

Maryland appears loaded

# ACC basketball will be stronger

by Mark Whicker  
Sports Editor

An Associated Press report Aug. 18 apparently caught UCLA coach John Wooden doing a very uncharacteristic thing. Criticizing.

Wooden, whose Bruins have won five straight NCAA basketball titles, and seven out of the last eight, stuck up for his Pacific Eight conference and rapped ACC fans who think their conference is the country's best.

"I don't even think the ACC was second best," Wooden was quoted as saying.

"You have to base it on what a league does against the best of every other conference, not on home games. If one league champion wins the NCAA consistently, there's nothing to do but say they're best."

Such talk accomplishes one thing; it unites the conference in a dispute with an outside influence. And that's refreshing.

True enough, the ACC has not won an NCAA title since Carolina's 1957 coup. And in the last two years, the Eastern Regional championship has evaded the conference representative.

It's funny that Wooden never mentioned the ACC tournament in his knock on the conference. Surely he must have known that the regular season champ—South Carolina in '70, Carolina last year—was beaten in the tournament and the NCAA representative then lost in the first round of the Eastern regional.

The tournament does more than eliminate the best team, however. Three days of 24-hour pressure, an interminable



Coach Dean Smith

game of Russian roulette. The players on the winning team have no chance to think about the NCAA tournament until it is right around the corner, while UCLA could pretty well count on winning the Pacific Eight (up until last year, that is) from the beginning.

The conference is not strong in football, so when basketball season arrives it's like an inflated balloon being held for nine months and then let go suddenly. It's a more concentrated involvement.

Considering that an ACC prospect must post an 800 score on his high school SAT before the recruiters can ever get down to serious business, it is difficult to

believe that level of play has reached its current level.

From top to bottom, the conference has been the toughest in the country for the past two years. No ACC team would have had a chance against Wooden's Bruins; only two or three could entertain the hope of beating USC.

Drop a level below that, however, and our guess is that the ACC would prevail on a home-and-home basis.

South Carolina is no longer in the league, but the cutthroat conference will be just as hard to deal with this year. Maryland has suddenly vaulted into national prominence. State is not far behind. Duke and Virginia may post impressive records and not even make a post-season tournament.

Clemson appears to have improved tremendously in a year's time, and although Wake Forest has lost most of its teeth, each Jack McCloskey will have the Deacons ready for every conference game.

Maryland's freshmen were rated the best in the nation last year even though 6-9 center Len Elmore was injured.

Tom McMillen (you know about him) has already made pre-season All-America teams before his first varsity appearance. He's graceful, quick and possesses one of the best shooting touches of any 6-11 basketball player—ever.

Mark Cartwright (6-10) was ungainly but effective in freshmen games, but Rich Porac and Jap Trimble were a fine backcourt pair. Trimble was the more spectacular; Porac showed how the term "quarterback" evolved to basketball.

Just so Coach Lefty Driesell shouldn't go hungry, the Terps have guard Howard White and forward Jim O'Brien as juniors. Both could be sensational, but just as often succumb to sophmoritis, a dread disease whose symptoms are fouls, forced shots and turnovers.

Forward Jack Neal and guard Bob Bodell are also juniors; Sparky Still, who was disappointing in the pivot last season, and Charley Bland are seniors.

As imposing as the Terps seem to be, it must be remembered that they depend on sophomores and Carolina has four returning, experienced starters from last year.

State's team will get the most gawks this year, if not the most wins, simply because of 7-4 center Tom Burleson. Burleson had some rough moments as a freshman last season, and his height alone does not make him an outstanding basketball player, but Coach Norman Sloan has time on his side.

A more developed sophomore is 6-8 Steve Nuce. He's a hard driver and accurate shooter.

Paul Coder, long on strength at 6-9 but short on finesse, may face an adjustment to forward. He has not shown the speed and resourcefulness necessary for such a move.

If junior Bill Benson is back for good, State will have one of the best streak shooters in the conference. His dry spells, however, overshadowed his streaks last season.

The Wolfpack can rely on 6-7 forwards Rick Holdt and Bob Heuts. With those two joining Coder, Burleson, Nuce and 6-7 soph Steve Graham, State can show its weight around in the tradition of Dan Wells and Larry Lakins.

Duke lost Randy Denton, Dick DeVenzio, Rick Katherman, and Larry Saunders. The teams that they played on never really jelled, and most of the blame fell around the longer-haired head of Coach Bucky Waters at the end of the season.

However, Duke still has plenty of talent. Junior center Alan Shaw, at 6-10, will fight rising 6-9 soph Dave Elmer for the pivot position. Neither appear to be high scoring threats, but they can rebound and defend.

Guard Gary Melchionni will run the offensive show, and Waters desperately hopes that guard Jeff Dawson and swing man Rich O'Connor can put the ball in the bucket more than they did their sophomore years.

Senior Stu Yarborough, a top high school and college freshman player, has been wasted so far but presumably he can still shoot. The Devils will need all the points they can get.

Forwards Chris Redding and Ron Righter and guards Zeno Edwards and Jeff Burdette will provide sophomore support. The talent is unmistakably there, and the Dukes might have a better record by virtue of an easier schedule.

Virginia lost its big man, Bill Gerry, but four starters return and an impressive freshman team will give Coach Bill Gibson unprecedented depth.

Center Scott McCandlish, guards Barry Parkhill and Tim Rash and forward Frank DeWitt all return. Parkhill, a silky-smooth sophomore, sank the winning shot to beat Wake in the ACC first round last March, and Rash will be an outside threat all year long.

Graceful forward Bob McCurdy was the best freshman last year, 6-9 Lanny Stahurski the biggest. Together with guards Jim Morris and Al Drummond and holdover Jim Hobgood, they will provide the shock-troop strenght that UVA so badly needed last year.

Clemson's Tates Locke was stuck with the conference's worst material last year and went 9-17, and on top of that Dickie Foster and Dave Thomas graduated.

After that year of agony, Locke got moving. He already had talented freshmen Terrell Suit (23.4) and Dennis Odle (23.3) moving up to the varsity this year. Just to assure Clemson's escape from the cellar, he picked up high scoring Anthony Brown (26.0) from Anderson Junior College and Mel Francisco (16 rebounds a game) from Florida's Brevard JC.

Redshirt soph Mike Browning joins these finds and returnees Dave Angel (6-11 and an uncontrollable fouler last year), Bo Hawkins and Bud Martin. Clemson won't get pushed around much this season. In their own Littlejohn Coliseum, it will take some games to beat the Tigers.

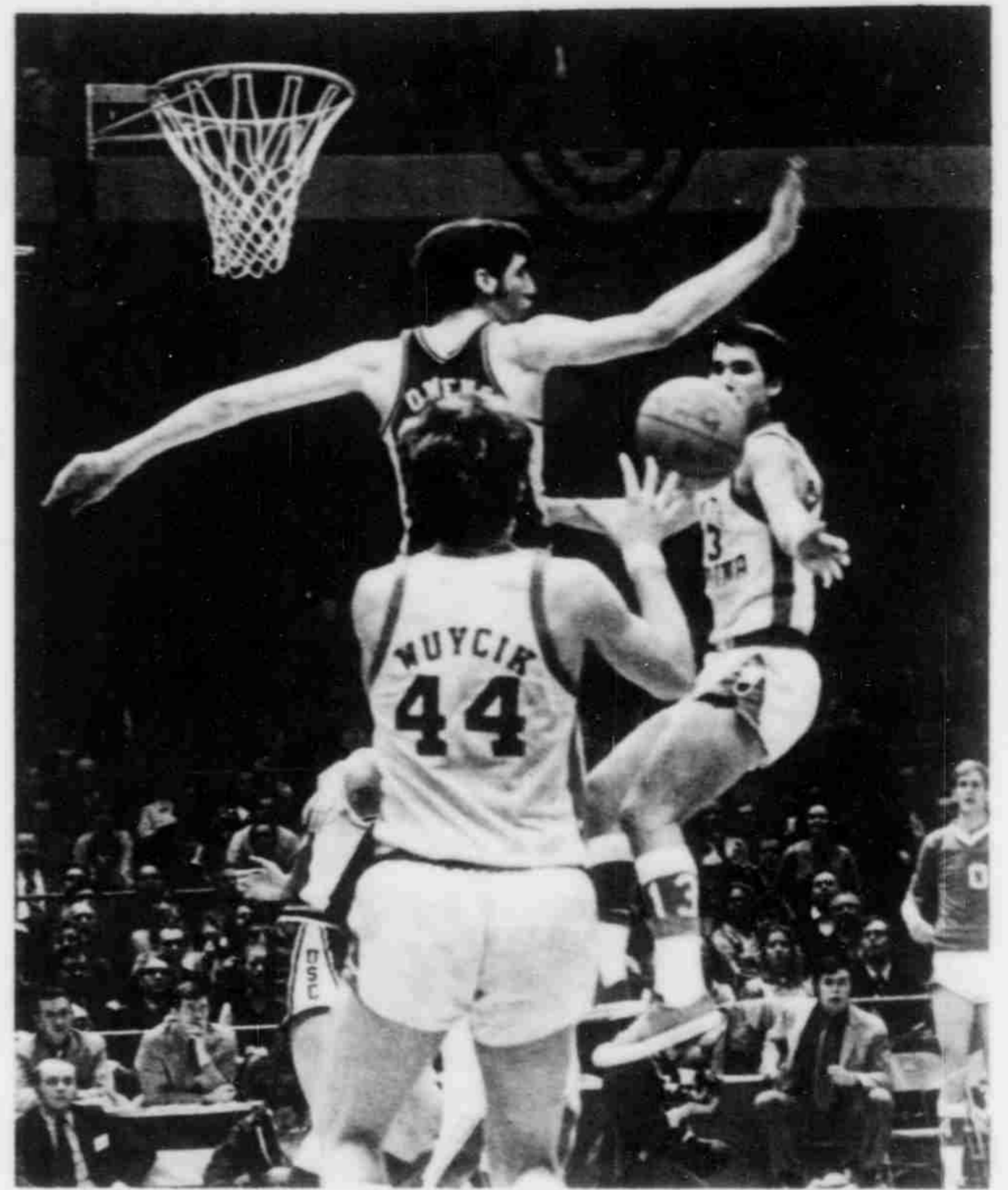
Wake Forest lost Charlie Davis, Gil McGregor, etc. but Jack McCloskey won't throw in the towel—yet.

He won't get much help from his freshmen. Guard Bob Dwyer is the only one ready for varsity competition this season, and he must beat out John Lewkowicz and Willie Griffin first.

Up front, both John Orenzack and Pat Kelley got experience but didn't impress anybody with anything except their bulk.

JC transfer Sam Jackson may be the only saving grace for the Deacons, but Dean Smith fully expects them "to be up for us."

In short, the team that looks to be the conference's best feels it will have to play well to defeat the bottom team. Can John Wooden say the same thing about the Pacific Eight?



Previs passes to Wuycik

## Five cage recruits potentially 'super'

"Out of the five incoming freshman players, only one scored over 21 points a game in high school."

Dean Smith said it with a smile. It's the kind of team he likes.

"All these boys have shown elements of teamwork and we feel that our freshman team this year will be stronger than the ones we've had the past two years," Smith says.

Although the freshmen recruits will be very talented, Smith encourages volunteers for practice, which starts Oct. 15. "It's the same thing with Dale Gipple," he says. "We never knew about him in high school, so he made the varsity on his own and helped us tremendously."

Smith, freshman coach Bill Guthridge and assistant John Lotz didn't have to go far to find Ray Harrison, a 6-2 football and basketball All-America from Page High in Greensboro.

Harrison won the MVP award in the East-West All-Star game in Greensboro last month, working closely and brilliantly with David Thompson, whom Carolina courted strongly but went to State.

Then the coaches went to Lutheran High on Long Island where they had once

found Bill Chamberlain. The catch this time is 6-7 Craig Swanson, a good passer for a big man.

Swanson was not as highly recruited as some other incoming freshmen, but the Carolina coaches like his ability to play outside as well as under the boards.

Walnut Ridge High School in Columbus, O. was the home of 6-10 Ed Stahl and 5-10 Brad Hoffman. They were at the top of their academic class, and they played a little basketball, too. Walnut Ridge went undefeated and won the state championship.

"Both of them are real winners," Smith says. "Ed was the Ohio player of the year and has a knack for the outlet pass on the fast break."

The coaches then went to St. Anthony's High in Washington to find their other forward—6-7 Don Washington. "He has a chance to be one of the best rebounders that Carolina has ever had," Smith comments.

Washington made the All-Meet team in D.C. with his rebounding and a penchant for blocking shots. Duke assistant Habi Brown speaks of Washington in reverent terms, saying things like "he is an absolute animal on the D." in wonderment.

## Booters regroup; harriers strong

Coaches Marvin Allen and Joe Hilton expect their soccer and cross country teams to improve this fall. Carolina's booters tied for second in the ACC last year while the harriers were conference runners up as well.

For the second straight year, the soccer team defeated Maryland. This knocked the Terps out of the conference title and damaged their chances of winning the Carmichael Cup.

But the Tar Heels blew their own chances of capturing the title with disappointing ties with State and Clemson.

The booters' main graduation losses were goalie Tim Haigh, whom Allen called at one point "the best college goalie in the country" and All-American Louis Bush.

However, Allen hopes to build his '71 team around fullback Tim Morse, forward Karl Muster and halfback Van Allen.

Other returnees include Jim Smith at fullback, halfbacks Bob Anderson and Bill Isherwood and forwards Danny Atrial and John McCallie.

The soccer team's trip to Europe last spring did wonders for experience, according to Allen, and unveiled a new

offensive star, sophomore Mark Baldwin. Transfer Anson Torrance should also add strength.

If the Tar Heels can find an acceptable goalie, they could contend again in the conference race. They were 5-2-3 overall last season.

The first black American four-minute miler is coming to Chapel Hill this year, giving Hilton's team a real chance to win the league championship.

He's Reggie McAfee from Brevard Junior College, where he won national JC mile and cross-country titles. He ran his four-minute mile in the Philadelphia showdown that Marty Liquori won from Jim Ryun last May.

Tony Waldrop won the state cross country meet as a freshman last season, and senior Larry Widgeon had a great spring on the outdoor track team. They were fourth and fifth in the ACC meet. Widgeon and Jim Osborne are co-captains.

Pat Grady and Bruce Hafemeister are other upperclassmen, while Hilton can draw on a reservoir of sophomore talent. Mike Caldwell, Mike Garcia, Steve Grathwohl, Roy Helm, Al Powell, and Jim Sellers.

### UNC cage schedule

Dec. 2	8 P.M.	Rice University	CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
Dec. 4		Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Dec. 6		Princeton	Princeton, N.J.
Dec. 11	8 P.M.	Virginia Tech	CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
Dec. 17		Big Four Tournament	Greensboro, N.C.
Dec. 18		Big Four Tournament	Greensboro, N.C.
Dec. 23-26		International Tournament	
Dec. 23-26		International Tourn.	Madrid, Spain
Dec. 27	8 P.M.	Harvard	Charlotte, N.C.
Dec. 29		Sugar Bowl Tourn.	New Orleans, La.
Dec. 30		Sugar Bowl Tourn.	New Orleans, La.
Jan. 8	8 P.M.	Furman	CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
Jan. 12	8 P.M.	Clemson	Clemson, S.C.
Jan. 15	2 P.M.	Virginia	Charlottesville, Va.
Jan. 19	9 P.M.	Wake Forest	CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
Jan. 22	2 P.M.	Duke	Durham, N.C.
Jan. 29	12 P.M.	Maryland	CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
Feb. 3		Wake Forest	Greensboro, N.C.
Feb. 7	9 P.M.	N.C. State	CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
Feb. 11	7 P.M.	Clemson	Charlotte, N.C.
Feb. 12	9 P.M.	Georgia Tech	Charlotte, N.C.
Feb. 16	9 P.M.	Maryland	College Park, Md.
Feb. 19		Notre Dame	New York, N.Y.
Feb. 23	8 P.M.	Georgia Tech	CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
Feb. 26	8 P.M.	Virginia	CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
Feb. 29	8:30 P.M.	N.C. State	Raleigh, N.C.
Mar. 4	2 P.M.	Duke	CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
Mar. 9-11		ACC TOURNAMENT	
Mar. 16-18		NCAA REGIONALS	
Mar. 23-25		NCAA FINALS	

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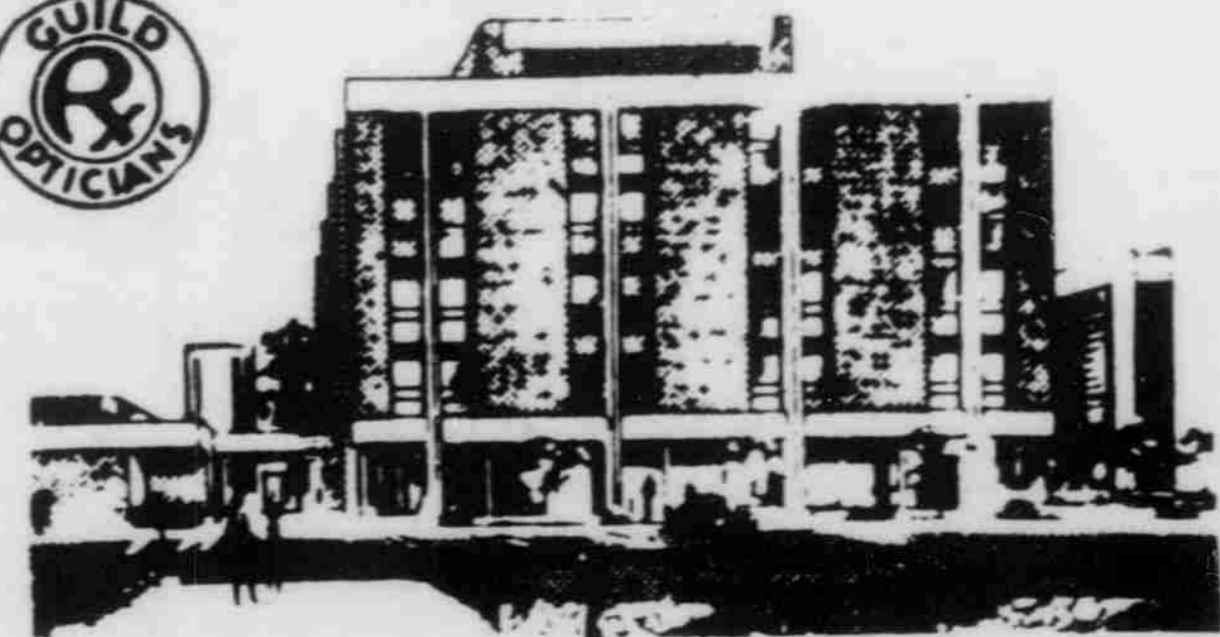
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