

49ers Nip Centenary in Season Opener

"26 and 0.

UNCC began its quest for a perfect season last Friday night with a 69-66 victory over Centenary College. The hard fought triumph marked the opening of the Hall of Fame Tournament in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The 49ers emerged from their weekend home in Springfield's plush Baystate West Motor Hotel to slay their giant opponents from the swamps of Louisiana. Coming from six points down with three minutes to go, UNCC achieved its greatest basketball victory to date despite only a 34.8% accuracy norm from the floor.

Trailing 63-57, the 49ers tallied ten free throws and a corner jump shot by George Jackson in the final three minutes while holding Centenary to one field goal and only one free throw.

Pointman Bob Ball converted a one and one with 1:45 remaining to tie the score for the eighth time in the game at 63-all. Following a free throw by Centenary's massive forward Leon Johnson, Jackson connected from 15 feet out and Centenary never led again.

49er pivotman Cedric

Maxwell capped off an excellent evening in the middle with a priceless rejection of a Robert Parish jump shot in the final minute. Giving away five inches and 50 pounds, Maxwell played Parish to a stand-off underneath.

Cedric followed his superb block with a pair of free throws at 0:44 to boost the 49er lead to 67-64. Centenary's Nate Bland scored with eight seconds left and an ensuing loose ball resulted in a jump ball call at the Centenary foul line.

The taller Centenary five positioned the 7-1 Parish near the basket but the tip went over his head and out of bounds. With the tip went Centenary's last chance to avoid defeat.

Jon Heath coolly sank the two clinching free throws with five seconds left. Parish's missed 5-footer at the buzzer brought a joyful leap by UNCC Coach Bill Foster and the entire 49er bench.

Foster was very pleased with the victory explaining that "We beat a very good basketball team despite the fact that we played poorly." The 31 turnovers attributed to UNCC had Foster and Assistant Coach Joe Kingery squirming in their

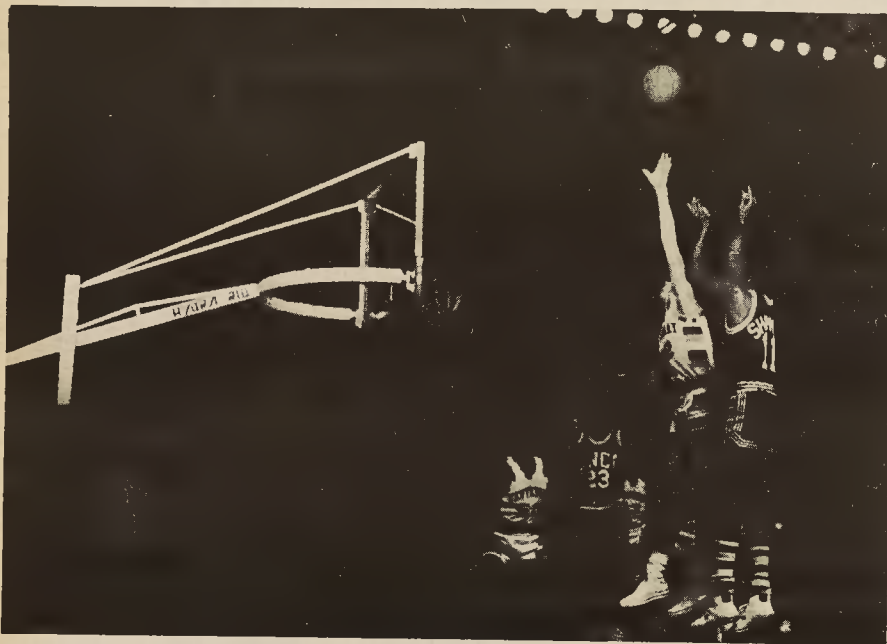
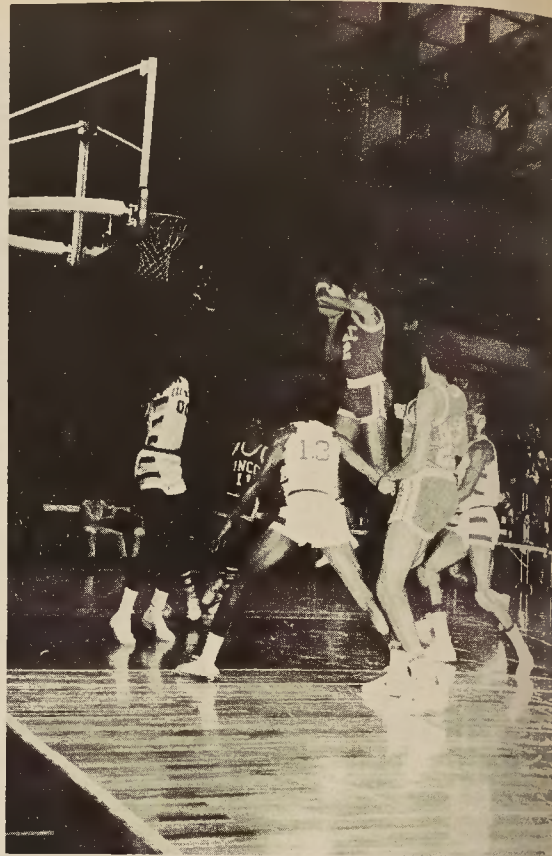
seats for much of the evening.

The most costly stretch of UNCC turnovers occurred shortly after the 49ers returned from the intermission break with a 34-31 lead. A Jackson 15-footer was followed by a long dry spell in which Centenary ran off a 12-2 spurt. Many of the 49er miscues led to breakaway baskets by Centenary during this stretch.

Trailing 43-38, the 49ers drew close on a Heath hook shot from the lane and a bullish Maxwell follow shot over the imposing figure of Parish. The 49ers were again forced to come from several points down in the game's latter stages.

Jackson overcame a shaky start to lead all scorers with 19 points and 12 rebounds and was aided inside by the work of freshman Lew Massey. Massey scored seven of his nine points in the first half, helping the 49ers gain their slim advantage at halftime.

The victory, considered a surprise to most national basketball experts, catapulted the 49ers into the tournament finals Saturday night opposite a strong University of Massachusetts team.



Skip Shipman (11) fires a medium-range jumper against Centenary.

UNCC vs. Centenary - November 29

First Round - Hall of Fame Classic

UNCC	FG	FT	PTS.	CENTENARY	FG	FT	PTS.
Jackson	7	5-6	19	Bland	7	3-4	17
Ball	1	2-2	4	Todd	1	0-0	2
Watkins	1	3-4	5	Johnson	7	1-3	15
Bommer	1	0-0	2	Waugh	2	0-0	4
Maxwell	5	2-2	12	Parish	6	2-4	14
Heath	1	2-2	4	McLeod	1	0-0	2
Shipman	4	0-0	8	Barnes	0	0-0	0
Massey	3	3-4	9	Houston	2	3-4	7
Gruber	1	2-2	4	Pitts	2	1-1	5
Pearce	0	2-2	2				
Total	24	21-24	69	Total	28	10-16	66

	1st	2nd	Total
UNCC	34	35	69
Centenary	31	35	66

contributing to the uncc basketball issue of the carolina journal

jerry proctor
 michael evans
 susan sluss
 jane ross
 ronnie green
 dean hubbard
 ben barnes
 donna hoover
 jim clay
 toni kaneklides
 chuck helm

GORGE THYSELF!

The
SIRLOIN STEAKBURGER
 & Golden Crisp Shoestring French Fries
 & All The Salad You Can Make
 & All The Bread You Can Butter
AND A PITCHER OF BEER
WITH YOUR MEAL

ALL FOR JUST **\$2.95**
STEAK PUB
 LIMITED

Open for Dinner Mon. thru Sat. 4:30 p.m., Sun. 3:30 p.m.
THE GREAT BROWN BAG BUDGET LUNCH
 Served Mon. thru Fri. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

3637 South Boulevard, Charlotte, N. C.