

# Assistant coaches keys in UNC program

By GARY MANGUM

**T**HEY receive little fan recognition but without them, a head basketball coach would have a difficult time running a successful college basketball program.

The assistant coaches are important to any program and UNC has three good ones in Bill Guthridge, Eddie Fogler and part-time assistant Ray Williams.

Guthridge has been associated with Carolina since the 1967-68 season, and has become one of the most respected assistants in college basketball. He says the Carolina assistants share duties as each is involved in some way with recruiting, academics, promotion and scouting. He explains their roles by comparing basketball with football.

"In football, the assistant coaches have specially organized duties and each assistant has maybe 10 or 15 players that he usually works with," Guthridge says. "That's what Coach Smith has—we just assist him."

Though each assistant has a specific responsibility, Smith says he allows each to do a little bit of everything. "It prepares them to be better all-around coaches if they do a little recruiting, teaching, and academics (helping the students with their school work)."

Smith relies on all three assistants. "I tell each of them to talk in my ear and give me advice," he says. "I've taken many of their suggestions in the past and they always seem to work out."

Guthridge is the assistant who deals with the players' academic affairs and sets up study halls and works with the players' academic advisers.

Fogler is the primary recruiter as he is on the road more than the other two assistants. But Smith says he wants Fogler to be at games and practices because "he is a fine teacher and has good ideas."

Both Fogler and Guthridge have been offered head coaching jobs at other schools but neither has taken the opportunity. Fogler says he would like to become a head coach, but that the right offer hasn't come along yet. "I like Chapel Hill—the people,



From left: Coaches Roy Williams, Eddie Fogler, Dean Smith and Bill Guthridge

Coach Smith, the players. This is a nice place to be and it's fun to be here.

"Once you've been here, it's hard to get out of here if you don't have to go."

Guthridge, who has been offered several head coaching jobs at such schools as Arkansas and Colorado, says he, too, is content at UNC.

"I'm very happy here as an assistant coach," he says. "I'm enjoying my relationships with the other coaches, the players, and the University—I can't imagine a better job than the one I have here right now."

The third assistant is Williams, a 1972 graduate of UNC, who is in his third year at UNC. "I do basically anything that needs to be done," Williams says. His main responsibilities involve keeping statistics at varsity games and coaching the JV team.

Williams doesn't recruit off-campus anymore because of a new NCAA rule which prohibits part-time assistants from doing off-campus recruiting. "In the past I was out of town three or four days a week," Williams says. "My part in recruiting now is correspondence and to help when the prospects actually visit the campus."

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