

The Carolina Journal

The Student Newspaper of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Volume XIV, Number 24

Charlotte, North Carolina

February 8, 1979

Lady 49ers prepare for first tourney

By Nancy Davis

The UNCC Lady 49ers are preparing for their first invitational tournament which starts tonight. Not only are they playing in the tournament, they're also hosting it. UNCC began planning for the First Invitational Sun Belt Tournament last year and will have five schools including themselves participating in the event.

The four other Sun Belt schools include the University of New Orleans, Georgia State University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of South Florida. Alabama will gain official membership into the Sun Belt Conference this year.

The Lady 49ers will be coming into the tournament after a disappointing 67-57 loss to Lenoir Rhyne. Coach Judy Wilkins doesn't think this will hurt the women, however. "We should be ready . . . the morale was up for this game against Lenoir Rhyne and is still up for the tournament."

Wilkins is not looking forward to their first game in the tournament. The Georgia State team is ma tough one, recently beating Division I UNC-Chapel Hill. Georgia State will play New Orleans on Thursday night and is UNCC's probable opponent in their 9 p.m. game on Friday.

The Lady 49ers had a surge of "easy" wins before going into the Lenoir Rhyne game and was faced with a lot of imbalanced shooting. The practices before the tournament will be spent working on their inside shot, a weakness against Lenoir Rhyne. A tournament championship against these Sun Belt teams would help the Lady 49ers in their bid for a state championship.

Just as soon as the women finish this tournament, the state tournament will be staring them in the face. As they come down the home stretch in their season, UNCC will be facing two strong opponents, Pembroke and

Mars Hill. A win in both of these games could put the women in better position for tournament pairings.

Wilkins said she felt her team would go into the tournament ranked fourth in the state. Even though she would be paired up against one of the lower ranked teams in the first round, it could put them against the number one team, High Point, sooner than desired. High Point, the defending state champions and predicted national champions this year, have an outstanding season, recently beating highly ranked Pfeiffer College by more than 30 points.

This is UNCC's first time in a state championship, although tournaments are becoming a familiar subject in the women's athletic department. The

UNCC women's volleyball team won the state championship crown this fall in an upset over Methodist College. But even if the 49ers don't win the state championship, two schools will represent North Carolina in the regionals.

The excitement will really begin this weekend. The first game of the Sun Belt Tournament will be at 9 p.m. after the men's game against UNC-Wilmington. Students can get in on a student ticket. The Wilmington game will begin at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m.

Admission into the other tournament games is 50 cents for students and \$2 for adults. Students must have their ID. Wilkins said all the teams are on their way, even though



Kim Fox is eager to get into the game.

weather cancelled the banquet scheduled for Wednesday night.



Inhabitants of the duck pond don't seem to mind the snow as much as they mind the snowballs wielded by the students.
See story page 2

Cut in aid won't affect student loans

By Kathy Espin

Money available for National Direct Student Loans will increase as much as five to 20 percent next year in spite of President Jimmy Carter's 80 percent cut in student aid.

Student Financial Services Director Curtis Whalen, said the budget for the school year 1979-80 was set during fiscal 1979. "I don't think there will be a significant decrease in funds for next year," Whalen said. "Funds come from the government and from loans that are repaid. This reduction will be offset because colleges will be cracking down on past due loans."

Whalen said he expects a signifi-

cant increase in available money for 1979-80 and expects 1980-81 to be about the same. He expects to get notice of tentative awards in the next week or 10 days and plans to notify the student body on the status of financial aid through a series of articles in the *Carolina Journal* beginning around Feb. 19. "Right now, we are very optimistic about this year's award," Whalen said.

Federal grants and loans are available to any student who can show need. Interested students can pick a financial aid application in the Student Financial Aid office in the basement of the Atkins tower. Applications are due May 1, 1979.