



BILL CURRIE

# Mouth of the South

## ACC Tourney

Frank McGuire is the loudest and most vehement critic of the Atlantic Coast Conference basketball tournament as a means of determining the basketball championship.

But he is by no means the sole critic. Most of his coaching colleagues — even those consistent losers to whose advantage the tournament works — agree that the regular season champion should go on to the NCAA glories.

Certainly I can see and understand the feelings of the coaches which are expressed in such fiery tones by the Fighting Irishman. Yet, the tournament is a great sports event which captures the imagination of countless fans, and more important, it makes a barrel of money

Now, of course, the ACC has so much money in its treasury that the members are never assessed anything to belong anymore. On the contrary, there is a split of the swag every now and then. Really, then, the conference no longer requires the revenue from the tournament to operate successfully.

### Tournament Headaches

Too, the tournament causes all sorts of headaches and problems because there are simply not enough seats anywhere to accommodate all those who want to see it. Not even enough for the folks who put up the heavy sugar to help secure ball players. There are many compelling arguments that tend to sway reason against the playing of the tournament.

Granted that it is unfair, unnecessary and troublesome, it is still the premier event of the whole year as far as interest is concerned. If the coaches want to play big time — and they do — then they have to consider the fans whose interest makes it all big time.

Fans like the tournament, because it does give seven clubs a second chance. Playing a tournament without the aspect of championship would be as sterile as playing tennis with no strings in the racquet. Playing at Christmas would be ridiculous; better to revive the Dixie Classic.

### Precedents For Tourney

The world of sports is replete with precedents for such a tournament. In baseball, for instance, each division and then each league must hold playoffs before the World Series entrants are determined. The same is true in professional football.

It does not necessarily follow that the team with the best regular season record will scoop up the post season goodies. You must be able to win when the chips are down.

McGuire merely repeats what every other coach contends when he says giving a team a third chance to beat you after two regular season games is inviting the underdog to triumph. He believes this, and so do most of his contemporaries. But I really wonder if a team is likely to win a third game more than say a second or a fifth.

The fact is that the ACC is likely to continue its tournament for a long time to come. To disapprove is natural for the coach who feels he is likely to see a whole season of success negated by one slip up in post season play.

But to discontinue the tournament would be to lessen the interest of fans. More people, remember, are interested in the seven clubs which are not winning the regular season title than are interested in the front runner. The tournament keeps the interest high all over the league.

Important: Major contributors to the athletic scholarship funds are encouraged to dump bigger bundles because they can buy tickets to the basketball tournament.

Whether it is a palatable pill or not, nobody can gainsay the fact that money is vital to athletic success, and nothing will likely be done to unsettle the generosity of the big, cheerful givers.

## Rebs Have Open Date Friday

# Baseball Season Opens

Davie County's baseball team will have an open date this Friday, but it will play its first away game of the season next Tuesday when it travels to East Rowan.

The Rebels opened their season yesterday by hosting South Iredell.

March 17 — Central Davidson at East Rowan, South Iredell at Davie County, Mooresville at North Rowan and North Stanly at North Davidson.

March 20 — Central Davidson at South Iredell, East Rowan at West Rowan, Mooresville at North Stanly and North Rowan at North Davidson.

March 24 — West Rowan at Central Davidson, Davie County at East Rowan, North Davidson at Mooresville and North Stanly at North Rowan.

March 25 — North Davidson at South Iredell.

March 27 — Central Davidson at North Stanly, Davie County at West Rowan and East Rowan at North Rowan.

March 31 — North Rowan at Central Davidson, North Stanly at Davie County, Mooresville at East Rowan and South Iredell at West Rowan.

April 3 — Central Davidson at Mooresville, Davie County at North Davidson, West Rowan at North Rowan and South Iredell at North Stanly.

April 7 — North Davidson at Central Davidson, Davie County at Mooresville, East Rowan at South Iredell and West Rowan at North Stanly.

April 10 — North Rowan at Davie County, North Stanly at East Rowan, Mooresville at South Iredell and North Davidson at West Rowan.

April 14 — Central Davidson at Davie County, East Rowan at North Davidson, Mooresville at West Rowan and South Iredell at North Rowan.

April 17 — East Rowan at Central Davidson, Davie County at South Iredell, North Rowan at Mooresville and North Davidson at North Stanly.

April 21 — South Iredell at Central Davidson, West Rowan at East Rowan, North Stanly at Mooresville and North Davidson at North Rowan.

April 24 — Central Davidson at West Rowan, East Rowan at Davie County, Mooresville at North Davidson and North Rowan at North Stanly.

April 28 — North Stanly at Central Davidson, West Rowan at Davie County, North Rowan at East Rowan and South Iredell at North Davidson.

May 1 — Central Davidson at North Rowan, Davie County at North Stanly, East Rowan at Mooresville and West Rowan at South Iredell.

May 5 — Mooresville at Central Davidson, North Davidson at Davie County, North Rowan at West Rowan and North Stanly at West Rowan.

May 8 — Central Davidson at North Davidson, Mooresville at Davie County, South Iredell at East Rowan and North Stanly at West Rowan.

May 12 — Davie County at North Rowan, East Rowan at North Stanly, South Iredell at Mooresville and West Rowan at North Davidson.

May 15 — Davie County at Central Davidson, North Davidson at East Rowan, West Rowan at Mooresville and North Rowan at South Iredell.



ALL STAR — James Ijames has been selected to play in the Marion Civitan Basketball All-Star Classic on March 28. Ijames led Davie County to the North Piedmont Conference championship for the second straight year.

### Softball League Meeting Slated

There will be an organizational meeting at the Cooleemee Recreation Center, Friday, March 20, for all coaches who plan to participate in the Community Softball League.

All interested coaches are asked to please plan to attend. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

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