m. on the Varsity Courts.

Fencing meet continues

The first annual Atlantic Coast Conference fencing championships continue today as six of the conference teams vie for the winning position.

North Carolina's Tar Heels remain heavy favorites to wrap up their fourth championship in five years. The three

final rounds of the tourney will begin at 9 a.m. The final round of competition starts at 2:30 p.m. and the awards will be presented in ceremony at 5 a.m.

There is no admission charge and all meets are held in Woolen Gymnasium.

Tar Heel gymnasts 4th

Coach Fred Sanders' UNC gymnastics team dropped into fourth place after the Friday morning optional preliminaries as the NCAA regionals continued in Carmichael Auditorium.

Before the final round of optional preliminaries last night Louisiana State held the lead, followed by Memphis State and Georgia. Following the fourth-place

Tar Heels were Georgia Tech and Florida State.

Rick Fox was the top Carolina performer as he grabbed fourth place in the parallel bar qualifications.

The team finals are slated to begin this afternoon at one in Carmichael, while the individual championships start at 7 p.m.

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