

Guilford Wins First Tournament Championship

—by Ted Malick

Twenty-five years of frustration ended last Saturday night and Guilford College is finally Carolinas Champions and how sweet it is!

Before a crowd of 3500 and an area T. V. audience, the Quakers of Coach Jerry Steele survived foul troubles and the aroused Catawba College Indians to win the title 80-73 in Winston Salem's Memorial Coliseum.

There appeared to be some question to the validity of the word team when applied the Quakers in recent weeks but any shadows of doubt was cast out as a definite team victory was in evidence. After losing starters Bob Kauffman, Pat Moriarty, and Bo Whitaker on fouls early in the second half, subs Rodney Gaylord, John Dixon, and John Brooks teamed with regulars Ed Fellers and Bob Bregard to lead the victory on a night Guilford was not to be denied.

Entering the game with a 22-8 record and outstanding tourney wins over Elon and Western Carolina, Catawba was primed for revenge, having dropped two decisions to Guilford during the regular season. The Tribe was even given a favorites' role by several conference coaches before the game.

Coach Sam Moirs' quintet jumped off to an early advantage which reached 16-13 on a field goal by highscoring guard Dwight Durante only to see the Quakers

come back to grab the lead for the first time 29-28 on Bregard's jumper with 4:32 left in the initial half. Dave Snyder's two free throws regained the lead for the Indians who were to enjoy their final edge of the evening. Field goals by Bregard, Kauffman, Brooks and Fellers offset long-range bombing by Durante and 6-7 John Harwood and Guilford settled for a 38-36 halftime advantage.

The second half held quite a story as with 15:56 to play, Moriarty fouled out as Guilford led 45-41. Ninety seconds later Kauffman joined Moriarty with his fifth foul. At this point the Quaker margin was only two points. Fellers and Bregard, acting like men-possessed alternated scoring until the Guilford lead reached its peak at 68-57 with 6:32 to play. Catawba applied pressure at the point with a full-court press and succeeded in slicing the margin to 68-62 on a surge led by senior captain John Hodges. Gaylord swished two fouls and Brooks hit a jumper from the side to ease the pressure somewhat and the victors were up 73-64. Durante then connected for two long jumpers despite Gaylord's glove-like defense and the little all-conference star from Charlotte had his first field goals of the second half. Reserve Darrell Parks scored from outside and the Tribe was behind only 74-71 with less than two minutes to play.

At this point the game's turning point took place as Durante, bothered by his teammate Hodges in his path, missed a lay-up after a steal by Mike Garrison. Instead of a 74-73 game, John Dixon grabbed the missed shot and proceeded to hit four consecutive free throws to sew up the victory and with the 1967-68 Carolinas Conference Championship.

Bregard led the Quaker attack with 23 points, his seasons' high while Fellers, the tourney's well-deserved most valuable player, added 22. Brooks scored 10 points but more important were his 14 rebounds, high for both teams. Harwood a sub for most of the season, led Catawba with 21, while Durante scored 19, Hodges 13, and Garland Davis 10.

Tournament TALK: - - In earlier games, Guilford revenged Lenoir-Rhyne 82-61 on 33 points by Kauffman and 21 by Moriarty. Appalachian's Defending Champions were denied a repeat despite a strong attempt, 92-83 as Fellers led the winning Quakers' with 30.

Fellers and Western Carolina's Henry Logan, were unanimous choices on the all-tournament team which also included Durante and Harwood of runner-up Catawba and Guilford's Kauffman. - - Logan had a fantastic two games hitting 31 of 56 from the field and 14 of 15 from the foul line for 76 points in two games, only 14 away from East Carolina's Bobby Hodges three-game tournament record of 90 set in 1954 also handed out 15 assists in Western's 92-88 loss to Catawba. - - Durante totaled 86 points in the event while Kauffman scored 65 points. - - - Elon Coach Bill Miller philosophizing after his clubs 89-68, trouncing by Catawba said his teams' season had ended with their bug 93-74 win over Guilford at Elon the previous weekend. - - - Estimated crowds of 4,000, 5,500, 7,800, and 3,500 broke all attendance records and made a success of the Kagve's first venture into the big time - - - Referees may have set some sort of whistle-blowing record in the tournament as action was considerably hampered by the almost constant calling of fouls - - - Catawba though finishing second could connect on only 48 out of 91 foul attempts in their three games including a 14 for 34 effort in their close win over W. C. U. - - - With Guilford's fine tourney win only Presbyterian, Pfeiffer and Newberry have yet to win tournament championships. Lenoir-Rhyne has won the most titles with 6, while Appalachian and High Point are next with 5 each - - - Previous to this year's tourney, the number one seed (Regular season champ) has been able to win the tourney title only seven times in twenty-four attempts. Guilford made it eight in twenty-five.

