

# 49ers drop two

by michael mcculley

Last year at this time, the 49ers were 3-0. They went 5-0, too, until a team from Sewanee picked up a two-point victory.

This year has promise still, but a disappointing early season performance has necessitated some vigorous drills, coaching "toughness," and a renewed search for the winning formula.

The season opener, a 106-63 whitewash over game but weak Tusculum College, didn't do the 49ers any good. We could have won that one blindfolded. The team loosened quickly, scored at will, and looked polished and poised for a disciplined season. Maybe the win was too easy.

On the first road game, the 49ers found the going tough against Austin Peay, an Ohio Valley Conference team that is "much-improved over last year," according to Coach Foster. It was an uphill battle much of Saturday night, with Blue's pinpoint buckets and Thames' 9 individual rebounds keeping the 49ers near the win. A few costly turnovers, a cold free-throw hand for everybody — and a sad loss by one point was the result, 74-75.

Still, the 49ers played well; it was certainly not a humiliating loss, nor a decisive defeat. Mentally, you would think the team would be up for the next game, ready to jell into an aggressive core; unfortunately, such wasn't the story.

Monday night, playing their third game in as many locations (perhaps a problem), the 49ers debuted this year in the Coliseum against a Mississippi State team which was picked to be second or third in the SEC. A pitifully small crowd was there (2,180) to see our worst defeat since Bill Foster took over the basketball reins. It's a loss neither he nor the team will soon forget. Nor should they.

From the tip-off to about nine minutes left in the first half, the 49ers kept their cool

and played ball: controlled, disciplined defense and an aggressive, methodical offense. We were up 20-13. The starting five (Boggs, Black, Thames, Blue, and Dae) made contact, with the Bulldogs and the boards. Then, suddenly, it happened.

Jeff Watkins, a transfer from Texas A&M, came in for the Bulldogs. He shot the eyes out of the net, passed for some quick lay-ups, and sparked the State team to outscore the 49ers 17-10. It was 30-30 with 3:43 left in the half. They were playing good ball, but UNCC's defense was sagging, too, getting beat at their own game. The Bulldogs pressed hard and the 49ers couldn't find an open man.

The half ended, with UNCC on the short end of a 38-32 score. Our field goal percentage (41.9%) and free-throw percentage (54.5%) weren't that bad; Mississippi was just better. We had out-rebounded them (19-13) and were hitting the boards. The only statistic that pointed up the turn-around: turnovers UNCC, 8; Miss. State, 3.

The second half was a disaster. Free throws in the one-and-one didn't drop. Blue was farther back from his "spot," missing the shots and getting open only rarely. The contact got rougher and the 49ers didn't survive it well. We just didn't look poised and disciplined and quick and aggressive. We weren't. We lost the second half, and the game, 87-68.

Blue's 20 and Boggs' 19 led the 49ers, while All-SEC guard Jack Bouldin had 16 for the Bulldogs, with sparkplug Watkins getting 15 for the night.

Disbelief. The few faithful went home, shocked a little that UNCC could get pushed around like that. The team

went to a dressing room with a coach who was visibly disappointed. A lot of things still need to be done, and Foster plans to have drills and sprints and plays and picks and shooting and defense, defense, defense pressed hard into the minds of his team.

1-2. We're down, but it's not out and the season is a baby yet. Saturday night (9 p.m., WIST, 1240 kc) it's a once-ranked Oklahoma team, away. Four games, four different places. We can't count on familiar settings to win for us.

We can count on a team, now eleven strong, who do not quit, who do not like to lose, who will not be humiliated again.

We've got too much talent, too much ability, too much training to stay down. Look for the upswing. It's coming. The 49ers'll work hard, and practice, and learn the meaning of tough and strong and consistent. And they'll be itching to teach that lesson-of-the-game to everybody they meet.

## Karate club

A karate club has been chartered on campus. The club (NKR-UNCC) is open to all members of the University community and provision has been made to allow membership to persons not a part of the University.

John Markham, the Black Belted instructor, holds practice meetings every Tuesday and Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in the wrestling room of the gym.

Anyone interested in joining should contact John Markham, extension 452, or Diane Witner, extension 407.

UNCC



SPORTS

December 9, 1971/the Journal/page seven

# Toppling Tusculum

106-63 win

by charlie peek

It was only the best of times for the 49ers in their season opener against Tusculum College Dec. 1, as they walloped the Pioneers 106-63.

Before a home crowd of over 1800, most of them students, the Green and White did almost everything right. But still, there was a standout who will be remembered for a time to come. Robert Earl Blue, a sophomore from Concord, N.C. broke UNCC's single game scoring record with 37 points, tossing in 14 field goals and 9 free throws. The previous record being held by Jerry Lawrence (1967) with 36 points.

Blue's 6'6", 160 lb. frame floated around the Pioneers' defenses and seemed almost able to score at will, dropping in soft jump shots and going high for the banks. He grabbed six points in only a little over a minute after the tip-off and sent the unusually boisterous crowd roaring.

Racing up and down the court, fast breaking, driving for the layups, the 49ers appeared to be a durable team.

They often dazzled the Pioneers with sheer speed. With man-to-man coverage, they double-teamed in the backcourt causing a phenomenal amount of steals and turnovers. Rebounding was shared by all the 49ers, as was scoring, and everybody seemed able to do a little bit of everything.

Early in the game the starting lineup of Blue, Sloan,

Black, Boggs and Thames built up leads of 6-1, 10-1 and 18-1.

Senior guard Jerry Boggs was another 49er high scorer hitting on long jumpers and leading the fast break attempts with 15 points. Chris Black, the other starting guard, got 11, and Norris Dae, noticeably absent for much of the game, brought home 9 points.

Harold Thames spearheaded the rebounding chores with 7, but rebounding in general was a team duty with 5 players getting 5 rebounds each and 2 players getting 4.

With such a "track-team" start the 49ers had built a 52-27 lead at the half and almost the whole bench saw action.

With 10 minutes left in the game, and the home team rolling along as strong as ever, the crowd started yelling for Richard Guffy to get in the game. With 5:18 left he did and converted one free throw and grabbed two rebounds to the delight of his fans.

The failure of the PA system to come across with the national anthem and the repeated persistence of the scoreboard lights to go out didn't dampen the crowd's enthusiasm noticeably. They were loud and happy.

It was a banner night for UNCC, and it looks like Coach Bill Foster will receive plenty of support for this year's squad.

### GYMNASIUM SCHEDULE FOR NON-SCHEDULED RECREATION TIME

December, 1971

NOTE: The following schedule will be effective only from December 1 to December 21 at 5:00 P.M. at which time all recreational facilities will be closed for the remainder of the school holiday period. Cleaning and repairs will be done during this time.

MAIN GYMNASIUM			
Monday and Wednesday	Tuesday and Thursday	Friday	Saturday & Sunday
8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	8:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.	8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
6:15 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.	6:15 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.	6:15 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.	

Exceptions  
Closed at 4:00 P.M. on December 1 and December 17 (home basketball games)

HANDBALL COURTS			
Monday and Wednesday	Tuesday and Thursday	Friday	Saturday & Sunday
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.	8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.	8:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
4:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.	3:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.		

Exceptions  
Closed at 4:00 P.M. on December 1 and December 17

SWIMMING POOL		
Monday, Wednesday and Friday	Tuesday and Thursday	Saturday and Sunday
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.		

December 13, 14, 16, 17 - Open 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
December 15 - Open 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.  
December 18 and 19 - NOT OPEN AT ALL  
December 20, 21 - Open 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

TENNIS COURTS		
Monday and Wednesday	Tuesday and Thursday	Friday, Saturday and Sunday
10:00 A.M. - Dark	8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	Daylight to Dark
	2:30 P.M. - Dark	

EQUIPMENT CHECKOUT ROOM  
Monday through Friday - 3:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.  
Saturday and Sunday (Men's Checkout Room only) - 2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Exceptions  
December 1 and December 17 - Closed at 4:00 P.M.

GUEST TIMES  
Gymnasium: Monday through Friday - 5:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.  
Saturday and Sunday - 2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Tennis Courts: Continuous

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**2 DAYS ONLY**  
**DEC. 10-11**  
**Park Center**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**ADVANCE TICKETS**

- \*Record Bar
- \*Music Land
- \*Record City
- \*Shrude
- \*Infinity's End
- \*The Real Store
- \*Mail Box 12527

**\$4.00 Advance**  
**\$4.50 Door**

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