

The Daily Tar Heel

SPORTS

Larry Cheek, Sports Editor

The Tar Heels: They Did The Impossible

Back on Dec. 1, Carolina basketball coach Frank McGuire sounded a warning that his team would probably lose four or five games during the upcoming season. On March 1, just three short months later, the final returns were in. Twenty four won, none lost.

Coach Frank McGuire and his Tar Heels had somehow done the impossible. They had swept through a rugged conference and interconference schedule without a loss, despite a swarm of minor personnel setbacks that would have felled many a lesser team.

The season was full of thrills, scares, and downright breath-taking escapes that left partisan Tar Heel rooters walking in circles. And worst of all, the season isn't over yet.

That nebulous thing called a "regular" season has been officially concluded, and the Tar Heels are undisputed kings of both the Atlantic Coast Conference and the nation. But despite their 14-0 conference mark and their 24-0 record overall, they are only now opening their real season, they are only now beginning to play the games that mean something.

Tomorrow night, that 14-0 record goes out the window when the ACC tourney opens in Raleigh. For to reign as official kings, the proud Tar Heels must win the tournament championship.

Then if they win the tourney, they advance to a playoff game against the Ivy League champ in New York City to see who gets into the NCAA regional tournament in Philadelphia.

In Philadelphia, they must win two more games to qualify for the finals in Kansas City. And in Kansas City, they finally get a chance to prove their right to the golden crown signifying the National Collegiate Basketball championship.

Now add them up, and you get a grand total of 8 games. One slip, and you're out for good.

Let's Throw Out The Tournament

The last five games are perhaps justified, although we don't believe in loading the NCAA tourney field with several mediocre teams. But the first three are totally unnecessary, for the Tar Heels have undisputedly proved their right to the ACC championship by going through the regular season unbeaten.

The conference tournament is being held for one reason only: money. By putting on the gala three day show, the ACC takes in a pretty nifty sum, and it's hard to blame them for wanting to continue the tournament. But if Carolina gets knocked out of an NCAA tournament berth, the present system of determining a champion will be subjected to heavy fire.

Of course if the Tar Heels win, and we think they will, there's no problem. At least there isn't one as far as getting into the NCAA playoffs is concerned. But they must play their first game on next Tuesday night after going through a rigorous three days of intense competition on the preceding weekend.

The letdown will be tremendous, as other ACC teams, notably State, have found out in the past. State had a fine team last year, but lost in the NCAA first round to Canisius. They were dead on their feet after the strenuous ACC tournament.

The same thing could happen to Carolina this year, or to any one else who might happen to win the conference title. The ACC is literally committing NCAA suicide by holding the tournament. Perhaps someday the powers that be will wake up and do something about a deplorable situation.

Tar Heels Should Win Crown

As for this year's tourney which begins tomorrow, it should be a good one. Carolina, Clemson, State and Wake Forest are in one bracket, while Duke, South Carolina, Maryland and Virginia are in the other.

The Tar Heels were favored by the luck of the draw. Clemson, their first round opponent, is at the present time the weakest club in the conference, and should provide little competition.

Friday night the job gets tougher with either State or Wake Forest furnishing the opposition. These two play the final game tomorrow night, and the winner may still be in a mild state of shock when they go against the mighty Tar Heels.

If the Tar Heels survive their semifinal test, they will probably meet either Duke or Maryland in the championship game. And either of these teams can be trouble.

Our guess is Clemson in the quarter-finals, Wake Forest in the semis, and Duke in the finals. And Saturday night, Captain Lennie Rosenbluth and his UNC teammates will reign as ACC kings.

John Antonelli Figures To Be 20 Tilt Winner

By JERRY LISKA
PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — Although uncoupling his talented left arm for a second-division club, John Antonelli this year figures to be a 20-game winner for the third time in four New York Giant seasons.

Giant manganer Bill Rigney today said his ace hurler may even be headed for a 25 or better victory year, although Rigney may have his problems trying to improve the Giants' sixth place finish in 1956.

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Rigney said Antonelli, who turns 27 April 19, still is heading for a pitching peak.

"Just stop and realize," said Rigney, "that until late August last season the Giants made as many as four runs in a game only twice for Johnny."

"There is no reason Johnny can't hit 25 or 30 victories in a season."

Tickets On Sale

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UNC On Top By Wide Margin

Tar Heels Dominate AP Poll

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The North Carolina Tar Heels will have three major objectives in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship basketball tournament which gets under way Thursday in Raleigh, N. C.

They are not necessarily in order of importance:

1. To gain an NCAA berth by winning the tournament.

2. To continue an unbeaten season in which they've won 24 games.

3. To remain on top in the Associated Press weekly poll of sportswriters and sportscasters.

The Tar Heels got a huge vote of confidence from the nation's experts in the season's next-to-last poll based on games through last Saturday.

Collecting 55 first place votes and 711 points, they held a comfortable margin over the runner-up Kansas Jayhawks, who got only eight firsts and 605 points on the usual basis of 10 points for first place, 9 for second, etc. The Tar Heels meet Clemson in a first round game of the ACC title competition Thursday night.

The next three positions re-

main unchanged with Kentucky in third place with 476 points, Southern Methodist fourth with 399 and Seattle fifth with 331. Seattle, 22-2 for the year, drew five votes for first place from the 76 who participated.

The most notable advances made by Michigan State and Oklahoma City with the Spartans, unranked last week, moving into the No. 8 position, and OCU jumping eight notches to 10th. These two replaced Bradley, which fell to 13th, and Indiana, loser last week to Michigan and Michigan State. The Hoosiers are unranked this week.

Louisville moved up two places to sixth on the strength of victories over DePaul and Toledo. UCLA which lost twice fell one place to seventh. Vanderbilt remained in the No. 9 spot.

West Virginia heads the second ten, followed by St. Louis, Bradley, California, Idaho State and Oklahoma A&M. California, which leads the Pacific Coast Conference was unranked last week.

The season's final poll will be released next week.

The top 10 teams with first

place votes and won-lost records through Saturday, March 2 in parentheses (points on a 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 basis):

1. UNC (55) (24-0) 711
2. Kansas (8) (29-2) 605
3. Kentucky (1) (22-4) 476
4. SMU (1) (21-3) 399
5. Seattle (5) (22-2) 331
6. Louisville (1) (20-5) 194
7. UCLA (21-4) 188
8. Michigan State (14-7) 122
9. Vanderbilt (17-5) 115
10. Oklahoma City (2) (17-8) 101

SECOND TEN

11. West Virginia (22-4) 86
12. St. Louis (1) (18-7) 83
13. Bradley (19-5) 80
14. California (18-4) 72
15. Idaho State (24-2) 64
16. Okla. A&M (16-8) 63
17. Iowa State (16-6) 54
18. Miss. State (17-8) 47
19. Memphis State (21-5) 39
20. Wake Forest (18-8) 37

St. Peter's (NJ) received two first place votes.

Lemon Looks For Rough Year

TUCSON, Ariz. — (AP) — Bob Lemon of the Cleveland Indians believes this season will be the toughest in years for any American League pitcher to win 20 games.

"The race is going to be closer," the big right hander predicted today. "Detroit and Boston are better. So are other clubs. You aren't going to see two or three teams

get far ahead of the rest. This year it will be dog eat dog."

The fact he can become the third pitcher in American League history to be a 20-game winner eight times doesn't seem to make any difference to Lemon. Only Walter Johnson and Bob Grove have done it.

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BUT TAR HEELS GO UNBEATEN

Gamecocks And Terps Win Statistics Titles

GREENSBORO — (AP) — South Carolina and Maryland apparently have sewed up the offensive and defensive team titles in Atlantic Coast Conference basketball for 1957, but unbeaten North Carolina nevertheless has sound statistical proof of why it was able to complete its regular season without a defeat.

South Carolina has an offensive average of 82.7 points after scoring 113 against Clemson Saturday night, with the Tar Heels second at 80.3. Maryland's average point yield is 60.3 points, compared to the 63.0 of Wake Forest and the 65.5 of North Carolina.

But the Tar Heels according to latest regular-season compilations by the ACC Scoring Bureau, boast an average scoring margin of 14.8 points a game over the opposition, while the Gamecocks have managed to outscore the opposition only 4.5 points a game and Maryland 4.1.

South Carolina also leads team rebound average with 51 a game, but North Carolina boasts an average margin of 11.1 rebounds a game over opposition, easily best in the league.

In field goal shooting, the race is so close between four teams it will take the championship tournament to decide the season win-

ner. Tournament games count in final tabulations since they are part of the season.

N. C. State is No. 1 from the floor with an accuracy mark of 43.8 per cent. But close behind are Wake Forest 43.5, North Carolina 43.3 and Maryland 42.9. Other FG percentages are Virginia 41.8, South Carolina 41.4, Clemson 40.3 and Duke 38.6.

Wake Forest at 74 per cent accuracy tops the free throw shooting division, with Clemson the only close challenger at 73.4 per cent. Trailing are Maryland 71.3, North Carolina 70.8, South Carolina 70.1, Duke 68.4, Virginia 67.8 and N. C. State 66.9.

N. C. State and Clemson have averaged the most personal fouls, 19.4 a game, while Maryland is tops in personal foul avoidance with only 16.4 personals a game.

Initiation Ceremonies

The Monogram Club will hold formal initiation ceremonies tomorrow night for 32 new members. Chancellor Robert B. House will speak at 8 p.m. President John Bilich has urged all club members to be on hand at 7:30 p.m.

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