

# Senior guard Winston has enjoyed UNCC

By Gary Nelson

Jerry Winston hails from Jersey City, New Jersey and is a senior at UNCC. During the past four years, Winston has seen a lot of growth at UNCC, both in athletics and academics.

His family includes a brother, James, who graduated from William Patterson University last May with a degree in accounting. His sister, Deborah, is currently enrolled at William Patterson University and his youngest sister, Yvette, is a junior in high school.

Winston states his motivation to attend college was spurred not only through athletic recruitment his senior year in high school but also through strong encouragement from his



Jerry Winston.

mother who emphasized very strongly that high school is not enough — a college degree is required to be successful in today's job market. However, Winston will not deny recruitment from various universities made the prospect of college much more enticing.

Winston is majoring in history and plans to combine that degree with coaching basket-



Senior Jerry Winston may see more playing time this season. Here, Winston drives against South Alabama.

ball, either on a junior high or high school level.

He really has no inclination towards professional basketball, stating in his opinion the pros have taken the fun out of the game.

In his spare time, which is limited during the season, he enjoys playing any type of sport as well as backgammon with friend Kevin King. He also enjoys the relaxing atmosphere of parties and concerts.

Winston noted in the past four years at UNCC, he has noted a dramatic increase in national recognition of the university. He attributes a part of this to the basketball image which has continually grown while at UNCC and commented that on visits home people are well aware of UNCC.

Winston feels the team looks very good this year and noted, in his opinion, the overpowering feeling of teamwork and cooperation among the players.

Part of that feeling can be attributed to Pratt, who Winston states has, through his style of coaching, promoted and nurtured teamwork. According to Winston, Pratt relies on the entire team, rather than any one particular individual.

Winston, who plans to graduate in May, said he has had no regrets of coming to UNCC and the south and in fact if a good job opportunity comes along, he just might stay.

## Freshman Matt Houpt should add outside scoring

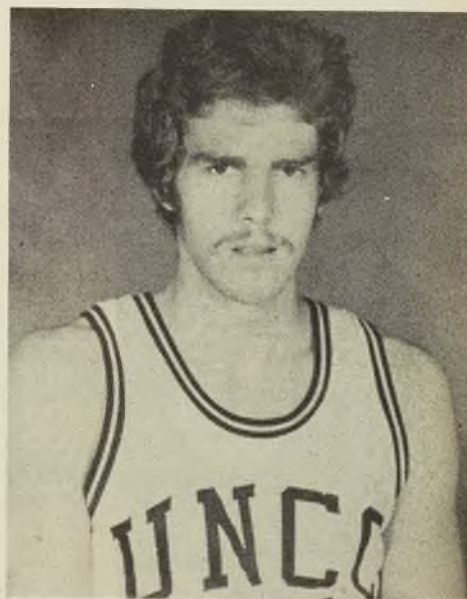
By Marty Tilley

As a freshman recruit, Matt Houpt has continuously shot baskets in from the top of the circle during a recent basketball practice; it became evident this man was the kind of player UNCC coach Mike Pratt wanted to play guard.

Houpt, a 6-5, 190 pound freshman from Danville, Ill. should provide the UNCC basketball team with an outside scoring punch along with a strong defensive game. Houpt was Mike Pratt's second signee for the upcoming season.

For the most part, Matt Houpt can be described as unheralded player in high school. In a recent interview with Houpt, he stated, "The team and myself were not given much publicity at all." Houpt did have an excellent three year stint with Danville High School, despite the lack of publicity. During the last two years with Danville, he averaged 20 points and six rebounds per game. He later led his high school team to the Illinois state playoffs.

Houpt gained many honors as a prepster. After leading Danville to the state playoffs, Houpt made one of some 24 teams that were competing in the Akron Classic in Ohio. These



Matt Houpt.

teams came from many parts of the country that competed in this postseason tournament.

Out of 200 prep stars, including 25 All-Americans, Houpt averaged 18 points in three games with a Chicago team. He was also selected among the top 10 players in that event. Houpt was also invited along with many high school All-Americans to participate in the fourth annual Illinois Basketball Coaches Association All-Star game. In this game, he scored 14 points and won the

south squad's most valuable player award with only 23 minutes of playing time.

As a person off the basketball court, Houpt can be described as an easy-going, quiet and shy person. His main interests include basketball, girls, music and being an all-around person — a mark of maturity. For the most part, Houpt seems to enjoy life at UNCC. He's very anxious for the Mean Green basketball season to get underway and hopes he can contribute to the team's effort.



Jerry Winston pulls up for a jump shot in a recent scrimmage.