

IM-REC UNC SPORTS

BIG FOUR

The United States Olympic Festival it's not. But Carolina students will get a taste of Festival competition when they line up for this year's annual Big Four Sports Day at Duke University.

Big Four, a multi-sport extramural competition among Carolina, Duke, N.C. State and Wake Forest, holds its 41st meeting on April 1 in Durham. The event began in 1947 with a Blue Devil win in the men's competition. Women's events were added in 1976, the year Carolina won its only women's championship in 10 tries.

Horseshoes and rifle have since gone from the list of Big Four events, but others have been added to bring the total number of sports to 11: badminton, basketball

(women only), bowling, cross country, golf (men only), racquetball, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis and volleyball. All events will be held on the Duke campus with two exceptions. Badminton will be contested in Carolina's Fetzer Gym and racquetball will be held off-campus in Durham.

Carolina's record in Big Four competition has been rather dismal. On the strength of a six-year streak in the early 1950s, the Heels have won or tied 13 times in 40 years. But Carolina has won only once since the nation's bicentennial, taking the 1980 event.

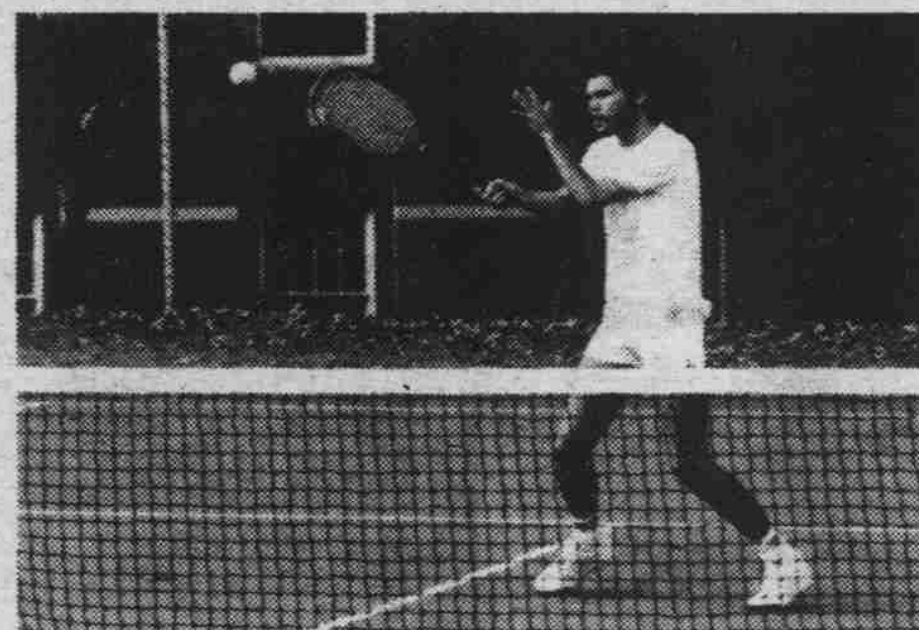
N.C. State has been the force of late, winning or tying 19 times in history and taking six of the last nine meetings,

including last year's contest at Wake Forest.

"We didn't have the numbers or interest of other schools in the past," said Assistant Intramural Director Linda Capoccia, coordinator of Carolina's Big Four squad. "Our chances this year are much better. With games nearby at Duke, participants can take just a few hours to play and not have to spend the whole day."

Events are set to begin around 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 1, with golf traditionally being one of the early-starters. Other sports will be held throughout the day, ending around 3 p.m.

Intramural officials chalk-up the lack of participation in last year's event to its venue — Winston-Salem. Transportation, they say, was



a major problem and many potential participants could not spend the entire day away from school.

But with competition eight miles away in Durham this year and next year's event slated for Chapel Hill, Carolina's Big Four chances seem brighter.

"Big Four is wonderful extramural activity. It gives everyone the opportunity to be involved with one of the Atlantic Coast Conference rivalries and makes for a fun and interesting day," said Capoccia.

NOTES: Most Big Four events

are single-elimination tournaments... Team points are awarded for first through four places, with forfeits receiving no points... Carolina's 1987 team will be formed largely from intramural champion teams, but should those teams choose not to participate, teams will be formed from other interested Carolina students... Spectators are encouraged to attend the competition... Further information is available from Capoccia in the intramural office, 203 Woollen Gym.

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