

ACC basketball schedule for 1978

Nov. 29	.....at Northwestern
Dec. 1-2	..... Big Four
Dec. 4	..... DETROIT
Dec. 9	..... JACKSONVILLE
Dec. 16	..... MICHIGAN STATE
Dec. 22	.....at Cincinnati
Dec. 29-30	..... Kodak Classic, Rochester, NY
Jan. 3	..... Clemson in Greensboro
Jan. 6	..... VIRGINIA
Jan. 10	.....at Wake Forest
Jan. 13	..... DUKE
Jan. 14	..... Arkansas in Greensboro
Jan. 17	..... at N.C. State
Jan. 20	.....at Maryland
Jan. 25	..... WAKE FOREST
Jan. 27	..... at Clemson
Feb. 2-3	..... North-South
Feb. 7	..... MARYLAND
Feb. 10	..... Providence in Charlotte
Feb. 14	..... WILLIAM & MARY
Feb. 17	..... at Virginia
Feb. 22	..... N.C. STATE
Feb. 24	..... at Duke
Mar. 1-3	..... ACC Tournament



Former Tar Heel Phil Ford
...future still undecided

Ford future still uncertain

Decision due soon on Kansas City and NBA

From Staff and Wire Reports

For a while in early June it looked as if three former Tar Heels might be making their livings playing basketball for the Kansas City Kings.

John Kuester had just completed his rookie season with the National Basketball Association team when Phil Ford was selected by the Kings in the first round of the NBA draft with Geoff Crompton following in the fourth round.

Now it looks as if Kuester will be the only one of the three wearing a Kings' jersey this October. Ford has not decided yet if he wants to play for Kansas City and Crompton was traded to Denver.

"I can play in the NBA, I can play in Italy or I can stay in school to work on my Master's degree and be coach (Dean) Smith's graduate assistant," Ford said shortly after the draft.

"I'm not going to rush into a decision. This is a very important phase in my life and I'm going to take my time."

He'll have to make a decision within the next few weeks, though, since NBA training camps open in mid-September.

Meanwhile, Kuester is looking forward to his second professional season and Crompton is looking forward to his tryout with the Denver Nuggets, a team coached by former Tar Heel Larry Brown that on its roster used to include Tommy LaGarde. The former UNC center was traded to Seattle in June.

"I was real pleased with my performance," Kuester said during a break this week from a



Kuester, Crompton as Tar Heels
...both making tries in NBA

pickup game in Carmichael Auditorium. "I averaged 15 and a half minutes a game, had 250 assists and kept my turnovers under 100. I was fourth in field goal percentage and third in free throws, so I'm pretty happy."

But he wasn't very delighted by the Kings' 31-51 record.

"I try to forget it," Kuester said. "I lost more last year than I've lost in my whole life."

The 6-foot-11 Crompton is continuing his struggle to lose weight and has trimmed down to 275 lbs.

"I went to a tryout camp earlier this summer, and they invited me back," he said. "I've got to be back by September 15. I'm going to give it my best shot. That's all I can do."

NCAA tourney adds eight teams and third official

From Staff and Wire Reports

Eight teams and a third-official are being added to the NCAA basketball tournament, but still no more than two teams from one conference will be allowed in the field.

And you won't see any jump balls this winter in the ACC.

The NCAA Executive Committee, on the recommendation of the Division I Basketball Committee, voted last week to enlarge the field from 32 to 40 teams and to use another official as the ACC did for conference games last year.

But regardless of how many Top 20 teams one conference may have at the end of the regular season, only two can be invited to the tournament.

"I was disappointed in the fact that they'll take 40 teams but won't agree to a third conference team," UNC coach Dean Smith said. "It helps everyone but the top

conferences. If they would let a third team from a strong conference in, it would make more sense.

"The main reason for this was that they were worried about the number of teams winning 20 games. But if you look at the schedules of all the teams winning 20 games, some of them are not very impressive.

"The second reason they did it was to make more money."

ACC basketball coaches voted at their spring meeting last May to eliminate all jump balls from league games. The visiting team will take the ball to start the game while the home team will have it to begin the second half. The teams will rotate taking possession on jump-ball situations.

Smith has mixed feelings about the change. "It's good that everyone's willing to experiment with rule changes and see if they are something we'll want to do in the future. That particular one, I wasn't extremely excited

about, although I think it might be a good change for basketball."

The conference will continue to use three officials for league games. The NCAA has decided to try three officials for all playoff games.

The enlarged tournament field will have 23 automatic qualifiers and 24 teams drawing first-round byes. The Sunbelt and Southland conferences were added to the 21 automatic from this year.

The winner of the ACC tournament will receive a first-round bye.

The six-man basketball committee will meet in March at the NCAA's headquarters in Mission, Kan., to set the brackets and seed all teams, while choosing 17 at-large entries instead of 11 as in past years. While 16 byes will go automatically to the 16 conferences with the best won-loss tournament record during the past five years, the committee will pick the other

eight based "on their performance in the past season."

In another change, the committee will now be able to place two teams from the same conference in the same bracket.

Wayne Duke, committee chairperson, said one reason for the changes in "the higher caliber basketball being played. Last year there were 54 Division I teams with 20 or more victories and we could only get 24 of them in the tournament."

Another is the proliferation of post-season tournaments instituted by various conferences where the tournament winner, not the conference regular season champion, qualifies for the automatic invitation.

"A year ago eight of 11 post-season tournament winners were not the regular season champions," Duke said.

Duke said the addition of a third official will probably encourage most conferences and independents to follow suit during the coming season.

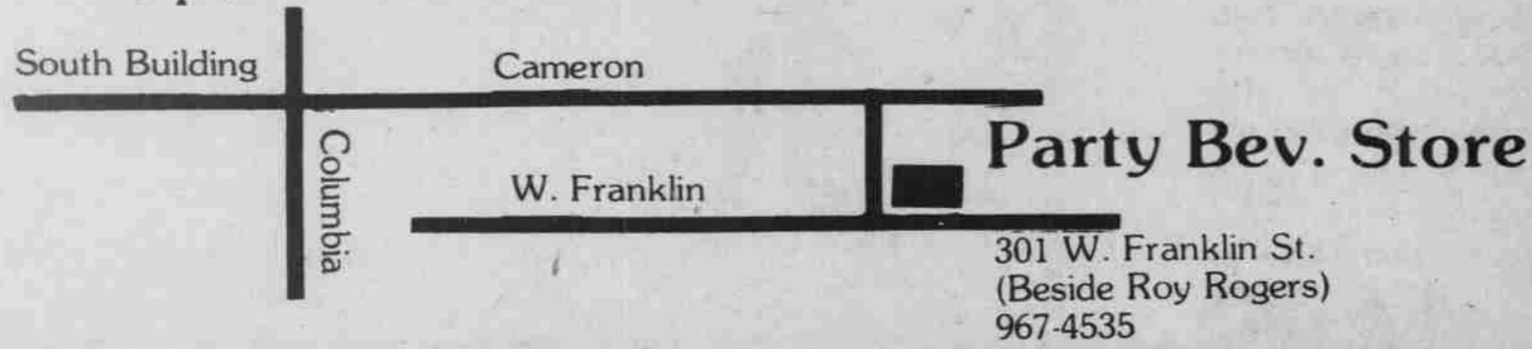


Carolina's Dean Smith
...questions expansion

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