

The Last Game

By CURRY KIRKPATRICK
(Special to DTH)

The one with the pink legs and the baby face goes about 220 and he came out running.

He is six foot five and a half inches or something tall, left-handed, and he wore this blue wool warmup suit with number 32 uniform underneath and he came out running.

This baby face guy from Brooklyn with freckles and strawberry blond hair who always keeps his mouth open in some sort of bewilderment bounced the blue and white basketball and then smashed it through a rim and yesterday in Woollen Gym he came out running for the last time.

Billy Cunningham wanted to go out of this place like all the great ones go out of here, a winner.

They have had some great ones, some winners, around here. But don't tell me they could do the things this one with the pink legs and the blank expression can do.

For his freshman year which spread to two seasons and his three years up here in big-time city, nobody touched this kid when he was right. And yesterday Billy Cunningham wanted to be so right, it hurt.

After the freshman game Friday night it was there. The games, even the shots a long time ago, were all remembered. And then yesterday morning he woke up and it him him, hard.

"When we go up those steps I know it is going to be different," he was saying two hours before the last game. "I'm going to get this funny feeling in my body. I just know it."

"I want to go out in style. With my head up. I want to win. This is a perfect game to finish. Duke. I want to beat Duke, the points don't mean anything."

He remembered two years ago when another of the great ones went out over in Durham. He went out big, 40 points, the whole bit, and destroyed this North Carolina team. It was the way the great ones should go out, and he had black hair, the classic features, and every move you ever saw on a basketball court including some that didn't belong.

This Cunningham has been the same way. And yesterday he wanted to go out big, the way the one in Durham did two years ago.

"That would be real great," he was saying before. "Duke. This can be so perfect. It means so much. I'll miss this old gym. It's gone so fast. I wish there was more time."

"It really is perfect," said Billy Cunningham. "Duke. It's good that it's Duke. People have been so nice to me here. I want to go out of here in style."

When they look at yesterday a long time from now they will say that this number 32 with the pink legs and the moves who is always working with the St. Christopher medal around his neck went out of this place in style. With the head up.

He went out with 25 points and 16 rebounds. He went out with assists and blocked shots and some of those beautiful jumps that bring gasps. And he walked out of here with seven seconds left in the last game, the roars spreading and falling like an avalanche.

"Yeah this was a good way to finish it," he said afterwards. "Perfect. We beat Duke. I got off pretty quick. I looked up and saw we had it. I got off quick. I didn't want to be mobbed." Billy Cunningham laughed. "At least we closed this place off in style."

They have the guy, Bill Bradley, up at Princeton who is Jack Armstrong and Superivy and the next Woodrow Wilson and everything, and he plays this game better than anybody around.

But no Bradley could have given this place in the last three years more interest and color in its basketball than this left-hander with the baby face and the number 32 uniform has done.

He left the court in January 1962 after his last freshman game and got a hand they reserve for the great ones. Even then they didn't know what was coming. They knew yesterday.

Yesterday Billy Cunningham walked away on his pink legs, the warmup uniform and the towels left on the floor. He walked out of this place for the last time and he was through with it.

It was the end for Billy Cunningham. It meant the end for a lot of us.

Terp Swimmers Capture Another Conference Title

Maryland closed with a rush to win the ACC Swimming Championship, finishing 14 points ahead of second-place North Carolina.

The Terrapins and Tar Heels were tied, 104-104, with four events to go, but three places in each of the 100-yard butterfly and backstroke and two in the three-meter diving Saturday gave Maryland enough points to overcome a UNC first in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Host Maryland had 142.5 points, while runner-up UNC had 128.5 and N. C. State 100.

The relay victory was the only first place finish for the Blue Dolphins in Friday and Saturday's action.

Team Standings (final):
Maryland 142.5, UNC 128.5, NC State 100, Duke 21, Wake Forest 14, South Carolina 8, Virginia 4, Clemson 3.

Friday's Results

200-yd. Butterfly: 1. White (NCS); 2. Dunphey (M); 3. Gavanaghan (NCS); 4. Lipp (UNC); 5. Rebillard (M); 6. Adams (UNC); 1:59.0

200-yd. Backstroke: 1. Wirth (NCS); 2. Phillips (M); 3. Hayden (UNC); 4. Smiley (UNC); 5. Lessin (M); 6. Gray (M); 2:00.6

200-yd. Freestyle: 1. Nullmeyer (M); 2. Merrill (UNC); Roberts (UNC); 4. Sheldon (UNC); 5. Sleeper (UNC); 6. Gray (M); 1:47.8

200-yd. Individual Medley: 1. White (NCS); 2. Phillips (M); 3. Hayden (UNC); 4. Hildenbrand (UNC); 5. Forum (UNC); 6. Beatty (M) 2:06.2

Saturday's Results

1650-yd. Freestyle: 1. Gava-

ghan (NCS); 2. Sheldon (UNC); 3. Hildenbrand (UNC); 4. Danielson (NCS); 5. Lipp (UNC); 6. McGreen (NCS) 18:15.0

100-yd. Freestyle: 1. Denkevitz (M); 2. Worthen (UNC); 3. Merrill (UNC); 4. Nullmeyer (M); 5. Burwell (D); 6. Roberts (UNC) 47.9

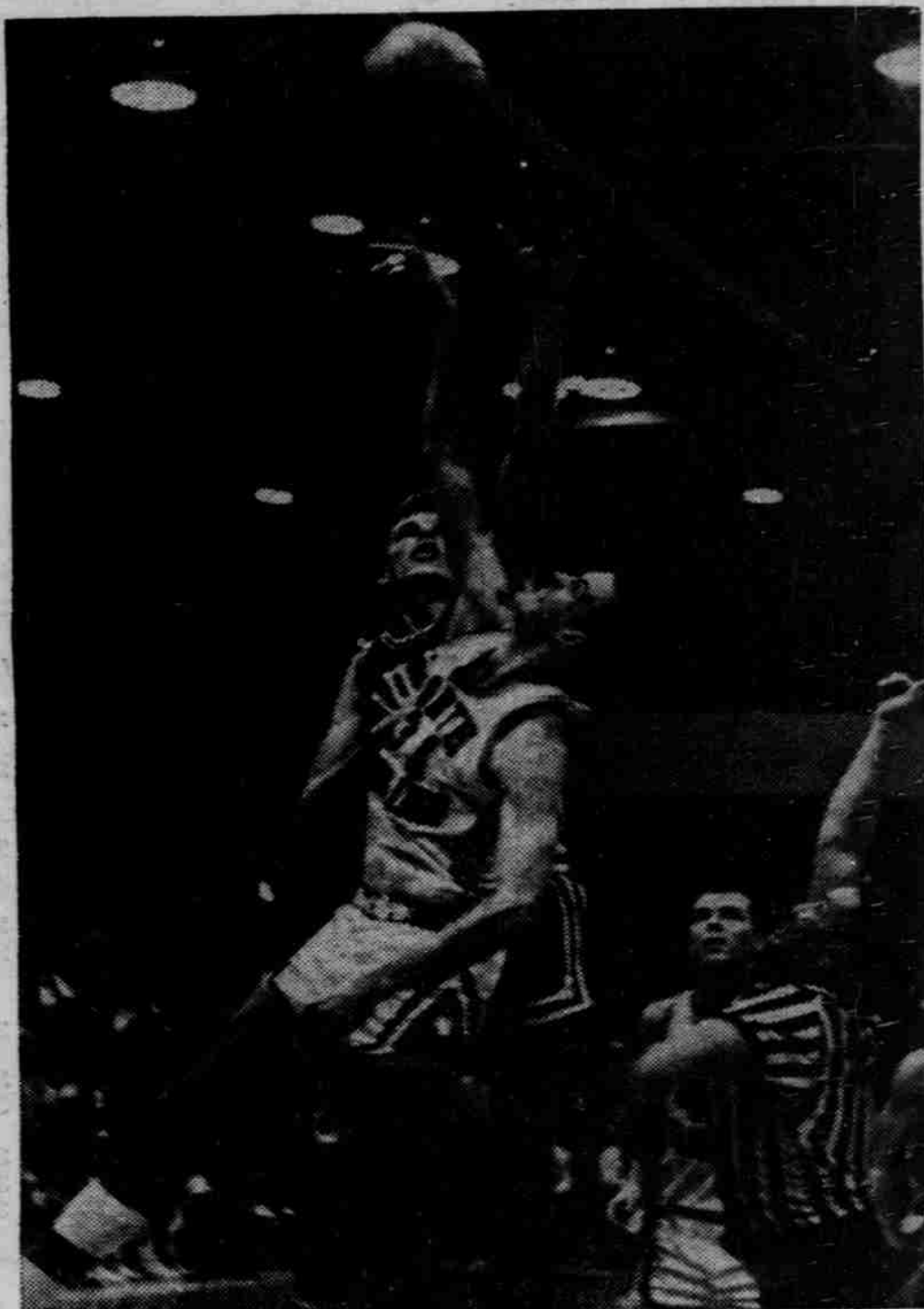
100-yd. Breaststroke: 1. Doheny (M); 2. Forum (UNC); 3. Hilligas (NCS); 4. Small (NCS); 5. Bondy (M); 6. Green (M) 1:03.3

100-yd. Backstroke: 1. Wirth (NCS); 2. Phillips (M); 3. Hayden (UNC); 4. Gray (M); 5. Smiley (UNC); 6. Lesson (M) :51.4

100-yd. Butterfly: 1. White (NCS); 2. Dunphey (M); 3. Rebillard (M); 4. (Tie) Lipp (UNC) and Manfredy (M); 6. Adams (UNC); :53.3

3-Meter Diving: 1. Taylor (WF); 2. Livermore (M); 3. Broadhurst (NCS); 4. McCaslin (M); 5. Jones (NCS); 6. Moody (UNC);

400-yd. Freestyle Relay: 1. UNC (Worthen, Hildenbrand, Merrill, Roberts); 2. Maryland; 3. Duke; 4. NC State; 5. South Carolina; 6. Virginia.



UNC'S BOB BENNETT (6-8) controls the tip against Duke's 6-11 Hack Tison in first half action of yesterday's 71-66 win for the Tar Heels. The win assured the Tar Heels of at least a tie for second place. —Photo by Jock Lauterer

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