

NCAA Cage Championship

49ers March To Atlanta In Quest Of Fondest Dream

By James Cuthbertson
Post Staff Writer

Saturday is the big day for the semifinal game that almost wasn't.

UNCC's 49ers, riding on the merits of a 28-3 regular season record, was one of the last teams invited by the NCAA selection committee.

However, the 49ers, who had been waiting for the big chance, jumped on it and squeaked by Central Michigan, squashed Syracuse, and tripped number one ranked Michigan.

And so begins another phase of the Miners march to Atlanta. The Georgia city may have to rebuild the Omni after the UNCC fans are through.

Par Buster Set

Four Ball Golf

Tournament

The inviting terrains of Sunset Hills Golf Course will provide the setting for the Second Annual Four-Ball Golf Tournament.

Sponsored by the Par Buster's Club of Charlotte, the popular tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 2-3. It will be a 36-hole medal play affair.

According to a spokesman for the organization, the USGA golf rules will apply and all golfers will play from the red tees.

The spokesman explained that there will be five flights, including the championship flight and that three prizes will be awarded in each flight. In case of a tie for a trophy or prize, a playoff will be held to determine the winner.

Two new prizes have been added this year. The longest ball hole will offer a prize to the golfer who hits the longest drive off the No. 11 tee. Also, the closest to hole contests will provide a prize to the golfer who hits closest to the pin from the tee off No. 12.

John Crowell and Haywood Stevenson won the championship flight a year ago at the Cedarwood Golf Course and they are heavily favored to successfully defend their title.

The organization expects "more than 160 golfers to compete. The officials say a team (two players) can sign up by calling Robert Sanders of 3215 Banbury Dr. at 399-0980 or 392-5665. Entry fee is \$20 per golfer or \$40 per team, including green fees.

Each team will be flighted after Saturday's round, the spokesman concluded.

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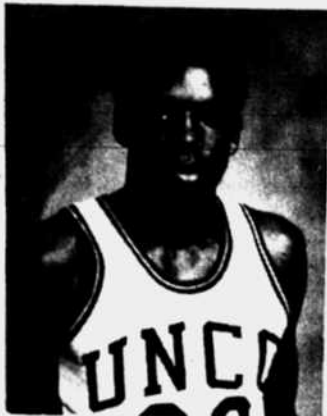
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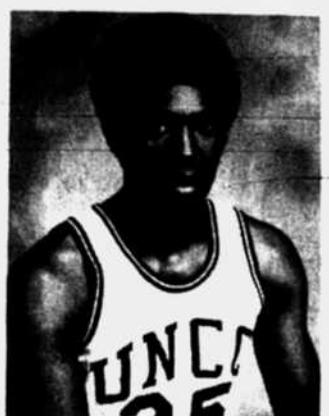
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Cedric Maxwell
...All American center



Kevin King
...Steady forward



Melvin Watkins
...Team captain

There are two games left for the team, Saturday's semifinal game against the Marquette Warriors or either the championship Monday or the consolation game against the Carolina-Nevada-Las Vegas winner or loser.

"We feel very good, delighted and ecstatic," said sports information director David Taylor of the 49ers' success.

The keys to the team are the seniors Melvin Watkins and Cedric Maxwell, the juniors

S.C. State Golf

Team To Compete

In Scotland

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — The South Carolina State golf team has been invited to participate in the 1977 St. Andrews International Collegiate Team Championship in St. Andrews, Scotland, April 2-9.

This marks the second time in four years a Bulldog golf team will be participating in the prestigious event which will be played at the legendary St. Andrews and Carnoustie golf course, the birthplace of the sport. In 1973, a S.C. State golf team placed 12th among twenty American and Scottish teams in the St. Andrews tournament.

Ten American teams have been invited to the 1977 International event. Among those planning to attend are Appalachian State, David Lipscomb College of Nashville, Tennessee, Indiana University, Mississippi State, Alabama, Tennessee Tech and the Bulldogs.

S.C. State golf coach Bill Davis and a seven-man team will leave for Scotland April 2. Also accompanying the group will be former Bulldog golf coach and department head Oliver C. Dawson.

Making up the seven-man Bulldog team are Adrian Stills, a sophomore of Pensacola, Fla.; Doug Grier, a junior of Charlotte; Bobby Ellis of Wallace, also a junior; Daryl Batey, a sophomore of Raleigh; junior Richard Duck of Travelers Rest; and seniors Raymond Campbell of Chester and Robert Reed of Aiken.

Jeff Gruber, and Lew Massey, and the sophomore Kevin King and the inspired play of freshmen Chad Kinch and Phil "Great" Scott.

Their unity in and unselfish play have vaulted them over the national champions.

Melvin Watkins says his role as a senior is to keep the "guys together." I had a pretty bad feeling while that ball was rolling around the backboard, he said of the Central Michigan game which was the 49ers closest encounter so far.

"Everything you've worked for could go down the drain."

After that initial scare the banner team of the Sunbelt Conference outran Syracuse, and out thought Michigan to raise their record to 28-3, the best ever in the school's history.

They also became the first Charlotte team to ever make it to the NCAA's final four.

The success of the 49ers may hinge on the fact that they seem to be a tournament-type team. Perhaps, this is

because several of the players have garnered all the sweepstakes before.

Melvin Watkins was a high-school All-American at Reidsville where his team won the North Carolina State 4-A Championship in 1972.

Lew Massey was a high-school All-American at South Mecklenburg and was on the state champion Sabre team.

Kevin King was on the New Jersey State Championship team of Lakewood High School while Mike Hester lead Graham to the North Carolina 3-A Championship last year.

A local 49er, Todd Crowley, was a member of last year's state 4-A Champs for South Mecklenburg.

The 49ers have poise and this is evident by their tournament play and the fact that of their last three games a mere 11 points have been the difference between winning and losing.

The Sun Belt's commissioner is very excited about the teams chances against Syracuse.

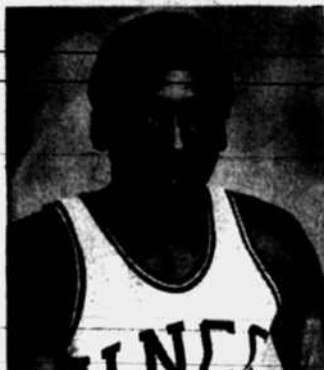
"By being in the top 4, they have earned their bid. Every-

body in the Sun Belt is behind them. As a young conference we are off to a great start and we compare very favorably with the teams in the Atlantic Coast Conference," said Vic Bubas.

"The games will be close from here on out. No doubt about it," said Dave Taylor.



Chad Kinch
...Heady guard



Lew Massey
...Outstanding shooter

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