

george jackson

Basketball Pressure Does Not Faze Jackson

Many basketball players get so nervous before a game that they get sick. But George Jackson isn't that way. Instead of getting real uptight Jackson stays cool. "You can't look at a game as being real pressure on you. It's a time to have fun and relax." Jackson says it is this attitude that makes him the player he is.

Jackson was a transfer last year from Dalton Junior College. He had played high school basketball at East Mecklenburg in Charlotte and decided to come home to play his college ball. The thing that impressed Jackson most about UNCC was Coach Bill Foster's attitude toward school and basketball. "Coach Foster talked mainly about books, whereas other coaches talked about apartments and cars. Coach Foster was interested in

academics and I wanted a degree most of all."

Jackson and forward Jon Heath are roommates and they get along well together. George said, "I have to take care of Jon, my little son, because he runs around some." The closeness of the team is a great asset according to Jackson, who said, "We get along well off-court as well as on court. The players and coaches also get along very well too. Coach Foster stresses execution on the court; however

after the game is over he returns to his good spirits." Sometimes the players sit around and play spades. George says, "Cedric Maxwell and I are the best partners. We hardly ever get beat"

As far as personal goals are concerned Jackson has just one. That is to shoot over 55% which

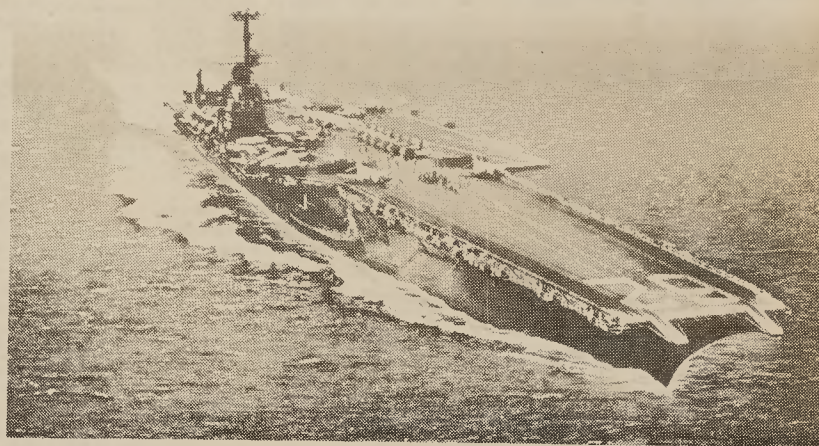
is what he shot last season when he averaged 16 points a game. The team goals, according to Jackson, are to be 26-0 and to play ball and have fun.

Jackson feels that right now UNCC can compete with anybody on the basketball court. "I have played against a lot of the players in the ACC and I think we can compete with the best of them. I would like to play UCLA at UNCC. If we could get them in our gym I think things could be different. I also think we would have a better chance against State here".

With a big portion of the scoring load on his shoulders this season, George Jackson may be the key man in the UNCC lineup. This suits him fine and the 49ers could be off to their best season ever.



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