



BILL CURRIE

Mouth of the South

Tech's Surprise

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Lord, Uncle Sam got mighty mighty drunk when he heard about the Battleship Maine being sunk,

And wasn't there the greatest wailing and gnashing of teeth in the outer darkness when Rich Yunkus came into Charlotte in the vanguard of an unlikely bunch of Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets?

Face it: Georgia Tech was invited to the North-South because the event was floundering when South Carolina pulled out.

Tech seemed a good choice. The Jackets are a Southern team, and thus they maintain a pale image of what the double header was all about to begin with. Better still, Tech has no heritage as a powerhouse, so the local teams should be able to pick up a couple of cheap wins.

Alas and alack, Georgia Tech cast aside the fact that victory eluded the Jackets at Clemson, and that on other occasions the team had performed less than sensationally. The guys were anxious to get a bid into the NCAA tournament as an independent, and, that failing, then be asked to the NIT. Somehow, they wanted to prolong their season beyond the regularly scheduled games.

Jackets Strike With Vengeance

So with complete disrespect for the number five ranking of North Carolina State and the number ten ranking of North Carolina, the Jackets struck with vengeance on successive nights to sweep the doubleheader. If there was some way to get out of the other two years of the contract, I'm sure UNC and State would be just as happy to get someone else. Particularly since Yunkus will be back again next year. It is small consolation that he will be gone the year after.

Yunkus, whose name lacks euphony but whose performance sparkles with the brilliance of his ability, is a guy who has the pro scouts licking their chops in anticipation. Not only can he play well, but he is a refreshing contrast to the average college superstar. Unfortunately, the adulation of the fans seems to warp most young men's perspective to the point that when they read the raves of the sportswriters, they actually believe they perceive higher truth.

Too many college stars believe they do, indeed, possess something unique, and that the world would really be affected if they did not play and add their contribution to athletics. In reality, of course, man can survive without ball games and athletes, and many would do well to remember it.

Yunkus No Puffed Up Juvenile

Yunkus, however, gives no indication of being a puffed up juvenile. He meets the eye of a questioner squarely, speaks in a clear, well modulated tone, and responds in such a manner as to command and at the same time give respect.

He has what my mother used to call "raisin'" and it shows. Yunkus, of course, is not just an average jock ploughing his way through school with a major in basket weaving.

He is, in addition to a ball player of significant stature, an honor student. At Tech this absolutely requires minimum reading, writing and some arithmetic.

For the first time in recorded history, the doubleheader was not a sellout in the Charlotte Coliseum. The crowds each night were four to five hundred under the capacity of 11,666. Naturally people were reluctant to come from far and wide to see Georgia Tech. Who ever heard of those guys? Got a great player, you say? Named what? Yunkus? You got to kid me.

Next year—ah, there will be a different time. Yunkus will undoubtedly draw as many people as any other individual player. After all, anybody who can throw in forty-seven points against North Carolina is a super-something, and well worth the price of admission.

As one who thought Georgia Tech would kill the doubleheader, I am proud to eat my previous appraisal of the situation, and welcome Yunkus and company. Happily, he will not be there forever, because we want the home teams to win.

NP Tourney Begins Friday At Reb Gym

The North Piedmont Conference tournament begins Friday, and host Davie County will be favored to capture the title in the boys race.

The Rebels won the regular season NPC race with an overtime victory over South Iredell, 80-79, and an 80-71 win at North Stanly last week.

South Piedmont Conference and North Piedmont Conference high school basketball tournaments will begin on Friday and conclude on Thursday, March 5.

Thomasville will be the host school for the South Piedmont event, while Davie County will hold the North Piedmont tournament for the second straight year.

Eight of the nine South Piedmont teams have qualified for tournament berths, with last-place Albemarle being eliminated. All six girls teams in the SPC will compete.

In the North Piedmont, eight of the nine boys teams will qualify. Either North Stanly or East Rowan will be eliminated. They are tied for last place and may have to meet in a playoff next Wednesday. The eight girls berths have been decided, with last-place West Rowan being eliminated.

Top-seeded teams are Boyden's boys and either the Statesville or Concord girls in the SPC, and Davie County's boys and North Stanly's girls in the NPC.

Because of the possibility of ties in the standings, it is impossible to determine all opponents for first-round contests.

However, top-seeded Boyden, which has won 19 straight games and 26 in a row for two seasons, will probably meet Statesville's Greyhounds in the SPC tourney opener. Boyden defeated the eighth-place Statesville team by scores of 78-36 and 55-36 in regular-season meetings.

In the North Piedmont boys tournament, North Rowan's Cavaliers are assured of a tie for fourth place and will meet North Davidson at 4:30 p.m. Friday. North Davidson is the fifth place team and still has a chance to tie the Cavaliers, but a tie would not affect the pairings.

Top-seeded Davie County will meet either East Rowan or North Stanly at 8:30 Friday. West Rowan's Falcons will play either Mooresville or South Iredell. A West victory over North Stanly on Friday would assure the Falcons of playing a 4:30 p.m. contest on Saturday.

Both Rowan County girls teams in the NPC face tough tasks in the tournament. The loser of Tuesday's North Rowan - East Rowan game will play top-seeded North Stanly at 7

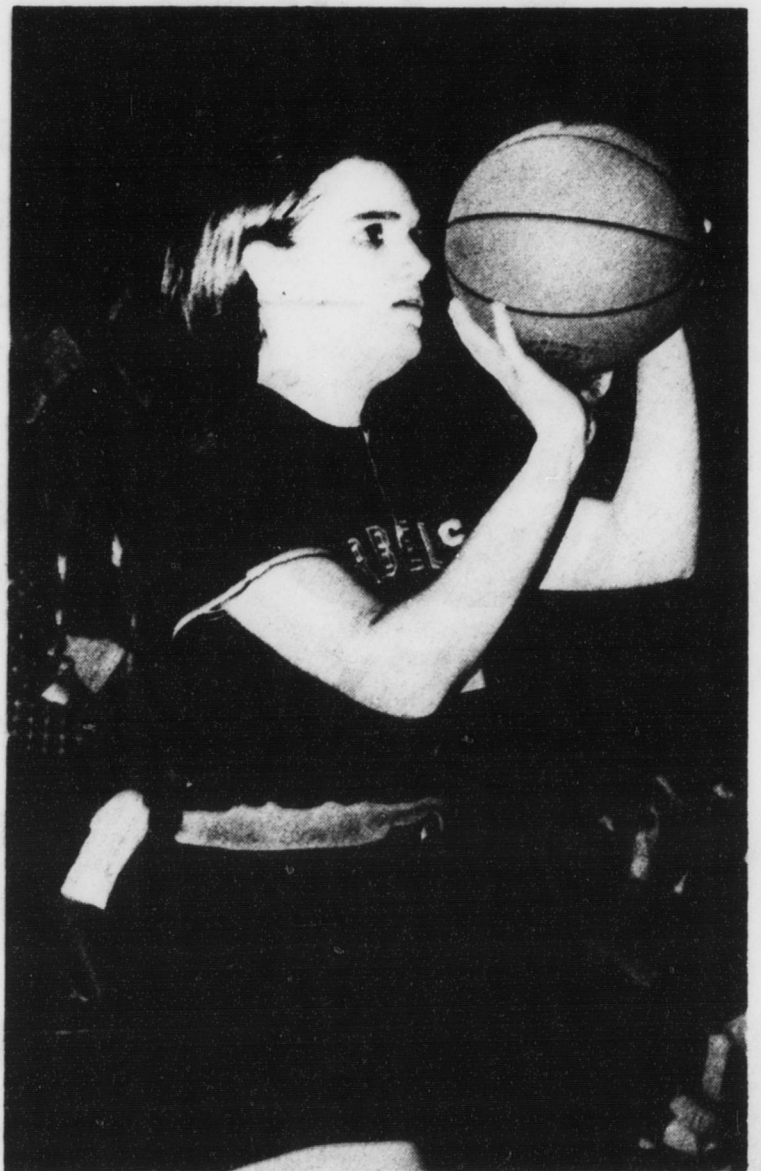
p.m. Friday. The winner will meet the second-place team at 7 p.m. Saturday. Four teams are still in the running for second place.

After Friday's and Saturday's first-round games, the semifinals in both tournaments are set for Monday and Tuesday. Championship games will be played the following Thursday.

The North Piedmont-South Piedmont bi-conference event be held on March 9 and 10,

probably at Thomasville. Boyden's boys, Davie County's boys and North Stanly's girls have already clinched berths in that tournament. Conference tournament winners, if different than the regular-season champions, will also qualify for the bi-conference play.

The Western North Carolina High School Activities Association finals will be played on March 13, probably at Thomasville.



Davie's Markland Passes 1,000 Mark

Davie County's Janice Markland, a senior for the Rebels' basketball team, has zoomed past the 1,000-point mark for her high school career.

Markland, a starter since her freshman season, has scored 1,016 points in 88 varsity games. She went over 1,000 against South Iredell on Tuesday.

She began her career with 213 points as a freshman and improved to 274 as a sophomore. She tallied 295 as a junior, and has a 234 total for her senior season.

She is the first girl in the North or South Piedmont Conferences to break 1,000 in quite a few years. Boys who have hit the 1,000 mark this season include Concord's Robert Blue and South Iredell's Johnny McNeely.

The North Piedmont girls scoring leader for the season is freshman Ann Ellis of South Iredell, who is averaging 23.3. She has scored 443 points in 19 games and would hit 1,000 by her sophomore season at the present pace.

South Iredell's McNeely continues to set the pace in the boys division with a 26.9 average.

second with a 24.2 average, followed by James "Jingles" I James of Davie County at 21.2.

Rounding out the top five are Mooresville's Bill Archer, 19.7, and East Rowan's Joe Sides, 19.5.

McNeely, a senior, has scored 512 points in 19 games. Frankie Essick of North Davidson is

The North Piedmont scoring leaders:

NORTH PIEDMONT CONFERENCE			
BOYS			
Player, Team	TP	G	AVG.
McNeely, South Iredell	512	19	26.9
Essick, North Davidson	458	19	24.2
I James, Davie County	402	19	21.2
B. Archer, Mooresville	375	19	19.7
Sides, East Rowan	371	19	19.5
Mayhew C. Davidson	354	19	18.6
Holland, Mooresville	349	19	18.4
B. Ellis, South Iredell	337	19	17.7
Ingram, North Stanly	300	17	17.6
Huneycutt, North Stanly	263	17	15.5
Henderson, North Rowan	281	19	14.8
Stoner, North Rowan	243	19	12.8
P. Archer, Mooresville	231	19	12.2
Ward, Davie County	226	19	11.9
Yarborough, East Rowan	214	19	11.3
Zimmerman, D. County	193	19	10.2
GIRLS			
Player, Team	TP	G	AVG.
Ellis, South Iredell	443	19	23.3
Leonard, N. Davidson	233	17	13.6
Stoker, North Stanly	231	17	13.6
Troutman, S. Iredell	217	19	11.5
Sexton, C. Davidson	201	15	13.4
Burris, North Stanly	223	17	13.1
Wilson, Mooresville	236	19	12.4
Markland, D. County	234	19	12.3
P. Earnhardt, D. County	215	19	11.3
Kearney, C. Davidson	154	15	10.3
C. Smith, East Rowan	174	17	10.2

Eliminated

WELCOME — North Rowan and Davie County were eliminated in the North Piedmont Conference junior varsity basketball tournament here last night.

North suffered a 57-44 loss at the hands of South Iredell, and Davie County bowed to North Davidson by 63-61.

Semi-final games tonight will send North Davidson against South Iredell at 7, and Central Davidson against top-seeded North Stanly at 8:30. The finals will be played Saturday night.

The summary:
NORTH DAVIDSON (63) — Thomas 8, Allen 5, Wilkes 13, Hartley 26, Shoaf 10, Tesh 1.
DAVIE COUNTY (61) — Poplin 14, Beaver 11, Dwiggins 9, Foote 7, Dulin 7, Smoot 10, Andrews 3.
Score by quarters:
North Davidson 21 12 12 18—63
Davie County 12 24 12 13—61