UNC to face tough non-conference foes

Tar Heels will get good look at U.S.A. in '83-'84

By EDDIE WOOTEN
Assistant Sports Editor

It won't travel as much as the Harlem Globetrotters, but Dean Smith's North Carolina basketball team will get a good look at the United States during the 1983-84 season.

In fact, the Tar Heels have already been travelers: UNC won four games in an exhibition tournament in Thessalonika and Athens, Greece, in October.

UNC, which usually takes at least one distant trip each season, has games scheduled in Palo Alto, Calif., New York and Little Rock, Ark., in addition to a full slate of Atlantic Coast Conference games.

The non-conference schedule is loaded with high-caliber opponents, just as in years past. Included in this year's schedule are 1983 NCAA tournament entrants Missouri, Syracuse, Tennessee-Chattanooga, Boston Univer-

sity and Arkansas. Iona and Fordham each made the field for the National Invitational Tournament, while NCAA entrant St. John's is in the ECAC Holiday Festival in New York.

Here are previews of UNC's nonconference opponents:

Tennessee Chattanooga, Nov. 28 in Chapel Hill

The Moccasins, 26-4 last year and a two-point loser to Maryland in the NCAA tournament, return four starters. Senior guard Willie White led the team in scoring with an 18.4 average and was a key when the Moccasins nearly upset UNC 73-66, in Chattanooga last year. Another returnee is 6-6 forward Gerald Wilkins, a younger brother of the NBA's Dominique Wilkins. UT-C has won three straight Southern Conference championships and finished in the Top 20 last season.

Stanford Invitational, Dec. 2-3, in Palo Alto, Calif.

Fordham

The Rams went to the NIT with a 19-11 record a year ago, but this year's edition may face a big challenge because of the addition of seven freshmen to coach Tom Penders' roster. Of three returning starters, none averaged more than eight points per game. Fordham will be UNC's first-round opponent in the Stanford Invitational, and the Rams will be one of four teams, along with UNC, in the ECAC Holiday Festival in New York.

San Jose State

The Spartans were 14-15 overall and sixth in the Pacific Coast Athletic Association last year. Coach Bill Berry has only one starter back — Michael Dixon, 5.1 points per game — so another tough season is expected. Graduation took the other four starters, including leading scorer Chris McNealy (19.3 ppg). San Jose State will play Stanford in the first round of the tournament.

Stanford

All-Pac-10 guard Keith Jones, who averaged 19.8 points per game, leads a cast of five returning starters for coach Tom Davis' Cardinals. Stanford was 14-14 last year in its first non-winning season in 10 years. Also returning is John Revelli, who averaged 19.1 points and 7.8 rebounds, and shot 67.1 percent from the floor. Stanford meets San Jose State in the first round of its tournament.

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Duke

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Defense hurt the Blue Devils' last season. They finished last in the conference in scoring defense, allowing 83.7 points a game, and their opponents shot 51.6 percent from the field. If Duke has an chance at a winning season, these figures must improve.

"To hold our opponents under 50 percent ... is a realistic goal," Krzyzewski said. "We have good quickness and good depth if we don't get any injuries, so we can afford to push ourselves more. We also plan to play more intricate defenses than was the case in the past.

"We'll be better than last year, but we're still the youngest team in the league. If we can play injury-free and gain some confidence in our early games, we'll have a good season."

Who knows? The hopes of the Duke fans may be resting on the shoulders of freshmen.

Tech

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someday he's going to be a great player in the ACC."

And there is the key. Someday. Seniors Greg Wilson and Anthony Byrd will probably have to watch from the sidelines as the somedays of Georgia Tech success are built with newer stock, although Byrd is in the running for the No. 2 guard spot.

Front line reserve Jack Mansell, a sophomore, will wait for the call to use his rebounding skills. Freshman Neal, consistently named among the top 25 big guards in the nation's prep ranks, will compete for playing time at either guard.

Georgia Tech will face several strong nonconference teams in Regional champion Georgia, South Carolina and NCAA participant Pepperdine in preparation for the ACC schedule.

If the young Yellow Jackets, and especially Price, can avoid injuries, they may be able to lock the door to the ACC cellar behind them, although the league's top three spots still look well out of reach.

"The brightest part," Cremins said, "is that all these players are coming back."

And someday could be sooner than the ACC thinks.

Wake

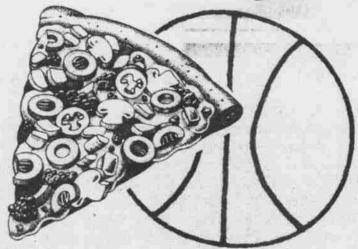
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ACC opponents will be Virginia Tech, Marquette and Auburn, a team that Wake assistant coach Mark Freidinger labeled "the team with the most outstanding talent next to North Carolina that we'll face all year."

Wake Forest should have the talent and experience to meet the challenge of such competition. And now that the troubles of the past have been left behind, Carl Tacy is ready to focus solely on the present.



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