

The Carolina Journal

The Student Newspaper Of The University Of North Carolina At Charlotte

April 11, 1978

Volume XIII; Number 24

Rose Goes: Pratt Takes Over

By James Braswell

No doubt you've heard. He's gone.

Lee Rose, the man mainly responsible for UNCC's athletic success, has left UNCC to become head basketball coach at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

And as the three year Rose era at UNCC ends, the Mike Pratt era begins. Pratt, one of Rose's two assistants at UNCC, was named head coach Friday morning at the same press conference used to announce Rose was leaving.

Assistant Coach Everett Bass, who played for Rose at Transylvania, (Ky.) College in the early 70's, mulled job offers from UNCC and Purdue all weekend before opting Sunday to go with Rose. No replacement had been named late Monday.

In Indiana Friday, Rose read a prepared statement that said in part: "My association with UNCC has been one of the most gratifying experiences in my coaching career. More important than coaching has been the cultivation of friends who have helped me in this phase of UNCC's young athletic program.

"The decision to go to Purdue has not been without great and thoughtful deliberation. Purdue offers a different type of challenge and one in which, professionally, I feel I should take on.

"Those in Charlotte, the University and surrounding communities who have been touched by our accomplishments will always remain very close to our hearts. Their understanding and sensitivity toward

this change makes a difficult transition easier.

"There are still many challenges and opportunities that face UNCC, and I call on all loyal supporters to rally behind it, the



Rose after First Union Tournament.

(photo by Geary Clarke)

athletic program, and your new head coach, Mike Pratt."

Rose was also Athletic Director at UNCC, a position now filled on an interim basis by former assistant athletic director Dave Taylor. Taylor asked not to be considered among the candidates for the permanent position because that he felt he lacked experience.

Taylor, a UNCC alumnus, became assistant athletic director last fall, and was previously sports information director. He said Friday that the new athletic director would not be chosen from the UNCC staff.

So, with a deep breath, UNCC takes Mike Pratt as its new head basketball coach. At the press conference, Pratt was introduced to a standing ovation.

"This kind of warm welcome," said Pratt, "makes it a little easier to try to fill the shoes that Lee left, which we know are very large."

Pratt said he felt he could cope with the pressure of the job; in fact, he said he didn't think there was any pressure. "I went to Kentucky and you've all read how much pressure there is there, and I've played in the ABA (American Basketball Association) championship which went to seven games. I think where I've been and what I've been involved in shows the kind of pressure I have to deal with. I feel there is no pressure (here)."

Pratt said he had the opportunity in the past to leave UNCC but chose not to



New head coach Mike Pratt.

(photo by Lisa Laney)

leave. "I think that shows what we (Pratt and his wife) think of Charlotte."

The new head coach was optimistic about recruiting, despite the coaching change, and said he and Rose would work together on advising which players that they had contacted to go to which school.

Pratt talked about next year's schedule and said that UNCC's home schedule would be larger. He said the 49ers would open against Mississippi and Texas Tech at home. Pratt also said that Rose had told him Purdue would play UNCC as soon as there was room in the Boilermakers schedule.

About That Headline...

By Brad Rich

You try so hard, but things still don't work out.

We worked two extra days on the newspaper last week, honestly trying to put out an issue that would have eight pages of humor and four pages of reality — and a mistake at our printer turned one of the "serious" pages into a joke as well.

You see, the machine that prints our headlines had gone on the blink for the umpteenth millionth time, and we had to write the headlines above the articles and ask the printer to fill them in. Most of 'em they did all right, but the crucial one, the lead article on the real front page (the back page) was a disaster.

It should have read "Springs to Face Hall in Runoff," but somehow it got mangled into "Springs Runoff To Face Face Hall In."

To Jeff Hall and Larry Springs, the two presidential candidates who obviously had an interest in the articles, we are very sorry. Hopefully, both of you guys, who we regard as good friends, realize that we weren't trying to make you

look like idiots. We've got a lot of respect for both of you and would never make fun of your efforts to win the presidency.

Colvard Trapped, Roasted In Cone Center:

By Nancy Davis

It was a meeting of friends, colleagues and wit as over 200 people gathered to pay tribute to Chancellor D.W. Colvard with a roast. Sponsored by the UNCC Kappa Sigma fraternity, the roast was originally planned just to honor Colvard, but with his retirement announcement, the plans for the roast became even more appropriate.

Starting things off on a "roasting" note was Colvard's hour spent stuck in the elevator of the Cone University Center. With an array of mechanics and other lending hands, television cameras gathered to cover the escape of the chancellor. He received a standing ovation as he entered the Lucas Room where the guests were already eating.

Master of Ceremonies Ty Boyd introduced the first roaster, UNCC Board of Trustees Chairman C.C. Cameron. Cameron told the audience they were present to honor a man highly respected by the faculty, staff, students, alumni and community but was sorry Terry Sanford couldn't come. He also said that when asked whether it bothered her that Colvard was often heard to chase after the girls on campus, Martha Colvard answered that her dogs chased cars, too, but they couldn't drive them.

With that, student roaster Nancy Davis began her roast by saying, "Well, I'm here

to tell you that man can drive," and went on to kid Colvard about his relationships with the girls on campus. Lois Lies, personnel employee in the Chancellor's office had a heyday with Colvard. She said that once she heard UNC President William Friday ask Colvard, "Give me the ratio of your staff broken up by sex" to which Colvard replied, "I can't, alcoholism is our problem."

The night was full of laughter and good jokes on the chancellor. Other speakers were Dr. Alfred O. Cannon, president of Queens College; Harry Dalton; Dr. Loy H. Witherspoon, Chase W. Idol; past Charlotte Mayor John Belk; David Taylor; Dr. Dan L. Morrill, and Mayor Ken Harris.

There were jokes about his golf game, his playing second fiddle to the basketball team, and his wife, Martha. But throughout the entire evening, the chancellor laughed with it all. Even though he was able to get even at the end of the roast, the chancellor instead took time to show his appreciation to those who came to honor him.

Proceeds from the fund raising dinner will be given to the Colvard Merit Scholarship Fund. High praise from the chancellor, participants, and other UNCC officials was given to Marc Isaacs, coordinator of the roast and to the Kappa Sigma fraternity for their fine idea and hard work.



**Larry
Springs
Elected
Pres.**

The Vote:

Springs 369

Hall 199

See Page 3