

ACC women ready for league tourney

By MARJO RANKIN
Staff Writer

Who says women's basketball isn't maturing? With three teams tied for second place and at least six teams in contention to take the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament crown this weekend, women's basketball has become just as unpredictable as its older male counterpart.

The third annual event is hosted by the two-time champion Maryland Terrapins Friday through Sunday in Cole Field House at College Park. The Terps beat N.C. State in the championships of '78 and '79 and seem to have an advantage playing at home this year. But UNC coach Jennifer Alley said she isn't so sure about that.

"I would say State is favored to win it going in because they're seeded first," Alley said. "Maryland is on its home court, but I thought that would have helped State last year too." Last year's tourney was in Raleigh.

"I think it's up for grabs," she said. The Wolfpack is 7-0 in the ACC and will face eighth-seeded Georgia Tech 0-7, in the opening round at 3 p.m. Friday.

The Tar Heels share second place with Maryland and Clemson, but came out on the losing end of the seeding selection process. The three teams share identical 5-2 ACC records. The Terps are seeded second and play Wake Forest, 1-6, at 1 p.m. Friday.

Third-seeded Clemson faces No. 6 Virginia at 7 p.m. and fourth-seeded UNC squares off against Duke, 4-3, in the 9 p.m. game.

If records are any indication, this should be the best of the three women's ACC tournaments. The three 5-2 teams are playing a cat-and-mouse game as

UNC has beaten Maryland, the Terps have downed Clemson, and Clemson has beaten the Tar Heels. N.C. State is the only common victor over the three.

The ACC also boasts three nationally ranked teams, with N.C. State holding the No. 10 spot and Maryland and Clemson ranked 14th and 16th.

In Saturday's semi-final action, the winner of the N.C. State-Georgia Tech game faces the winner of the UNC-Duke contest at 3 p.m. The Clemson-Virginia victor squares off against the Wake Forest-Maryland winner at 5 p.m.

Although Carolina won convincingly 91-58 over the Blue Devils early in December, Alley said Duke has improved since then and cited its two-point win over Virginia as an example.

"Duke's the type of team, and we're the type of team, to make this a hard fought ball game. We were up by five at the half (of the December game) but we beat them substantially before it was over.

"Duke doesn't have a lot of depth but if they can keep their top people out of foul trouble, we'll have our hands full," she said.

If the Tar Heels advance to Saturday's semifinal, they will probably go against the Wolfpack for the third time this year.

"Our kids will be psyched up and ready to play State," Alley said. "State will be physically at full power with Trudi Lacey back. We'll be on a neutral court. I think it should be an even game."

Lacey, State's 5-foot-10 potential All-America, is back after being out with a shoulder injury she suffered in the Carolina/State Doubleheaders Jan. 25.

WXYC-FM 89 will broadcast the Tar Heel games starting 15 minutes prior to tip-off. WRAL Channel 5 also will carry Sunday's 12:30 p.m. championship game.



Sports



UNC's Aprilie Shaffer ... team in tourney

Local 'twisters' learning gymnastics at young age

By CLIFF BARNES
Staff Writer

The Triangle Twisters, an area gymnastics club for girls three-to-17 years old, have been state champions for the last two years and the group has a strong Tar Heel flavor.

Not only do some daughters of UNC faculty members compete in the 300-member club, but the owners and instructors are former UNC male gymnasts.

Paul McAloon and Bobby Semes worked at a club in Chapel Hill for two years after their graduation. A little more than two years ago the two opened the Triangle Twisters Center, with Carol Ingold, another UNC graduate.

"It was a dream of ours for years," Semes said. "But we're certainly not in it for the money."

Both men say they started the club for fun and to provide a service that they never had. "Coaching was never available to us," McAloon said.

"It's an enjoyment to give good coaching," Semes said. "We feel like we are a part of these kids and that's rewarding."

Fifty members of the club perform competitively, and of those, more than half have already qualified through local meets for the state meet in March.

In the last two years the Triangle Twisters have had 10 girls compete on the national level. "Only seven girls from the USA go to the Olympics," McAloon said. "We just want them to do their best," Semes added.

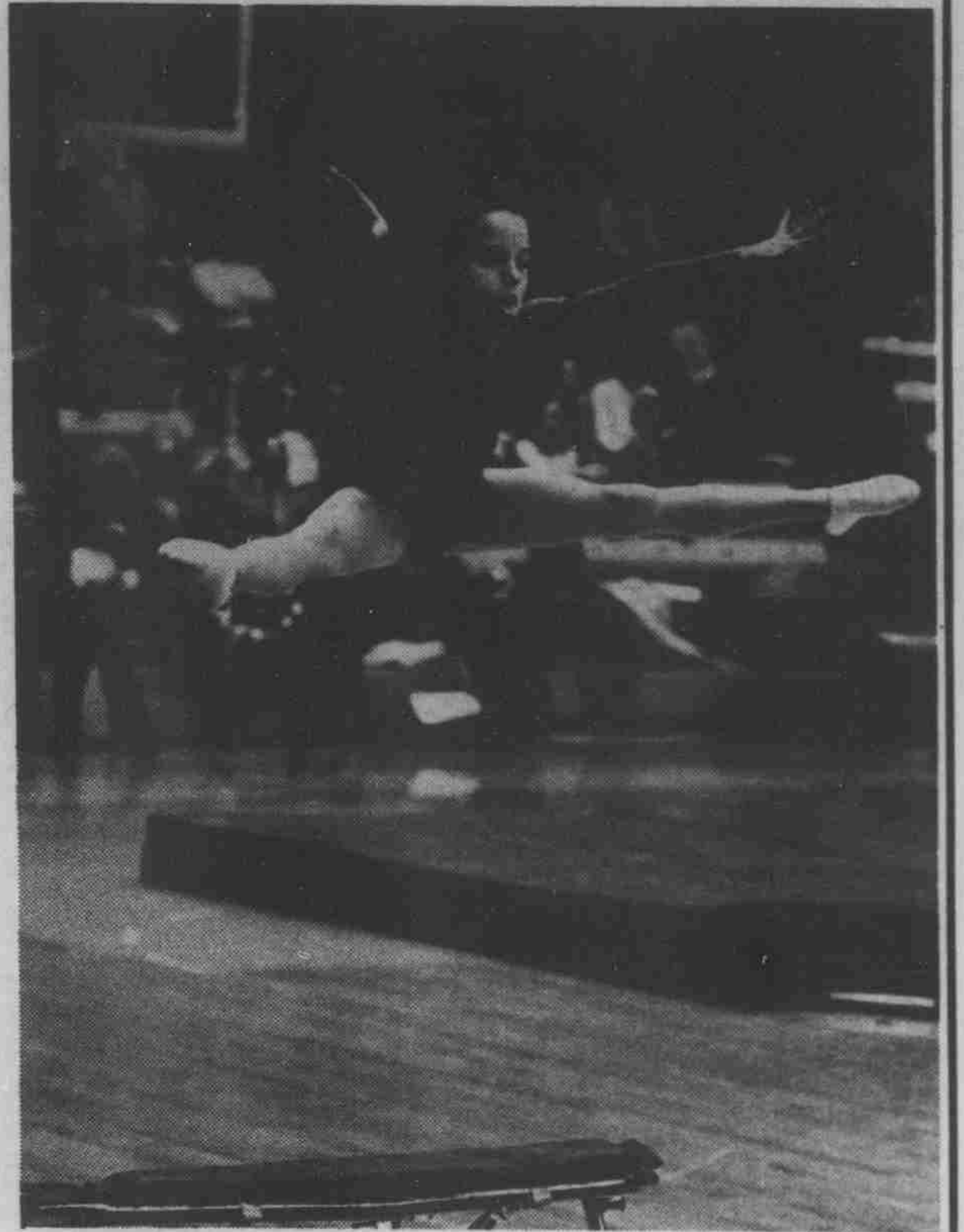
There are three classes in competitive gymnastics, with class one being the highest. The Triangle Twisters boast 10 of the 12 class-one performers in the state.

Two of those are Jenny Owens and Karen Kaiser, seniors at Chapel Hill High School. Both have been accepted at Carolina but have not decided where they will attend college.

"UNC is one of the best schools in the country," UNC gymnastics coach Ken Ourso said. "North Carolina is one of the most ideal places to live and we have a super athletic program."

Two former Triangle gymnasts who chose Carolina are current Tar Heel members Jennifer Britt and Rachel Thompson.

Britt, a sophomore, came to UNC after a one-year stint with nationally ranked Michigan State and five years with McAloon and Semes at both the Chapel Hill club and her hometown



A Future Olympian? Girls get a flying start in local club

Durham club. Britt said she is glad she came back to North Carolina because she missed family, friends and the area.

While at the local club, Britt finished first in state competition four years in a row. She credits McAloon, Semes and the club for development of her gymnastics skills.

"I knew I was serious about gymnastics when I first started competing at 13," Britt said. "I thought about getting on a college team my sophomore and junior years."

Thompson, a freshman from Raleigh, got interested in gymnastics after watching it during the 1972 Olympics. She decided to join the local

club when she saw them in an exhibition at a Raleigh school.

Semes and McAloon drew much praise from Thompson. "They gave me all my background," Thompson said. "I love 'em to death. They gave me a lot of encouragement and that's important in gymnastics."

Thompson spent one year on the class-two squad before moving up to class-one for four years. She joined the club at age 12 and competed through high school.

"I can't think of any good programs in high school," McAloon said. "This state is one of the worst as far as high school gymnastics."

Sign-ups Saturday

Recreation soccer program begins

The 1980 spring Rainbow Soccer season gets underway Saturday with a registration session at the Muirhead Soccer Stadium off Cleland Road in Glen Lennox.

Interested persons—of any age or skill—should sign up between 10 a.m. and noon. Registration will also be held

next Saturday, Feb. 16 at the same times.

Rainbow Soccer, now in its 17th season, needs coaches. Anyone interested in coaching a team should call Kip Ward at 967-8797 or Mit Carothers at 967-9686 and plan to attend a coaching clinic on Feb. 17 or 24.

UNC soccer coach Anson Dorrance

will present a youth coaching clinic on the 17th and another coaching clinic for youth and wisely (older players) will be held Feb. 24.

Announcements of teams will be Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. Skills clinics for both youth and wisely will be held that day as well. Practices will start Feb. 25.

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"WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE?"

Psalms 2:1 and Acts 4:25

One day after the celebration of his 99th birthday Abraham was sitting on the door of his tent in "the heat of the day" — they tell us it gets mighty hot over there, 120 degrees or more. Suddenly he became aware that three men were standing nearby. He got up, ran to meet them, humble and reverently greeted them and entertained them to the best of his ability. The visitors turned out to be His Friend, God Almighty, and two of His Angels! (At least three times The Bible calls Abraham "The Friend of God" — 2nd Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; and James 2:23.) The purpose of the visit was two fold: To tell Abraham the time was near when God would fulfill His promise to him, for which he had been patiently and obediently waiting for near 25 years, and would give him a son and heir by his wife Sarah. It made no difference to The Almighty that both of them were near 100 years old — "IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD?" Genesis 18:14.

The other message God had for His friend was to tell him He was on the way to investigate conditions in Sodom and Gomorrah: The cry of their wickedness and sin was so great and grievous it had mounted up to heaven. Abraham also, knew Sodom and Gomorrah, and knowing God as he did, he knew that a visit of God there could mean only one thing: "DOUBLE DESTRUCTION!" Knowing all this, and that his nephew Lot and family lived in Sodom, when God and the Angels turned their faces towards Sodom, Abraham went into action: "BUT ABRAHAM STOOD BEFORE THE LORD." in Genesis 18:23-33, we read that Abraham pleaded with God for the inhabitants of the two cities; and God agreed to his

pleas (regressively) that if 50 or 45 or 40 or 30 or 20, or if only 10 righteous be found, HE would not destroy them.

Abraham knew God well enough, and he knew Sodom well enough to know the city was doomed, and when God turned His face towards Sodom: "Abraham stood before the Lord" to plead. He appealed to God's justice and righteousness, basing his request that the city be spared on the grounds that perhaps there was righteousness in it, righteousness God imputed to some by Grace through Faith. He did not ask God to spare the sodomites, homosexuals, whoremongers, and other perverts, except for the sake of the righteous that might be therein. The abominations are doomed and headed for the fire of God's wrath — it is the duty and business of "The Friends of God" to pull as many out of the fire as possible, "hating even the garments spotted by the flesh." Abraham did not ask God to spare the city if there were less than ten righteous found in it!

In many respects the sins of our land, and the world, are similar or the same as those of Sodom. All "Friends of God" need to follow in the steps of "The Father of The Faithful" and stand up before God and plead for our homes, our kin, our nation, and all men. Concerning the city of Capernaum, Christ said if Sodom had had her opportunities it would have remained until that day! "BUT I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT IT SHALL BE MORE TOLERABLE FOR THE LAND OF SODOM IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT, THAN FOR THEE." — Matthew 11:23. How tolerable will it be for America in that day! "TELL YOU... EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH!" Luke 13:3.

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DOONESBURY

by Garry Trudeau

