

The best basketball seat might be your living room couch

By NORMAN CANNADA
Assistant Sports Editor

"Does anybody have an extra ticket?"

College basketball fans asking that very question can be found at almost any Atlantic Coast Conference arena when the hometown team has a game. The trouble is, you see, tickets to ACC basketball games are very hard to come by. Unless you are a current student or contribute to the athletic scholarship fund, it is not very likely that you will be able to see many games, if any, in person.

That is the very reason many say that television was created. At least with the biggest games televised, fans would be able to see the most important contest and hopefully the most exciting.

More recently, though, even games that might not be that important are being televised. For instance, only a handful of North

Carolina's 29 games this season are not being televised this year. With so many of the games on television, it is a wonder that fans still wait outside the gate hoping someone will have an extra ticket to sell or that students wait days sometimes for tickets to a big game. Why also, do alumni and others make sizeable donations in exchange for season tickets when they can stay home and not have to worry about traffic?

One main reason is the atmosphere. Fans have this idea that its better to be there than to watch a game at home, because you can feel more of a part of the game. There is also the idea that you miss a lot by not being there, in that you can't watch everything that's going on.

Another reason that people want to see the basketball games in person is that they themselves want to be on television. There is a deep desire in our hearts for mom and dad

to see us making faces at the camera when someone is interviewing a player after the game. Or, maybe we believe that talent scouts are watching the game in hopes of finding someone to star in a new movie.

However, legitimate, these reasons may be, there are also good reasons for watching the game on television. First of all, you can sit with as many friends as you want. If you were going to get tickets through the student distribution process, you could only sit with those who had time to go wait in line with

you. There is no line for your own TV set. You can have as many friends as you want.

The other big reason for watching a game on the tube is that you can see more of the game more often. How many times have you been at a big game and found yourself looking for the instant replay?

There is a solution, though. Do both. Be rich and donate money so you can get free tickets and buy a video recorder and tape all the games and invite your friends. Why not have the best of both worlds.

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STARTS FRIDAY JAN. 29

GALLIPOLI (PG)

3:10 MORGAN FAIRCHILD
5:15 MICHAEL SARRAZIN
7:20 *the Seduction*
9:25

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12:05 (PG) Absence of Malice
12:10 (R) The Seduction

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