

# Dennis Sanders

## At 5-9, He Had To Work

RALEIGH — If you want to play street basketball, as they call it in the North, you must play the game well. The competition is keen for the few courts available during the day or at night, and the "big boys"—the taller, stronger, faster boys—are the ones who run the courts.

"You cannot play street basketball," the big boys told Nick Trifunovich. "You're too small."

That would have been enough to dull the enthusiasm of many athletes, but Nick Trifunovich, a 5-9, 170-pound guard at N. C. State, is not just any athlete.

Because he isn't just any athlete, Trifunovich was allowed to play street basketball. But he had to work for it. He had to develop spring in his legs; he had to develop a good jump shot; and he had to learn to handle the ball.

Because when you're only 5-9 and 170 pounds, you have to work for the right to play.

## "I Learned To Win . . ."

That's what Trifunovich did. He developed superior ball-handling talents to upset the big boys. "Big players in street ball used to get upset when they couldn't steal the ball from a little player like me," he said. "And I liked to upset them."

"I worked harder, developed spring in my legs and played against a lot of good college players."

Several of those players were former State stars Pete Auksel, George Stepanovich and Vic Molodet, and they talked Trifunovich into N. C. State over the likes of Davidson, Virginia schools, Montana State and Florida. Ironically, his new coach, Norm Sloan, tried to recruit the chunky guard when he was coaching at Florida.

The warm Southern climate helped, also: "I wanted to come South, where it was warmer longer," Trifunovich remembered.

And because he came to a team dominated by sophomores and missing its leading scorer and lone returning starter from last year, Trifunovich became the quarterback.

It has not been easy: "In street ball, I learned to handle the ball to get myself open. Now, I have to handle the ball to get the other man open, and some of my passes have been bad," he said.

"I've also had some trouble shooting, because my eyes have gone bad. But I'm getting contact lenses soon, and that should help."

With a picturesque jump shot like Trifunovich's, improved vision means goodbye 39 per cent field goal shooting. And it may mean an improvement over his 10.2 average, still above par for a sophomore in the rugged ACC.

"Our record is bad," Trifunovich said, "but Coach Sloan likes to win, and I learned to win in street ball. We're getting stronger," he added.

## He Earned The Right

"We've won so little that we get tight before a game now. But maybe a good game or a win will pull us out of it," Trifunovich said.

Were not his brother, Drago, a freshman cager at State, it might be lonely for Nick Trifunovich. His parents live in East Chicago, Indiana, where his father is a steel mill worker. And he was born in Foily, Italy.

"My parents don't speak English well. They have a lot of trouble talking. But I can explain what's good—like making a shot, or getting a rebound or a steal—and they listen and can tell from what the announcer says how good Drago and I are doing," he said.

Like his State teammates, Trifunovich is learning—the hard way—just how tough the ACC can be: by playing and losing. But the lessons he is learning, now will make State a stronger team a year from now, and maybe his parents will get the good word from announcers more often.

They should; their son plays a rugged game of basketball. He earned the right.

## Galves Gets Senior Soccer Award

Danny Galves (below left) receives Educational Foundation Award watch from Athletic Director C. P. Erickson (right) and Coach Marvin Allen for being chosen the best all-around senior soccer player. The Educational Foundation gives this award to the best all-around senior in each sport. Danny is a graduate of Nyack High School, Nyack, N. Y., and is from Valley Cottage, N. Y.



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# UNC Grapplers Edge Out W&M With 3 Forfeitures

By KAREN FREEMAN  
DTH Sports Writer

William & Mary forfeited three matches to the UNC wrestlers Saturday night but the Tar Heels almost failed to capitalize, winning by a one-match margin, 21-16.

"You put in five subs and that's how it goes. Steele looked good and that's about it," said Coach Sam Barnes.

UNC had two unexpected absences from the lineup. Bob Crane (123) sustained a sprained ankle that will keep him out of action for the next few weeks. Once-defeated Phil Wanzer (167) was sick.

All five of the substitutes were beaten. Carolina trailed until 145, when Keith Lyons got a decision over Jim Miller (W) and tied the score 8-8.

But when it was time for

160, Carolina was again trying to even the score.

In 160, Bob Steel (C) put in one of his best performances against Chuck Stout (W), dominating the match from the first eriod.

In the second period, Steele was able to gain two predicament within a one-minute interval. At the close of the match, he had won easily with a 10-2 decision.

### RESULTS:

(123) Sam Smart (W) pin Bill Horn (C), (130) Bruce Ripy (W) d Jim Minor (C), (137) Steve Leon (C) by for, (145) Keith Lyons (C) d Jim Miller (W), (152) Dick Citron (w) d Bill ambelli (C), (160) Bob (W), (167) Jay Jacobson (C) by for, (177) Scott Cruz (w) Steve Lister (C) by for.

# 'Quiet Determination' Wins Swim Meet For Dolphins

By JOE SANDERS  
DTH Sports Writer

With "quiet determination," the UNC Swim Team outswam the U. of Maryland Terps Saturday night, 57-47.

Swimming Coach Earey said, "We didn't let them blast us out of the water with their noise, but did our jobs." Forming their own cheering section, the Maryland squad kept up their spirit to the last event. Although they had trailed the Tar Heels up to that event, the seven-point 400-yard freestyle relay, they were in position to capture the meet by winning it.

The meet began with some best performances by the Heels. The medley relay turned in a 3:04.6 to get UNC off to a 7-0 lead. Steve Hildenbrand was barely taken by Terp Dave Heim, the conference record-holder in the 1000-yard freestyle, in that event. Joe Sanders won the 200-yard freestyle with a 1:40 with Greg Meehan taking second. Then Pete Worthen won the 50-yard freestyle over Terp Phil Denkevitz.

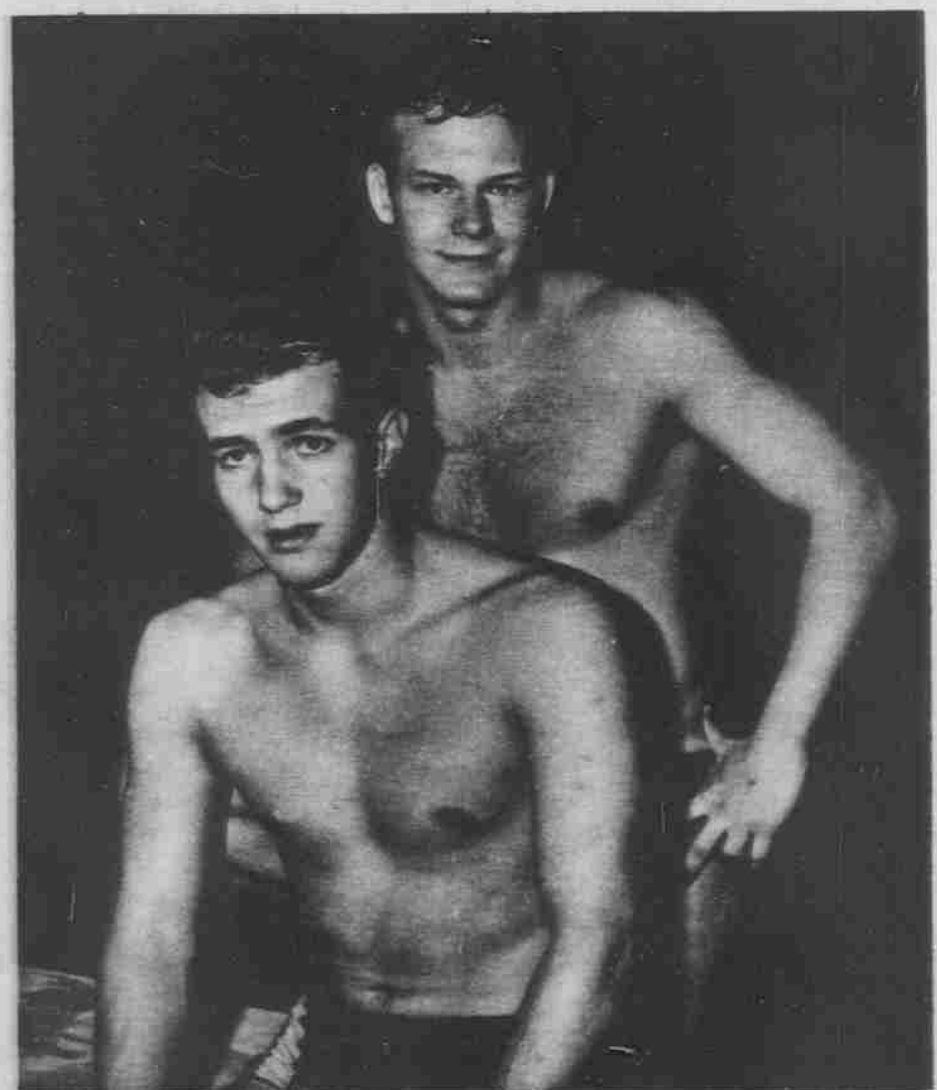
Sophomore Dave Ball swam to a dead heat finish with Springer of Maryland in the 200-yard individual medley. The judges' decision went to

Springer, but a UNC varsity record went to Ball, who was clocked over a second faster than the old record, at 2:03.3.


Phil Riker, Jim Edwards, and Fred Dannemann added firsts for UNC, but with three events to go, the Terps rallied with wins in the 500-yard freestyle and 200-yard breaststroke. With the second and third-place points they had captured in earlier events, Maryland faced the 400-yard freestyle relay with only a three-point deficit.

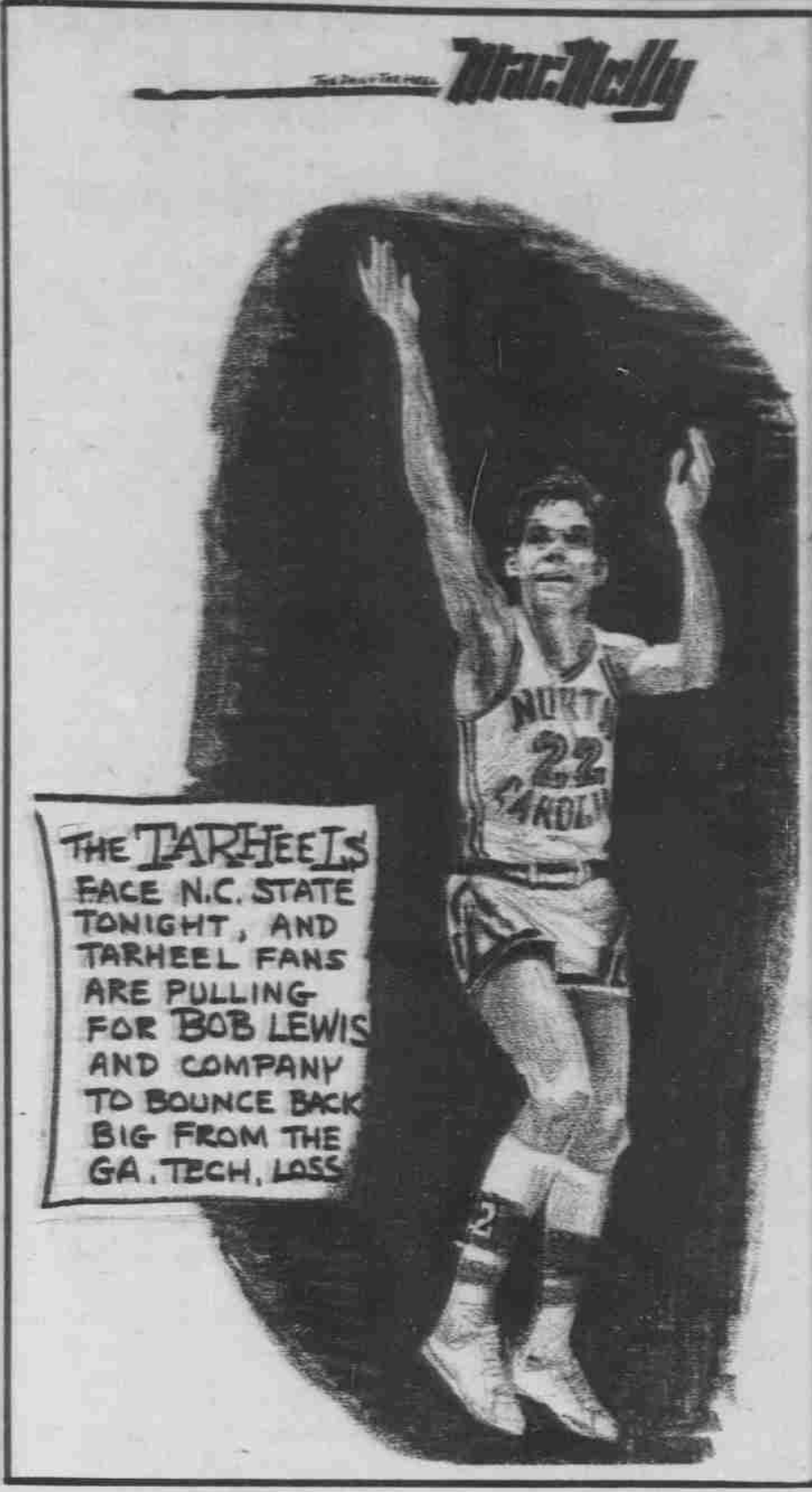
The Tar Heels, still determined, but not so quiet, put up Worthen, Scattergood, Riker and Edwards against the Maryland relay. Swimming the anchor, or last, leg of the relay, Edwards made up a half-body length head start by Maryland's anchor man to win the event—and the meet—for Carolina. Edwards' time of 46.8 is his best of the season and one of the nation's fastest.

The Maryland meet ended the Tar Heels' season with a 5-1 record in the conference and a 9-3 record over-all. The Dolphins' final rank in the conference will be decided in two weeks at the A.C.C. Championships at U. of South Carolina.



Dave Ball (seated) and Doug Behrman lead the Dolphins to a 57-47 victory over Maryland Saturday night.

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# Tar Babies Hope To Avenge Defeat

By OWEN DAVIS  
DTH Sports Writer

Revenge is the theme tonight for the Tar Babies when they visit State in the hostile environs of Reynolds Coliseum. The Wolflets are the only team that has marred Carolinas 12-1 record and UNC is out to avenge the defeat.

Tipoff time for the grudge duel will be 5:30 p.m. State and Carolina have split in two previous games this season. The Tar Babies won the first contest in Carmichael, 87-79, and then State handed UNC its only loss in Raleigh, 87-66.

Neither team has been able to show a definite superiority in the previous encounters. Carolina was never able to pull away from the gritty Wolflets in the first game and State only piled up a decisive lead in the fading moments in the latter.

Height difference will not

play a major role in this meeting as is usual in most Tar Baby games. Tom Smith, State's center, is only 6'5" but he is tough on the boards with his brute strength.

The Wolflets' best shooter is southpaw guard Nelson Isley. Isley poured in 26 points in the State defeat and 15 in the Raleigh game. Second-leading scorer on the squad is forward Dale Abernathy. Abernathy had 15 and 22 points against Carolina earlier.

Guard James Womble and forward Vann Williford round out the starting five. Womble is a fair scoring threat and Williford is an aggressive rebounder.

Carolina has all five starters averaging in double figures. Charlie Scott enters the game with the top scoring average on the team of 28.8 points a contest. Scott is also the leading rebounder with an average of 13 per game.

# UNC, NCS Renew Old Battle Tonight

By DENNIS SANDERS  
DTH Sports Writer

It will be like old times in the William Neal Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh tonight when 10,000 fans jam the ancient coliseum walls and North Carolina and N. C. State tangle.

Because this is the coliseum where both the Tar Heels, still the nation's second best team, and the Wolfpack have displayed some of their finest basketball wares.

Carolina Coach Dean Smith will send a talented team with a 16-2 overall log and a perfect 8-0 Atlantic Coast Conference slate into this one against a Wolfpack that has looked very bad—and very good—this season.

State's record is an unimpressive 5-13, and their league mark is an equally unimpressive 1-8, but the Wolfpack will be coming off two strong games.

The first was a 69-65 loss to Duke, a game much closer than even the score would indicate, and a win over Virginia last Saturday, State's first in the last nine games.

Despite erratic play in its last two games, North Carolina is still blessed with height and a potent fast break.

"We were tight against Wake Forest, but that was just one night," said Tar Heel Coach Smith. "The tightness

was not present in our 82-80 loss to Georgia Tech."

"But our comeback against Tech (from a 15-point deficit) had a positive effect," Smith continued.

Because he does not make excuses, Smith did not mention that reserves Tom Gauntlett and Mark Mirken did not make the Tech trip due to law board exams.

"We will obviously have a tough test against State," Smith added.

State Coach Norm Sloan, who once roamed the coliseum floor as one of the late Everett Case's original players, is aware of North Carolina's awesome talent.

"We lost to Carolina by one point (79-78) in Chapel Hill, and we know what they can do," Sloan said.

"But our win over Virginia will help us. We've been coming back all season, and that is a great attribute for this State team to have," he added.

Sloan will send sophomores Nick Trifunovich (10.2), Dick Braucher (11.0) and Bill Mavredes (10.0) and junior Bill Kretzer (11.3) and senior Jerry Moore against the Tar Heels.

Moore carried a 9.4 average, but has hit nearly 20 points in each of State's last two outings.

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