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What the future holds for 49er athletics

By Ron Green

Most people think of Lee Rose as the man who, in his first year at UNCC, led his basketball team to a runnerup finish in the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) and placed the school in the national spotlight.

Certainly that is his most outstanding achievement in the 16 months since he came to UNCC, but Rose has also made great progress for the school as athletic director. The biggest of these accomplishments is aligning UNCC with the newly formed Sun Belt Athletic Conference.

Speaking about the conference, which includes Jacksonville, New Orleans, South Florida, Georgia Southern, South Alabama and UNCC, Rose said, "It's been a 14 month operation. We're trying to build a program. We don't have a solid one yet. We're experiencing growing pains in all areas. To me, the conference is another step in the right direction.

"There are many reasons we aligned with the institutions selected for the conference. They are all urban, state supported schools. They are all in major cities. They are all primarily basketball institutions; there is no football. Basketball is the dominant sport.

"Coupled with that," the silver haired Rose continued, "they all have certain financial limitations. All the teams had good basketball records and as independents were unable to establish a full complement of strong schedules. When conference teams get into conference play, they won't play independents. We understand this. It meant our schedule was not as desirable as we wanted.

"If we wanted to establish a basketball conference, we would pick Indiana, UCLA, North Carolina, Kentucky, Hawaii, Notre Dame and a few others. But we don't have that option.

"We have the option to stay where we are and play teams that we have to write historical novels about to tell the fans who they are.

"The conference gives us an identity and cohesiveness. It gives us a chance to get in the NCAA tournament. There is no way for us to get in like we were. The

"If we wanted to establish a basketball conference, we would pick Indiana, UCLA, North Carolina, Kentucky...But we don't have that option." — Head Basketball Coach Lee Rose.

bureaucracy of the NCAA will not permit it. It's not a great conference now but I think it will be."

Although basketball is the dominant sport in the new conference, it certainly is not the only one. There will be competition in several sports in the next year, such as soccer, golf and volleyball. In addition to the ten varsity programs currently in existence at UNCC, plans are being made for the addition of more.

According to a timetable drawn up by Rose, the school should have 17 varsity sports by 1981. Among these are softball, volleyball, gymnastics, wrestling and baseball.

Rose stresses that they are only targeted dates for the new sports. Rose said, "We've got to have four things to stay on the timetable. One, student interest. Two, there must be personnel available that want to get involved. Three, we must have the financing. Four, we

must have the facilities.

"You must remember we're still in the infancy of our program. When the time comes for these things, I hope we can do it."

To illustrate the problem at UNCC, Rose gave this example. "We have three varsity programs that need to use the gym, plus the PE classes and the intramural programs. We don't have enough room for them. You talk about adding programs, where can we put them?"

While most of the public attention is centered on the men's programs, the women's program at UNCC has increased at a tremendous rate. "The women's program has moved forward with tremendous improvement," Rose said. "We initiated a women's coordinator, Judy Wilkins, and hired an additional women's coach, Donna Freisen.

"We want to develop a total program. One that has depth and

breadth. When we inherited it, there was very little consideration given for the women's programs."

Rose feels the school has made large gains in all areas, not just athletics. He said, "One really major accomplishment has been to dilute or dissolve some of this implied inferiority which manifests itself in the minds of so many who attend other institutions. I don't mean just from an athletic standpoint. We have some great educational and cultural programs here.

"We're bridging the gap between the community and the university. It has taken on a new direction in two ways. The students to the community and the community to the university. It is a two way street. I've seen a much greater response both ways in the time I've been here.

"The leadership role in the community will be filled one day by UNCC grads. It takes time for young graduates to become solidly entrenched in a position of authority but it will happen.

"When that happens you'll see a complete change in the total scope of the university."

October 7

Congressional debate to be on campus

By Brad Rich

The upcoming debate between Ninth District Congressional candidates Arthur Goodman (Democrat), Jim Martin (Republican) and Harley Schlanger (Labor) "probably won't have any effect on the outcome of the election," said Dr. Bill McCoy of the political science department. "However," he continued, "it may cause some students who hadn't planned to vote to think, and get interested in this and other races."

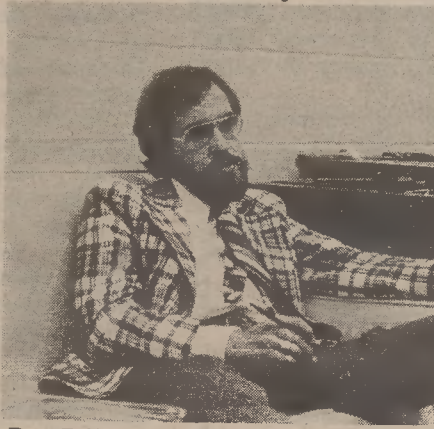
McCoy said the debates were set up by Attorney General Doug Lerner as an event that would interest student government and the student body as a whole. Since about 85 per cent of UNCC's students come from the Ninth Congressional District, the debate should spur interest in the election.

The debate format will be similar to that of the first Ford-Carter debate. A panel of three students, Jim Hill, Steve Kiser and Cheryl Furr, have been chosen to ask the candidates questions during the first part of the debate. The questions, which will have been reviewed for redundancy and bias, will be directed not at one particular candidate, but to all of them. Each candidate will be allowed a three minute response to the question, then the panelist may ask one followup question. The answer to the followup question will be limited to two minutes.

McCoy said, "The questions will address three main issues: domestic and economic policy, foreign policy and energy versus the environment." After the first half of the debate is completed, members of the audience will be allowed to ask questions of the candidates. "Pages (like the panelists, members of the North Carolina Student Legislature) will take the questions from the audience and review them before

Carolina Journal photo

by Susan Cole



Dr. Bill McCoy is the moderator for the debate.

handing them to the student panelists. The panelists will then ask the questions, which may be directed to any or all of the candidates," McCoy said.

McCoy cited a recent Charlotte Observer article as saying Martin had spent over five times as much money in the campaign as Goodman, and Schlanger had spent only a very minimal amount. McCoy said, "Though I haven't seen a poll, it is pretty common knowledge that Martin, being an incumbent, has a comfortable lead."

McCoy feels Martin's strategy in the debate will be, as President Ford did, to simply stand on his record. "Though there's not as much of an aura surrounding a North Carolina representative as there is around the President of the United States," McCoy said, "everyone knows he has served for some time and is an intelligent, bright person who is very articulate."

"Goodman," McCoy feels, "will need to pick out what he feels are some weak points of Martin's, such as his economic policy, or his support of Nixon down to the last straw."

Schlanger, on the other hand, will try to show that the other two candidates are traditional politicians, with traditional views. McCoy expects him to take a more national or international perspective, while Martin and Goodman will probably try to correlate issues to events in the Ninth Congressional District.

McCoy said some media coverage of the debate is planned. "Doug Lerner has been working with Ken Sanford, Director of Information, on that, and I think the only complete coverage will be by WSOC radio, who will tape it in its entirety and play it on the air. Others may cover the debate, but not completely. The only possible full coverage by television would be the educational station, but I haven't heard anything one way or the other," McCoy concluded.

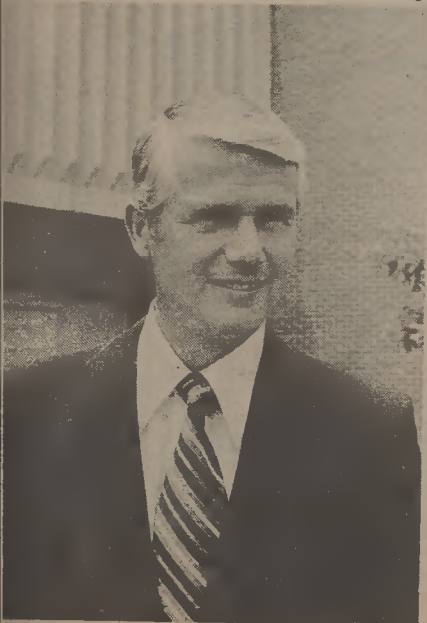
Photo courtesy of Goodman campaign



Arthur Goodman — Democratic candidate for the Ninth District Congressional seat.

Carolina Journal photo

by Lisa Laney



Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach Lee Rose is entering his second season with the 49ers.