Lady 49ers — They

One night cheers; one night tears

By Nancy Davis

It was a night the Lady 49ers may not want to remember, but one Coach Judy Wilkins won't let her team forget. After a solid victory over Elon College not 24 hours before at Elon, UNCC looked like a different team against N.C. State. UNCC player Brenda Brown was hot in the game against Elon, not to mention a strong game from Paula Bennett, but all efforts seemed to fail with State.

UNCC's 86-75 victory over Elon seems unimportant when compared to their 112-43 loss to the Wolfpack. There was not just a large difference in scores, but an even larger difference in teams. Elon was definitely the more important game, with UNCC chalking up their first conference win. But importance is irrelevant when a nationally ranked team, hailing an All-American and three starters over six feet, doesn't let you play your own game.

In the Elon game, Brown scored a game high 25 points, along with Bennett's 24 and Kim Fox's 20. To add to their excellence on the boards, Fox and Bennett also had 11 rebounds each. The team was sharp, keying in on Elon's mistakes and playing up their poor defense, by letting Brown score, usually from over 25 feet out.

Two nights were spent at the H&R Block Women's Basketball Thanksgiving Tripleheader, hosted by Elon College, and UNCC seemed thankful when it was all over. It didn't take State long to pull ahead. From the beginning, it was a different kind of ballgame than UNCC's players had played before. The height made rebounding a struggle and State's man-to-man caused too many errors, mental and physical.

After halftime, with the 49ers trailing 45-20, one UNCC player was asked when coming back from the locker room, whether her coach was upset or not? "Upset? Look at the scoreboard and tell me she ain't upset."

The second half showed no mercy. NCSU had a 116 point record they were trying to break and an All-American whose average they were trying to keep up. Rotating players in and out, Kay Yow, the NCSU coach, kept her starters playing. She played the bench heavily, but when the bench consists of 12 full scholarships, everyone had a chance to show off.

On the other side of the scoreboard, UNCC was still cheering at the turnovers and yelling for the rebounds, but there was nothing to raise their voices over when it came to scoring. The 49ers just couldn't set up to score or break the State defense to get the ball inside. Nothing can be said about State not doing defense to get the ball inside. Nothing can be said about State not doing defense to get the ball inside. Nothing can be said about State not doing their homework either. They carefully scouted UNCC the night before and therefore kept Brown from shooting her outside shots that had been so successful the night before.

Why does a coach schedule a game like this for her team? One must keep in mind UNCC has just moved up to a new Division II schedule and wam-bam, plays a nationally ranked team, a sure upset, right off. Wilkins knew what she was getting into, but didn't think the spread would be so much. "I don't have a lot of respect for a coach that runs up the score . . . It's not something I do . . . but it's happened to me before." The score wasn't the only thing, though. According to Wilkins, "State kept us from playing our game."

It was easy to see. The team knew it as did most of the loyal 49er followers. UNCC had met their match and had to hang in there for dear life. For several gloomy hours afterwards, the win over Elon didn't look so good and the prospects of coming back and starting all over at home didn't help ease the pain. Wilkins still believes that "on any given night, a team can beat any other basketball team."

With a team as new, yet as impressive as UNCC, they're in store for many nights of their own.

. . . It takes practice, too

By Teresa Skipper

For some time now, there have been rumors the women's basketball team has been literally running their butts off. According to some players, last season they were sometimes made to run for punishment. As one player commented, "We just ran and ran and ran." Some players said they think running seven days a week is too much, and by the end of the season many of the girls feel burned out. Another problem expressed by other team members is feeling they are running too many drills, and not scrimmaging enough.

This season, however, many of the women say they are able to talk to Coach Judy Wilkins about their problems and are understanding her rigid running practices. The players know top conditioning is a must since the team does not have a lot of height and must rely on their quickness instead. One player, speaking for the entire team, said they've begun to realize all of the running may give them an advantage during a long game. The man-to-man defense the team uses also requires a great deal of conditioning.

Wilkins tries to "develop quickness with stop and start sprints," which she says are important. The girls run layups, suicides, wind sprints and figure eights.

Even with all the running she requires, Wilkins feels it is not enough to make any of the women quit. At the beginning of the year Wilkins tells her players they must learn to run the mile in seven minutes, and suicides in 30 seconds.

The practices are not easy. For that reason, not only do the players condition year round, they also specifically begin preparing themselves for basketball season months in advance. The training requirements for any sport are usually much rougher than they sound. There are days when the women come walking out of the gym looking pale and almost lifeless. But both the team and coach hope there will be games they'll be leaving which they'll be celebrating and excited because they won.

Laurie Livingston — As a 5-9 center, she has very good defensive skills, but according to her coach, needs some work on offense. As Wilkins said, "Laurie is 100 percent on defense, a very good player, but needs to work on her offense."

Theresa Herlevson — The 5-5 second year cager, like Payne, has adept defensive senses but also needs work in the area of court awareness. Her first year on the team showed a 2.3 points per game and 1.1 rebound average, a mark that will improve this year.

Michelle Roberts — At 5-8, Roberts stands to be the most accurate shooter on the team so far this year. "Michelle is a natural shooter," Wilkins sighted. Roberts needs to work on her speed and reactions but should be well on her way by the time the season rolls in.

Laura Green — Coming straight from volleyball, Green is a starter for Wilkins. Although her performance at the basket is somewhat inconsistent, her ballhandling is superb. She's quick on her feet as well and is able to get down court in a hurry.

Terri Hemphill — Probably the quickest member of the team so far, the 5-6 sophomore forward has excellent speed and agility. One of the big advantages in her favor is her passing ability.

Women's

NOVEMBER
- 24 — At Elon, 9 p.m.
- 25 — N.C. State, 9 p.
- 29 — METHODIST, C

DECEMBER
- 2 — WINSTON-SALEM
- 6 — At UNC-A, 5:30 p
- 9 — LENOIR RHYNE,

JANUARY
- 8 — DAVIDSON, Colis
- 12 — At Radford, 5:3
- 13 — At Virginia Tech
- 16 — At Mars Hill, 6 p
- 18 — At Wingate, 7 p.
- 22 — COKER, Mine Sh
- 23 — N.C. A&T, Colis
- 27 — UNC-A, Mine Sh
- 30 — CATAWBA, Coli

FEBRUARY
- 1 — At Catawba, 7 p.
- 3 — WINGATE, Mine S
- 6 — At Lenoir Rhyne,
- 8-10 — INVITATIONAL Mine Shaft, TBA
- 12 — At Pembroke, 7:
- 15 — MARS HILL, Col
- 19 — NCAIAW Tourna
- 22-24 — NCAIAW Tourn

Patricia Payn guard and only 5-3 sive credits but nee of court awareness in a great deal of pl and her experience the team.

Robbin Eudy nent — Eudy is a is Tennent. The 5 nating at the guard and Tennnet is a 5 improved over last and were steady previous seasons should help pace th in the ballgame, ho Wilkins is making quickness. Both sh this coming season