

# SPORTS

## UNC tries to finish ACC season unbeaten

By MICHAEL DeSISTI  
Sports Editor

If there was a legitimate candidate to find the dent in the armor of the nation's No. 1 team, N.C. State's Jim Valvano would certainly qualify. And the coach of the 1983 national champions claimed he had found a flaw.

"I think their weakness is that they had a senior manager graduate," Valvano said after a 24-point loss in Chapel Hill Feb. 18. "Other than that, I don't see many weaknesses."

Neither does anybody else.

As difficult as North Carolina's weaknesses have been to find this season, they've been even harder to exploit. Arkansas took advantage of an off-day rebounding for the Tar Heels, and turned it into a 65-64 upset.

But the Razorbacks were the exception. The 25 less fortunate teams were the rule.

No Dean Smith-coached team at North Carolina had ever won 21 consecutive games until this year — not his 1982 national championship team, not his 1981 and 1977 NCAA finalists, not his firstful of Final Four qualifiers that sent enough players to the pros to justify moving the Basketball Hall of Fame to Chapel Hill for future convenience.

The Tar Heels haven't waltzed through their ACC schedule without getting some toes stepped on, but they've danced well enough to win their first 13 ACC games and clinch the regular-season championship by Feb. 19 — this in a league that has had all but one of its teams in the top 20 at some point during the season, with the eight ACC teams having beaten more

than 90 percent of their non-conference opponents.

"If we can play the best game we can, I don't think we can be beat," senior forward Matt Doherty said. "But another team is going to say if they play their best, they can't be beat. You never know. Some team might be fired up and play out of their mind."

Some team might be No. 15 Duke. North Carolina's five-point win Jan. 21 in Cameron Indoor Stadium was, at that point in the season, the closest the Tar Heels had come to losing. The Blue Devils had the margin of defeat reversed throughout much of the second half, and it took a North Carolina surge for survival in the last five minutes of the game to pull out the win.

Duke has made a habit of disguising its youth all year, playing with poise in the nail-biters and equalling its win total for the previous two years with No. 21 against Wake Forest on Feb. 18.

"There's no magic wand," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We have a decent system and our players believe in what they're doing."

It's nice to believe, but it's better to know. And if numbers don't lie, sophomores Mark Alarie and Johnny Dawkins know.

Dawkins is chasing Michael Jordan in the conference scoring race, averaging 19.1 points per game at shooting guard. Alarie, a 6-8 forward, is shooting 57 percent from the field and picking up 16.7 points and 6.8 rebounds per game.

A win against Duke on Saturday (3 p.m., Carmichael Auditorium, ESPN and Raycom) would make the Tar Heels the first team to go undefeated in ACC regular-season play since N.C. State went 12-0 in the conference, which then consisted of seven teams, in 1974.

North Carolina should get its money's worth against the Blue Devils, but if it doesn't, the ACC tournament six days later in Greensboro should more than compensate.

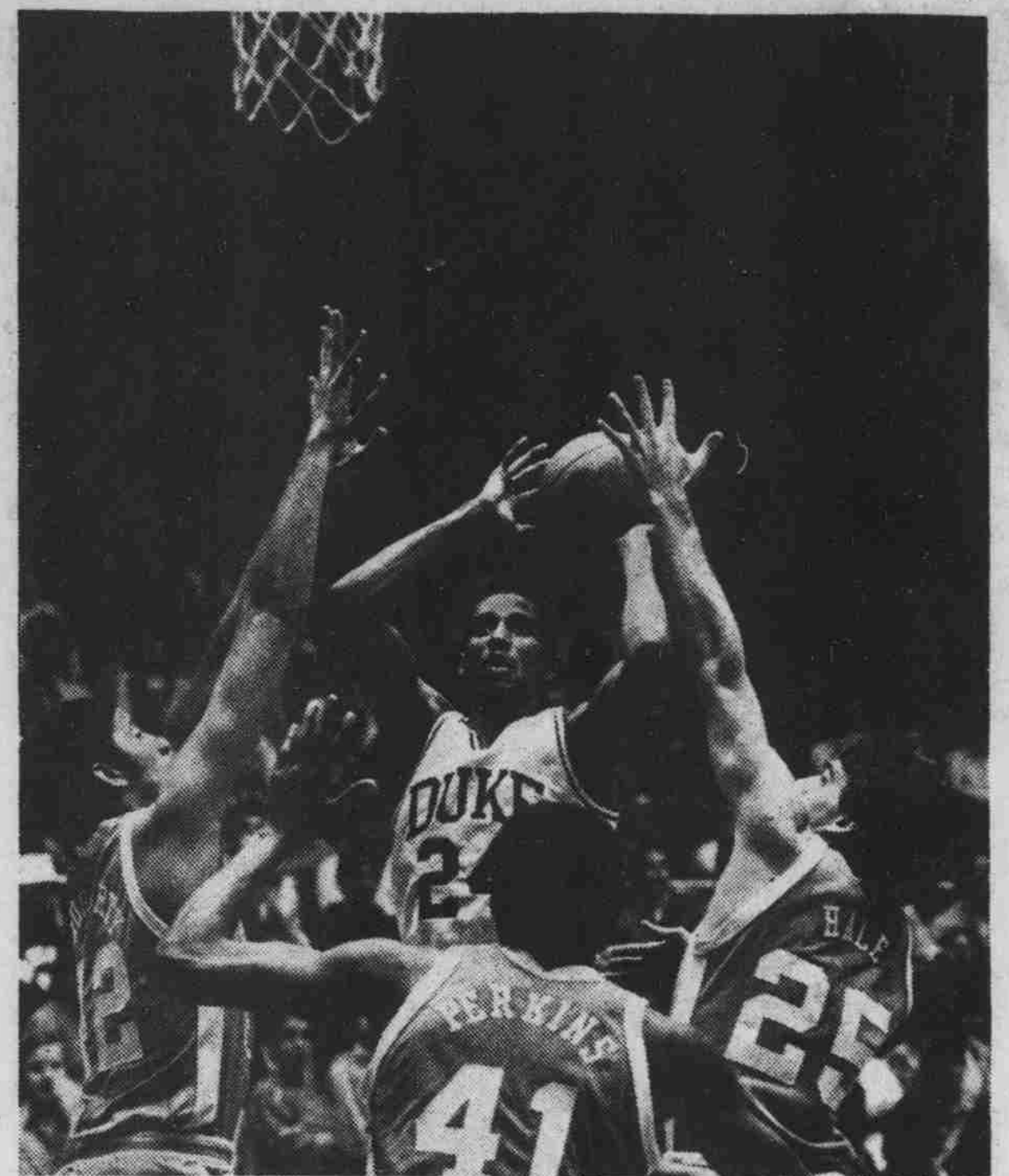
For the Tar Heels, the 1984 tournament is more a matter of pride. North Carolina will have no postseason NCAA appearance at stake, only a grudge to pick with State, which took the ACC title away last season.

"Since 1975 it has been significant for those teams that are not assured of an NCAA bid, because they know the sure way to go is to get three wins in March," Smith said.

"It doesn't have the pressure it once had," he said. "(Prior to 1975, when the tournament field expanded) You'd win the regular season championship and they'd turn around and say, 'Hey wait a minute. You have to win it again.' Now that's pressure."

Some are saying five, maybe six ACC teams will receive NCAA bids. But you'd better believe there will be some fighting in the Greensboro Coliseum for those last few spots.

"The tournament is part of a do-or-die situation," Doherty said. "Anything goes. Anybody can win and everybody knows that. It gives a team a second chance."



Johnny Dawkins is one of the top scorers in the ACC this season. DTH/Charles Ledford

## Clemson, UVa., Md. win ACC battles

The Associated Press

DURHAM — Anthony Jenkins scored 20 points as Clemson withstood Duke's second-half rally to post its first ACC basketball victory in 12 games in a 77-76 upset victory over the 15th ranked Blue Devils Wednesday night.

The loss drops Duke into third place in the ACC with a 7-6 record and the Blue Devils are 22-7 overall. Clemson, which had lost 11 straight ACC games, remains at the bottom of the conference standings with a 3-11 record and the Tigers are 13-13 overall.

With 14 seconds left, Duke had a chance to win the game, but three shot attempts failed.

Danny Meagher's shot from the top of the key bounded out, and Tommy Amaker grabbed the rebound, but his 12-foot jumper with three seconds left missed. Mark Alarie then missed a tip-in.

Clemson led 75-60 with 6:05 left on Horace Grant's three-point play. But the

Tigers scored only two points in the final six minutes on free throws by Raymond Jones and Mike Epley. Epley's free throw came with 1:44 left.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Senior guard Rick Carlisle scored 18 points to lead Virginia's Cavaliers to a 65-61 ACC victory over Wake Forest's No. 17 Demon Deacons Wednesday night.

It was the Cavaliers' third straight ACC victory and raised their conference record to 6-7. Virginia is now 17-9 overall. Wake Forest fell to 19-7 overall and 6-7 in the league.

After spotting the Deacons a 2-0 lead, Virginia scored three unanswered baskets to go up 6-2. The Cavaliers never trailed again, boosting their advantage to eight at halftime, 35-27.

The Cavaliers prevailed despite playing without leading scorer Othell Wilson for the final 29½ minutes. Wilson suffered a sprained left ankle in a collision with the Deacons' Danny Young with 9:28 remaining in the first half.

He was taken to the hospital for X-rays, which proved negative. Wilson, on crutches and with his ankle heavily wrapped, returned to the Virginia bench with 14 minutes left in the game.

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Adrian Branch scored 12 of his 18 points in the second half as 19th-ranked Maryland defeated N.C. State 63-50 Wednesday and dealt last year's national champions their fourth consecutive defeat.

Maryland, 19-7, took over second place in the ACC with an 8-5 record, breaking a tie with Duke, which lost 77-76 to Clemson. State, 19-11, is now 4-9 in the ACC.

The Terps, who have won five of their last six, opened up a 38-29 lead with a 10-2 streak at the start of the second half.

After State pulled to within 38-35, Branch converted a three-point play to launch a seven-point string that put Maryland ahead 45-35 with 10:50 remaining.

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5 Wanders  
10 Huntley or Atkins  
14 Roman emperor  
15 Roman official  
16 High nest  
17 Others: Lat. passage  
20 Lay of the land  
22 Part of the world  
23 Actor Bruce  
24 Old Turk.

25 Cringing  
28 Swallow-like birds  
32 Bears: Sp.  
33 — do-well  
35 Member of a baseball org.  
36 Lancelot title  
37 Strong winds  
39 Rubber tree  
40 — toast  
43 Jacob's wife  
44 Whodunit name  
45 Commands  
47 Unmarried lady

49 Thick slices  
51 Mixture for livestock  
52 Connected series  
54 Hinders  
57 Diamond corner  
59 — contendere  
60 Sufficient poetically  
61 Allude  
62 Pitcher  
63 Conflicts  
64 Narrow street  
65 Snicker—

19 Work gangs  
21 Part of ETA: abbr.  
24 Eternal  
25 World: comb. form  
26 Willow  
27 Entertainer Patricia  
29 Punting time  
30 Evening dress material  
31 Ranch animal  
34 Harvest  
38 Glowing in a tremulous way  
41 Presents  
42 Michael or Harold  
44 Ascetic group  
46 Actress Dee  
48 Forty winks  
50 Confusion of voices  
52 Dinner: Lat.  
53 Acidity  
54 Comprehension phrase  
55 Robert—  
56 Tender  
57 Baste  
58 Labor letters

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