

Today's Sports Parade

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NEW YORK (U) — A mere matter of two inches stands today between the little college of St. Francis, in Loretto, Pa., and a good basketball schedule.

The debatable altitude in question belong to Maurice Stokes, star of the St. Francis team. College authorities list him as six feet, five inches while victims of the team's 19 victories against four defeats swear he is a magnificent six feet, seven inches.

With or without the two inches, they want no part of St. Francis in the remaining year it has Stokes available.

"We are having a terrible time getting a schedule together," moaned Athletic Director Vince Davis, a former Notre Dame end in the days of Hugie DeVore's stardom. Play Five Years

"Sienna advised us that it couldn't play us anymore because it had to engage its traditional rivals," he explained. "How do you figure that out when they've only been playing five years — and we played them in two of those years?"

"Then Honey Russell of Seton Hall comes right out and tells me they'll play us as soon as Stokes is gone," he concluded.

The answer, as discovered long ago by a number of football teams, is that you can get too good for your own good.

"We just manage to get some good boys from the Pittsburgh area who everybody else seems to overlook," Davis asserted.

Solve Dilemma

Football teams solved the dilemma long ago by putting out charts on their squads which were designed to make their gridiron gladiators look like underfed midgets. As example, back in the days of the great Army football teams which were spearheaded by Doc Blanchard and Glen Davis, Doc was listed as a mere 200-pounder. Actually, the bull went closer to 225 and it didn't help the opposition much that he hit like 500 pounds.

But it must have made the sacrifices feel a little better coming up to the game, anyhow.

St. Francis apparently adopted this psychology in the case of Stokes. For, while he is listed as being six feet, five inches, Davis admits that "we haven't measured him in three years and maybe he is about six feet, five and a half by now."

Loose Designation

In this case, "about" seems to be a fairly loose designation. Because Danny Lynch of rival St. Francis in Brooklyn, insists that Stokes is "the biggest six feet, five inches you'll ever see."

Despite its schedule difficulties, however, St. Francis of Loretto is justly proud of Stokes, a 21-year-old who packs 225 pounds with featherweight agility.

"He's fast, a good ball handler and playmaker and he isn't brittle," Davis enthuses. "If there's anything wrong with him, it's that he doesn't shoot enough."

State, G. Washington Are Favorites Today

NEW YORK (U) — North Carolina State and George Washington were the favorites for titles and tourney berths today as the Atlantic Coast and Southern Conferences opened their post-season championship playoffs.

The victors in these two carnivals, both of which conclude Saturday night, will go into the NCAA tournament and will be matched against each other in a first-round game at Raleigh, N. C., March 9.

North Carolina State, in whose fieldhouse at Raleigh the first ACC tourney in history is being held, actually is only the narrowest of choices in an eight-team field.

The host Wolfpack of Coach Everett Case goes into the tourney with the best overall record in the league 22-5 but finished only fourth in the league during the regular season. The experts give them the slight edge because of that record, their familiarity with the court, and their fine form at the close of the season.

CHAMPS

Regular-season champion Duke, which beat N. C. State twice in close games, also is heavily-backed as are Maryland and Wake Forest. Opening — round day games pit Wake Forest vs. South Carolina and Maryland vs. Clemson, while tonight it will be Duke vs. Virginia and North Carolina State vs. North Carolina.

The Southern Conference, from which the ACC members seceded to set up their own league, is holding its tourney at Morgantown, W. Va., also with day and night twin bills. In the day, it's West Virginia vs. William and Mary and George Washington vs. Washington and Lee, and at night, Furman vs. Davidson and Richard vs. VMI.

George Washington went unbeaten through an 11-game regular season league schedule and is top-seeded and, of course, has the tourney's top drawing card in Frank Selvy, the national scoring champion and all-time record holder.

State Team To Beat At ACC Tournament

RALEIGH (U) — North Carolina State, although fourth-ranked behind Duke, Maryland and Wake Forest, appeared the team to beat

today as the first annual Atlantic Coast Conference basketball tournament began here.

There was no clear-cut favorite. But the eight-team field, including all members of the brand new conference born less than a year ago, appeared top-heavy with its four cage leaders.

Duke, Maryland, Wake Forest and N. C. State, who finished the regular season in that order, were heavily favored to win opening round games this afternoon and tonight. But fireworks are expected for the semi-finals tomorrow night.

Opening round pairings, with league records:
Upper bracket:
Wake Forest (8-4) vs. South Carolina (2-8) at 3 p. m.
Maryland (12) vs. Clemson (6-7) at 4 p. m.

Lower bracket:
Duke (9-1) vs. Virginia (14) at 7:30 p. m.
N. C. State (5-3) vs. North Carolina (5-5) at 9 p. m.

Each opening round favorite defeated its rival at least once during the regular season.

Should the four favorites advance as expected, the semi-finals will match Duke vs. North Carolina State and Maryland vs. Wake Forest. That is where anything could happen.

Duke, 12th ranked nationally defeated N. C. State twice during the regular season, but only by coming from behind to win by such narrow margins as 87-85 and 90-89.

Maryland and Wake Forest split a pair of games during the regular season.

Winner of the final Saturday night will advance into a special NCAA played game here next Tuesday night against the champion of the Western Southern Conference, to be played in a simultaneous tournament at Morgantown, W. Va. Winner of the playoff game will advance to the NCAA

regional tourney at Philadelphia next week.

Duke was the logical favorite. Coach Hal Bradleys classy Blue Devils defeated Maryland and Wake Forest in addition to N. C. State during the regular season. Their only league loss was in early January to Wake Forest.

But N. C. State, with as strong a bench as Duke's, developed slowly toward an apparent March peak. Led by sophomore stars Ronnie Shavlik and Vic Molodet and by captain Mel Thompson, Coach Everett Case's Wolfpack has swept six games in a row going into the tournament and is ranked 17th in the nation.

Wake Forest is led by all-conference center Eddie Hemric, boasting a 24.4 point per game scoring average. The Deacons nipped N. C. State 71-70 in the finals of last year's Southern Conference tournament and won two of their three meetings this year.

Maryland which plays the control game boasts another all-conference star in forward Gene Shue

and the Terps may be the most feared team in the tourney because of their possession-style of play.

Virginia, playing in its first league tourney since 1936, has its hopes wrapped up in guard Richard Wilkinson, all-conference star who is the nation's third-ranking scorer.

SPORTS SHORTS

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. (U) — The Southern Conference Basketball Tournament opens here today in unfamiliar location with such old familiar favorites of past years as North Carolina State, Duke and Wake Forest no longer around.

George Washington, which didn't get scratched in 19 regular conference games, is a heavy favorite to win the tournament and the official league championship that goes with it, and more important, the Colonials will be after the automatic NCAA tournament bid that goes to the winner.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (U) — Henry G. (Hank) Crisp began serving

double duty today, as live coach of the Alabama football team, a position he has held since 1939, and as acting athletic director succeeding P. W. (Pete) Cawthon who resigned yesterday because of illness.

Dr. O. C. Carmichael, president of the University of Alabama, announced Crisp's appointment as

acting athletic director a short time after it was announced that Cawthon had resigned.

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