

# Tar Heels battle Maryland for first place in conference

by Susan Shackelford  
Sports Editor

Pursuit of the regular season basketball championship in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) has never been hotter in recent years. As nationally fourth-ranked Maryland arrives in Chapel Hill to play 11th-ranked North Carolina Saturday, both teams are battling, along with N.C. State and Clemson, for the ACC crown.

Currently, Maryland leads the league with a 7-2 ACC record, while Carolina and State are in second with 6-2 marks. Clemson is close behind at 6-3.

The value of winning the regular season title has increased for an ACC team, which until this season sent only the tournament winner in March to a NCAA playoff berth. This season, however, an at-large representative will be selected — most likely from the prestigious ACC basketball lineup. "If we win the regular season championship, I figure we'll get invited to the NCAA tournament," asserted Maryland coach Lefty Driesell, whose team has been idle this week after a 24-point romp over Duke last Saturday.

"That's our goal and if it happens, I won't care if we lose in the first round of the ACC tournament," he added.

The importance of Saturday's UNC-Maryland contest rests specifically with the remaining schedule for each team. Both squads play Virginia, but most significantly, UNC also must wrestle with arch-rival N.C. State, which the Tar Heels have yet to topple during the reign of Monte Towe and David Thompson. The Heels must beat Maryland, whose other ACC opponent is Clemson, to remain a strong regular season contender.

The Tar Heels, like Maryland, played Duke as their last conference opponent, though managing only a 78-70 victory at home Wednesday night.

Duke foul trouble enabled the Heels to take the win, as Bob Fleischer was severely constrained throughout the second half after getting his fourth foul with 5:30 left in the first half. Though he never fouled out, fellow frontcourter Willie Hodge, who led Duke with 12 points and seven rebounds in the first 20 minutes, picked up his five foul maximum mid-way in the second half.

To that point, UNC could only mount an eight-point edge over the stubborn Blue Devils, who stood only 2-6 in the ACC going into the contest and used a sticky 1-3-1 trap zone to inhibit the UNC inside game and

keep the favored Heels within striking distance during the entire first half, which ended 43-39 UNC.

An off-shooting night also hampered UNC, which usually ranges in the 55 per cent realm as opposed to the 44.1 per cent it tallied against the Devils, who had a 45.9 per cent.

Adept use of the four-corners beginning at the 6:13 mark in the second half preserved the win for the Heels, who at that point held only a five-point margin (66-61) over Coach Bill Foster's foul-plagued Dukes.

Operating out of the spread offense, UNC freshman guard, Phil Ford, who finished with 18 points, layed-in two straight buckets, which Kupchak and Davis supported with baskets to give UNC a 10-point command with 16 seconds remaining.

Duke's Pete Kramer hit four points and Kevin Billerman, a free throw to pull the struggling Devils within four at 68-72 before the final UNC decision, 78-70.

"Of course we're pleased with the win," said UNC coach Dean Smith, "but we simply can't seem to blow anybody out. To blow someone out, you have to have somebody to

come down and make a few spinning moves and hit four straight."

Turning rapidly to the Maryland game, he offered, "We started with great intensity (against Duke), but it slacked off somewhere near the end of the first half. We played smart, but we have to have that great intensity Saturday."

A frustrated Bill Foster shook his head as he looked at the statistics sheet after his team's loss, which sends it to a 12-9 overall record. "It's the same old story," he lamented. "We can't seem to get the loose balls," and "when Hodge and 'Fly' (Fleischer) are in foul trouble, we're in trouble."

Now Carolina faces Maryland, which earlier this season (Jan. 25) it defeated 69-66 at College Park. That upset propelled the Tar Heels into a firm contention for the ACC crown since Maryland had already dropped an earlier battle to Clemson.

Since that time, the Tar Heels have fallen to Clemson (72-80 at Death Valley Feb. 1), while Maryland has gone unbeaten against N.C. State, Virginia and Duke.

Carolina will depend on freshman Phil

Ford to direct its attack. Against Duke, he handled the four-corners well with only a few turnovers and finished with 18 points. But a key figure for the Heels is sophomore Walter Davis, who contributes heavily in the scoring, rebounding and assist categories.

Though he shot poorly from the field against Duke (4-13), the lean forward-guard popped in 17 points, grabbed 14 rebounds and notched eight assists.

"Walter Davis continues to rebound at the third forward spot, which is so important for us to win," said Coach Smith. "It will be essential for Walter to do it in the Maryland game."

Mitch Kupchak's steady influence is another ingredient in the Tar Heel attack. The 6-10 junior currently averages 18 points and 10 rebounds a game. Avoiding foul trouble and getting assistance from teammates Ed Stahl and Tommy LaGarde are his primary needs.

Leading the Terp attack is Durham guard John Lucas, who averages 19.7 points and spearheads a successful three-guard attack with Maurice Howard and freshman Brad Davis.



Tommy LaGarde lunges forward for two points in 78-70 win over Duke Wednesday night. LaGarde scored 12 points and grabbed 8 rebounds as the Tar Heels ruled the board by a 40-27 margin. LaGarde is being counted on to help combat Maryland's Tom Roy and Owen Brown in Saturday's ACC showdown.

## Track season ends

by Bill Moss  
Sports Writer

With only a week remaining before the ACC championships, the UNC indoor track team will wind up the regular season with a Tin Can encounter against three teams from south of the border.

Clemson, South Carolina and Furman will invade the gloomy confines of the gray structure in a meet 12 p.m. Saturday that will give coaches Joe Hilton and Hubert West one last look at the Tar Heel squad.

Sam Beasley — victorious last week in the long and triple jump — is out with a sore leg, but should be back for the trip to the ACC's at College Park, Md.

Hilton's strategy on Saturday will be to load two distance medley teams with top-flight runners in an effort to qualify one of them for the NCAA's. He is casting his most optimistic glances towards the team of Tommy Ward, Reggie Brown, Henry Jones and Ralph King.

"I feel like we've got a real chance of qualifying for the nationals," he said. "We're not worrying about other events that much. Basically we've qualified (for the ACC's) in the other events as many as we can."

The competition from the three visitors is difficult to assess, Hilton said, but in Ed Fern and Shane Stroupe, Clemson has two quality high humpers. South Carolina will bring "a solid track team and some good middle-distance men."

Coach Hilton is thinking more about next week because in track, unlike basketball, you do look past your immediate opponent. It is a matter of planning, working and honing the team to a fine edge.

Hilton is the man with the plan and the whetstone and he is pointing to the ACC's. "I think we'll hit our peak then," he said.

## Use DTH Classifieds

Want a Rare Book Priced?

Bring it in and we'll look it up. There is always a chance that it will be a pleasant surprise.

THE OLD BOOK CORNER  
137 A East Rosemary Street  
Opposite Town Parking Lots  
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

A Carolina Union Presentation

Noel  
"Lois Lane"  
Neill

A TWO-DAY PROGRAM OF SUPERMAN NOSTALGIA!

● MONDAY, FEB. 17  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Old Superman TV shows. Continuous showings at Great Hall.

● TUESDAY, FEB. 18  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Old Superman TV shows. Continuous showings at Great Hall.  
8 p.m. Memorial Hall FREE

LOIS LANE  
in person

An evening of nostalgia with question/answer periods and a chance to try your hand at playing Jimmy Olsen, Perry White and Superman himself. Don't miss the fun!



**ADULTS ONLY! X-RATED**  
ONCE AGAIN WE BRING YOU ORIGINALITY IN ENTERTAINMENT — THE COUNTRY'S FIRST PUPPET SHOW!!

FEATURING COMEDIAN WAYLAND FLOWERS AND "MADAME" Coming Thurs., Feb. 13 thru Sat. Feb. 22

DON'T MISS THIS ENTERTAINING SHOW WHICH HAS BEEN CAUSING A SENSATION EVERYWHERE!

frog and nightgown  
CAMERON VILLAGE SUBWAY RALEIGH (919) 829-9799

Take somebody special out to Valentine's dinner at the STEAK PUB LIMITED

...and save the chocolates for her little sister — they'll both love you for it.

STEAK PUB LTD. 1010 Hamilton Rd. at the intersection of 54 & 15-501.

Part-Time and Summer Opportunities in Sales. College Students:

No traveling, no door-to-door soliciting. Thorough Training Program. Income commensurate with performance. Career possibilities. Apply between 9:00 and 2:00 601 NML Bldg., 143 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, N. C.

PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND of New Orleans

\$250

Wednesday, February 19 • 8 p.m. • Memorial Hall  
TICKETS: AVAILABLE AT CAROLINA UNION DESK Only \$250