

# Dean Smith: Becoming a classic over time

In a sport filled with fleeting fame and transition, Carolina's coach has been a fixture in Chapel Hill for two decades. He's won more than 400 games and in the process become a cherished man to many faces.

**A**s Jim Valvano, the new head basketball coach at N.C. State, spoke in the Greensboro Coliseum recently to about 100 media representatives, the rock band ZZ Top turned up for an upcoming concert in an adjoining part of the complex.

Valvano, no soft-spoken soul himself, had to talk louder.

"If that was Dean Smith up here, they wouldn't be playing," he said.

Certainly, the music selection would have been more traditional. Classical, perhaps.

Dean Smith, Kansas native, coach at the Air Force Academy, assistant coach at North Carolina under Frank McGuire.

**Bill Fields**



For the last 19 years, head coach at North Carolina, winner of 407 games, loser of 135, and the first to give his players credit for the wins and himself blame for the losses.

"I was very disappointed with the Texas A&M

game last year," Smith says. "That was entirely my fault... The seniors felt they had to win, and we never want to get into that situation. We talked too much about winning that game."

For Smith, his five seniors a year ago were Mike O'Koren, John Virgil, Dave Colescott, Rich Yonakor, and Jeff Wolf and they are out of the program now. Four years of classes and basketball, and college players leave.

**B**ILLY Cunningham played and left. So did Bobby Jones, Phil Ford and all the others. But their coach is still here, a fixture at the university. Like the Old Well and Kenan Stadium, Dean Smith has persevered. In a profession where more coaches are booted out than given contract exten-

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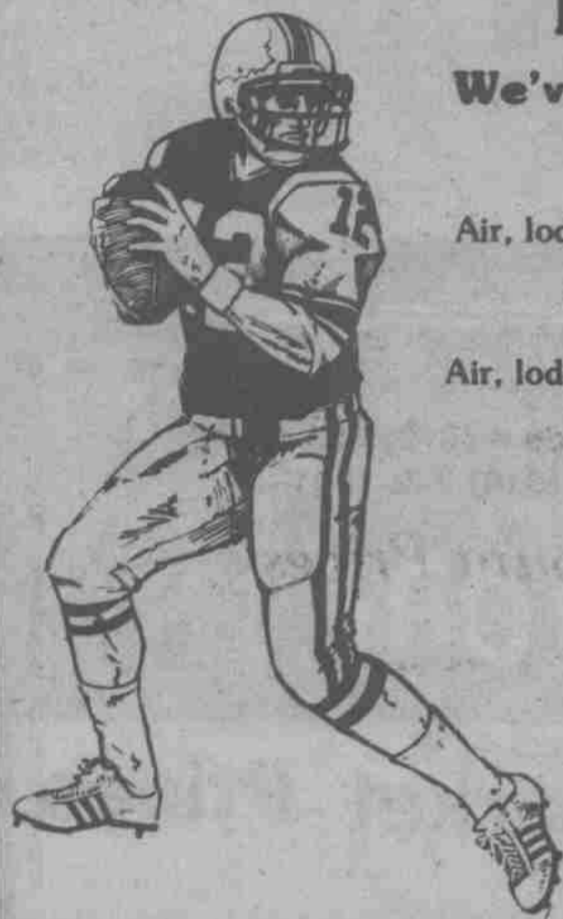
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## Kentucky tops preseason poll; Maryland 4th

By R.L. BYNUM

**T**HE Kentucky Wildcats of coach Joe B. Hall have been established as the team to beat in college basketball this year by virtue of their selection as the No. 1 team in the Associated Press preseason poll.

Kentucky received 30 of 59 first place votes to take the top spot over DePaul, who got 18 top votes. Defending champion Louisville, Maryland and Indiana round out the top five. Each of those teams received two first place votes.

DePaul returns the starting lineup from a team that went 26-2 last year. The Blue Demons are led by All-America Mark Aguirre and *Playboy* preseason All-America pick Clyde Bradshaw.

Louisville lost All-America Darrell Griffith, but the other four starters will return as will Scooter McCray, who was injured last season.

Maryland is one of three ACC teams ranked in the preseason poll. Virginia was picked eighth while Carolina was 13th. Clemson, Duke and N.C. State all received votes, but didn't crack the Top 20.

Indiana will find itself in a battle for the Big Ten title with ninth-ranked Ohio State and 15th-rated Iowa, a 1980 Final Four participant.

The Pac-10 should be a two-team race between sixth-rated UCLA and seventh-ranked Oregon State. Unranked Arizona State, who beat both of those teams last year, should also have some bearing on the race.

Tenth-ranked Notre Dame returns its powerful front line of All-America Kelly Tripucka, Tracy Jackson and Orlando Woolridge. Depth will again be a Fighting Irish strong suit.

The Big Eight should be a three team race between eleventh-ranked Missouri, led by 6-10 center Steve Stipanovich, and unranked Kansas State and Kansas.

Twelfth-ranked Louisiana State lost DeWayne Scales to the NBA, but still returns the rest of its lineup from their 26-6 team. The Tigers hope to give Kentucky a run for the SEC title.

The Southwest Conference race should be a battle between Texas A & M (rated 15th) and Arkansas (ranked 20th). The Aggies return a front line of Randy Woods, Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright. In last year's SWC tournament finals, A & M nipped the Razorbacks by two points.

Others ranked in the Top 20 include No. 16 Georgetown, St. John's (17th), Brigham Young (18th) and Syracuse (19th).

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