



Head Women's Basketball Coach Judy Wilkins.

Women's basketball begins first season with style

After ten days of intensive pre-season practice, UNCC Women's Basketball Coach Judy Wilkins reflects on the progress of her 1975-76 squad. "The single most encouraging factor in pre-season is the determination that these girls put forth. They give me 100% everyday. Since this our first year, we do not have a core of returning veterans to build on and the girls know that every position is up for grabs."

Starting an intercollegiate program from scratch connotes several problems. One of them is experience. Says Ms. Wilkins, "the team is young (only one senior) and it's been a good while since any of them have played competitively. We have no one on the squad who has collegiate playing experience so this will be a building year for us."

"We're rushed to get total organization into effect. We'll have to put everything together quickly. Most of the teams we will be playing have had collegiate programs so they will have a leg up on us. Pre-season workouts have provided Coach Wilkins with an idea of who will figure prominently in her plans. Patty Collins and Gina Poole are frontrunners for a starting position at forward. Collins, according to Wilkins, is a "strong offensive and defensive player who goes to the boards well. Poole is a team player and she has a good eye for the basket."

Coach Wilkins comments on two other possible starters, Sandy Gardner (at guard) and

Terry Smith (at center). "Gardner is a good ball handler and could be the team quarterback. Smith has never played center, but she is working hard and has the inside moves to develop into a post player."

Keeping the team healthy is a key to the fortunes of the 49ers. Unfortunately, two players that Wilkins is counting on heavily have been felled by leg injuries. "We will depend on balanced scoring and bench strength. I am hoping that Annette Johnson and Kathy McAmis can rebound from their injuries quickly."

Despite the obvious obstacles, Wilkins exudes confidence and enthusiasm. "We are excited about our first year. It represents both challenge and opportunity. And we think it represents the beginning of a good, solid women's program at UNCC."

Both WAYS & WVFN to air games

By Ron Green

Basketball fans unable to attend UNCC basketball games this season will be able to hear the games on one of two radio networks. 49er action will be carried on WAYS throughout the City and WVFN will broadcast the games through the dormitories.

The addition of WAYS to the UNCC program is a big boost to the young program. The school has been without a major basketball network in the past and it has been a major drawback in the school's attempts to get the basketball program in the public eye.

The announcers for the WAYS broadcasts will be Jay Thomas and John Kilgo, two of the city's best-known and most controversial figures. Thomas is a morning announcer whose show is the most-listened to in Charlotte. Kilgo is the WAYS news editor and editor of the Charlotte - Weekly - East, newspaper. He has caused a great deal of controversy from time to time with his remarks and should provide an interesting partner for Thomas.

The idea of putting two people with such different ideas together in a broadcast booth caused a few raised eyebrows among local residents but it appears to be a combination that will attract listeners to the broadcasts. As Thomas put it "Between us, we have raised more hell in this town than ten political candidates and four rapists on Saturday night." Kilgo views the pairing as a good one. He said "We'll add some excitement. The last thing UNCC needs is a cliché broadcast team. We won't be because we don't know what we're doing." During the broadcasts Kilgo will handle the play-by-play while Thomas will do the color commentary.

WVFN, the campus radio station will carry the 49er games but will give the students an alternative in radio

Carolina Journal photo by David Wagoner



Jay Thomas and John Kilgo broadcasting UNCC basketball.

coverage. Henry Carrouth and John Edwards will handle the commentary and they plan to use a different approach to the broadcasts. As Carrouth put it, "We can't hope to compete with

WAYS on a community scale. We're two different types and we're aimed at the students. We'll be geared towards the students, the broadcasts will be student-oriented."

Carolina Journal photo by David Wagoner



Henry Carrouth announcing for WVFN.

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