

UNC-PITT: 'Great Early Season Test'

by Mark Whicker
Sports Editor

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — It's called the Great Early Season Test, something Dean Smith always manages to schedule in the first two weeks of December, and it should be indicative of how good Carolina's basketball team really is.

The Tar Heels meet Pitt at 8 p.m. today and travel on to Princeton Monday night. Both opponents are hopeful, and capable, of winning post-season tournament berths.

Of course, Carolina was awesome in its 127-69 win over Rice Thursday night in Carmichael Auditorium. Rice center Mark Wehrle recalled the Owl's opener of a year ago — UCLA — and said he'd never seen them "get as hot as Carolina was tonight."

The Tar Heels shot an unbelievable 68.4 percent from the floor, outrebounded Rice 55-34 and

totaled 41 assists in the process.

They also tied a school scoring record. It was a total rout, possibly the most impressive opener in UNC basketball history.

Pitt and Princeton will be infinitely tougher. The Panthers opened Wednesday night with an 80-67 win over Gettysburg, and Coach Buzz Ridl says he "has the ingredients for a fine team."

However, the Panthers haven't been sharp in practice. They did give UCLA a fine game last year, losing by only 11, and whipped State in their cozy 5,000-seat capacity — field house.

Four starters return, plus junior-college All-American Cleveland Edwards, 5-10 playmaker.

Teaming with Edwards in the backcourt is 6-3 senior Kent Scott. He's supposed to be Pitt's best shooter since Don Hennon, All-American of the late 1950's.

Also at guard is 6-5 Mike Paul.

Center Paul O'Gorek, at 6-8, hit 49 percent of his field goal attempts last year and outrebounded Sidney Wicks 19-15 in one game. Forward Carl Morris is back from injuries and should start at a forward.

The other starting slot is filled by sophomore Bill Knight, one of the only three sophomores given pre-season All-American ranking by Street & Smith's. "There's no telling how good he can be," says Ridl, mentioning his co-ordination that can allow him to play guard at 6-6.

"But what can I say about North Carolina?" the Pitt coach asks plaintively. "They can do everything."

At least they did against Rice. With Bill Chamberlain out, the front line of Dennis Wuyck, Robert McAdoo and Bobby Jones went wild anyway. They combined for 56 points, 27 rebounds and dominated play from the beginning.

Guards George Karl and Steve Previs didn't score as

much but were largely responsible for Rice's 36 turnovers.

Kim Huband, Donn Johnston, Craig Corson and Bill Chambers also combined for 42 points coming off the bench. Corson, at 6-10, had five assists. Wuyck led with eight.

In short, the Tar Heels looked ready for the ACC tournament on their first night. And Karl, Wuyck and Previs are returning home tonight. No doubt they'll be ready to play.

Bill Currie, once the "Mouth of the South" but now the "Proboscis of Pittsburgh," surely will be on hand as well.

In the last Great Early Season Test, Carolina blew Creighton out of Charlotte Coliseum 106-86 and went on to a great regular season and an NIT title. This weekend, in a reasonable estimate, should bring the same kind of success.

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SNOW

Accumulation heavy, accidents numerous



One of the great activities which goes hand-in-hand with snow is the building of snowmen. These UNC students added a strange twist to the snowman they built on the steps of the Student Stores: they had him sitting down. (Staff photo by Tad Stewart)



Dave Hall, ended in a good time for all. (Staff photo by Tad Stewart)

The Great December Battle of Chapel Hill was conducted on several fronts Friday as bands of students engaged in snowball warfare. This battle, fought on the plains behind

by Evans Witt
Staff Writer

The white flakes began falling shortly after noon in Chapel Hill.

A few hours later, traffic was snarled and students slipped as they walked between classes. Winter had arrived.

The weather bureau predicted a four-inch accumulation in Chapel Hill before the skies were expected to clear late Friday night.

The local frost was a part of the first major storm of the year in North Carolina. By 5 p.m., the entire state east of Raleigh had been blanketed with the stuff, with record accumulations of up to 16 inches in some localities.

The snow closed down Chapel Hill early for the weekend and made the roads a dangerous, icy trap.

More than 20 automobile accidents had been reported to the Chapel Hill police by 4 p.m. None were serious accidents involving major personal injury. But an accident at Mason Farm Road and 15-501 By-pass temporarily closed the by-pass while one man was freed from the wreckage of his car. He was not injured, police said.

Numerous departmental and University offices closed early to allow their employees to get home before the storm's effect worsened. The Chapel Hill city schools closed an hour early to avoid problems returning home.

But problems there were.

Traffic throughout Chapel Hill was snarled for several hours as many people tried to avoid the rush-hour traffic in the snow. The unusually heavy volume of traffic contributed to the weather-related accidents.

The problems were much the same across the mountain and Piedmont portions of the state.

Radio Operator Ed Davis of the State Highway Patrol Headquarters said all motorists were advised to keep off all the state's highways.

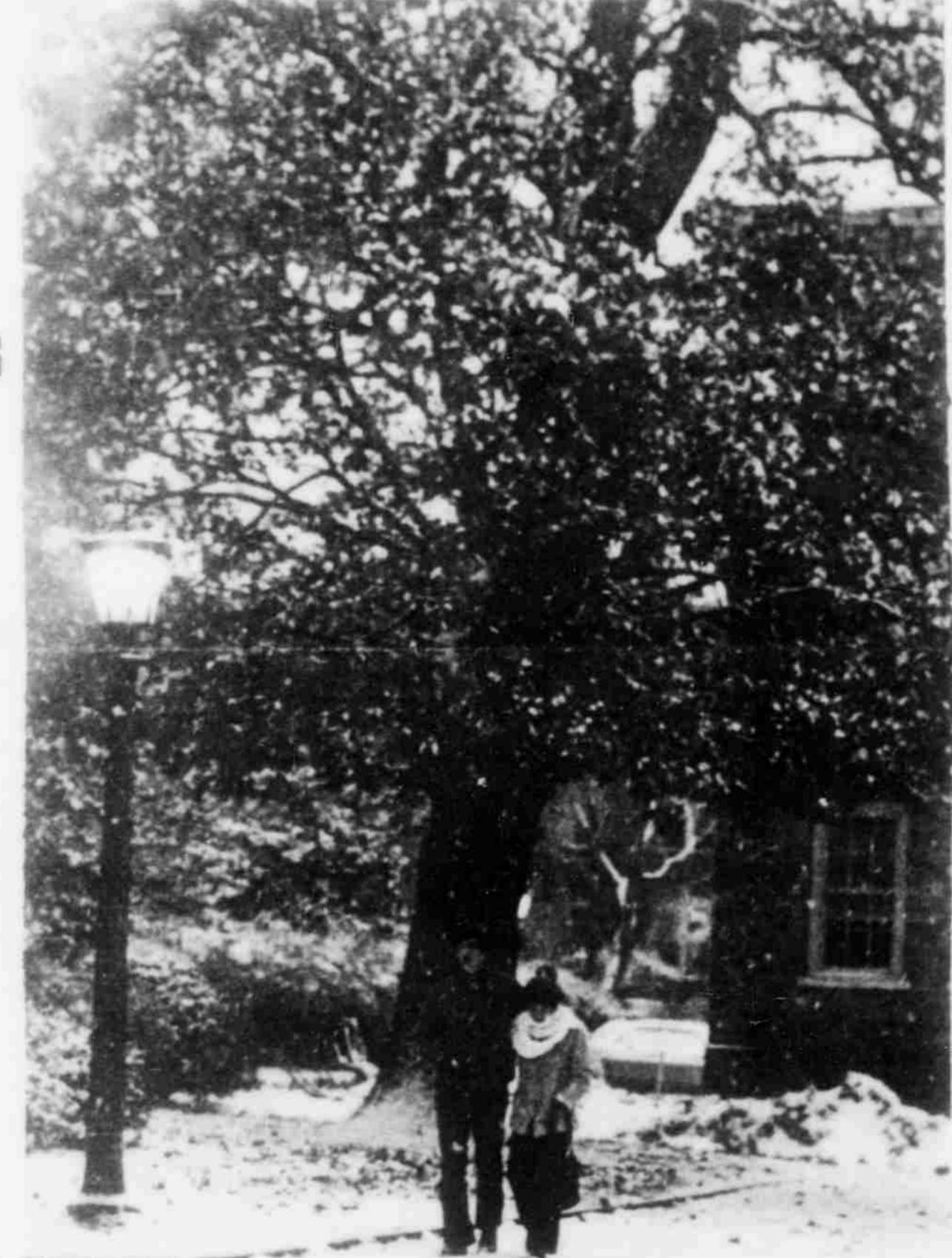
But, he said, people were not listening to warnings.

"People are still trying to get out and people are still wrecking."

The snow was expected to taper off Friday night and partially dissipate today as temperatures were expected to rise to the mid 40s. The winds Friday night and this morning contributed to the hazards caused by the snow as they varied from 15 to 25 miles per hour in the Triangle area.

Weather

Today: Cloudy today, clearing by tonight; highs in the low 40's, lows in the upper 20's; chance of precipitation 20 percent.



The season's first snow falls and this UNC couple takes a walk to enjoy it. More than four inches were expected to accumulate by the end of the snowfall, which began about noon Friday. (Staff photo by Tad Stewart)



walk across the Union parking lot. (Staff photo by Tad Stewart)