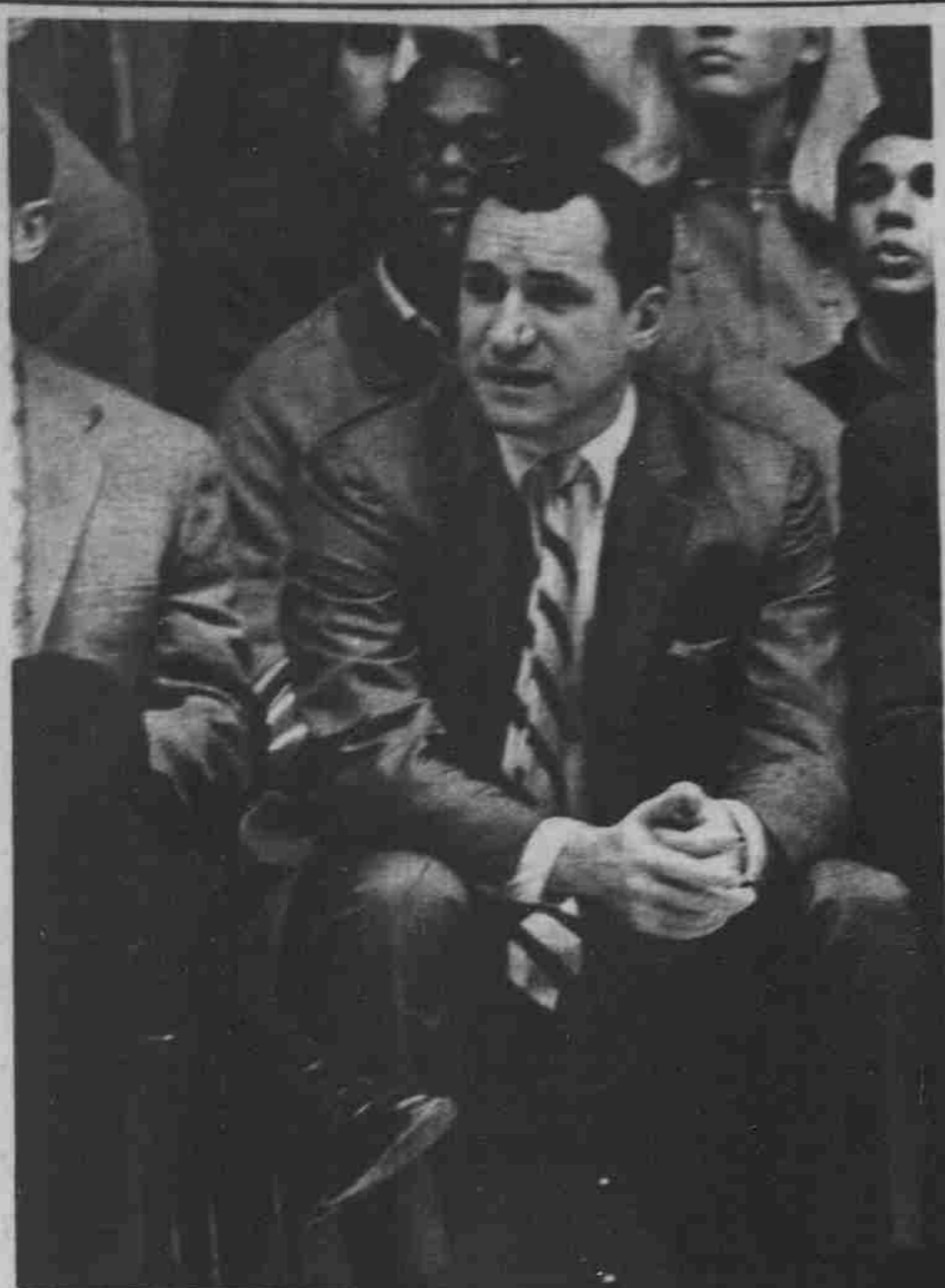


Carolina,

108

Virginia,

64



Photos

By

Mike

McGowan

Any coach could have merely sat back and gloated at a game like Tuesday night's. But not Dean Smith. Concern with all points in the game kept him too busy.

A 44 Point Win? That's Nothing

Tar Heel Team Swamped Davidson By 69 Points In 1945

By Dale Gibson

Carolina's Tuesday night man-handling of the Virginia Cavaliers was more than just another addition to the Tar Heel win column.

The 44-point deficit marked the highest victory margin an Atlantic Coast Conference team ever recorded against a fellow member. The previous high was an 80-41 mauling of Maryland at the hands of Wake Forest in 1963.

The Tar Heels biggest winning margin (against any team) came in 1945 when the UNC squad clobbered Davidson 89-20. That was before Larry Miller even knew what a basketball looked like.

The loss stretched Virginia's already miserable season record to 6-13. It was the second such humiliation the Cavaliers have had this season.

Earlier in the season against Duke, the Cavs took it on the chin in a 103-61 romp. This 42-point spread was the previous high win margin for an ACC team.

The Tar Heels also proved that, when given a free hand by the officials, they could hit accurately and in quantity from the floor.

Carolina struck for 102 of its 108 points on field goals. The previous high for field goals for UNC was 52 when it beat non-conference foe Richmond 127-76 in 1966. But the 51 field goals output was the highest against a fellow ACC member.

After the game, Virginia's Coach Bill Gibson, who has already been humiliated to the nth degree on the court, was further frustrated by the legion of sportswriters present.

Gibson struggled through about 10 minutes of questioning about the Carolina team before a single sportswriter finally realized there was a Virginia team and something ought to be asked about them.

"They deserve to be third in the nation," the affable head Cavalier said of UNC. "It's the greatest Carolina team I've ever seen."

The Tar Heels, who outshot, outrebounded, outpassed, out-defended and generally outplayed Virginia impressed Gibson in all these departments — and more.

"They are too clever, too fast and too strong for us," he said. "They forced our ball handling and made us take bad shots."

Dean Smith was in full agreement. "We had a very good game defensively," he said. "This helped us tremendously on our fast break."

Because of the high score, there was some question as to whether Smith had fed his team a supply of pep pills before the game.

"Our team has been ready for every game," Smith countered. "We can't get sky high for any game. We have to be ready for all of them."

Ready they were.

"I think it was a combination of a great game by Carolina and a poorly played one by us," Gibson said. "They had fresh men coming at us all the time and the starting five are enough to kill you."

Smith, who has emphasized depth as one of the team's major assets all season said, "Our top reserves (Joe Brown, Eddie Fogler and Gerald Tuttle) did a great job. This shows that we can go eight deep without hurting ourselves."

Rusty Clark and Charlie Scott shared scoring honors for the Tar Heels with 19 points each.

"Clark has certainly showed great improvement over last season," Gibson said. "He's more aggressive and seems to be stronger."

Scott who upped his season output to 17.7 ppg, was praised by Smith for his "better judgement and improved passing."

Charlie was spotted in a local restaurant (with a nice looking companion) soon after the game. "I just hope they don't think we ran the score up on them," he said with a grin.

Mr. Everything Larry Miller put in his usual impressive appearance. Scoring 16 points (his season low) is a very small part of the story about Miller.

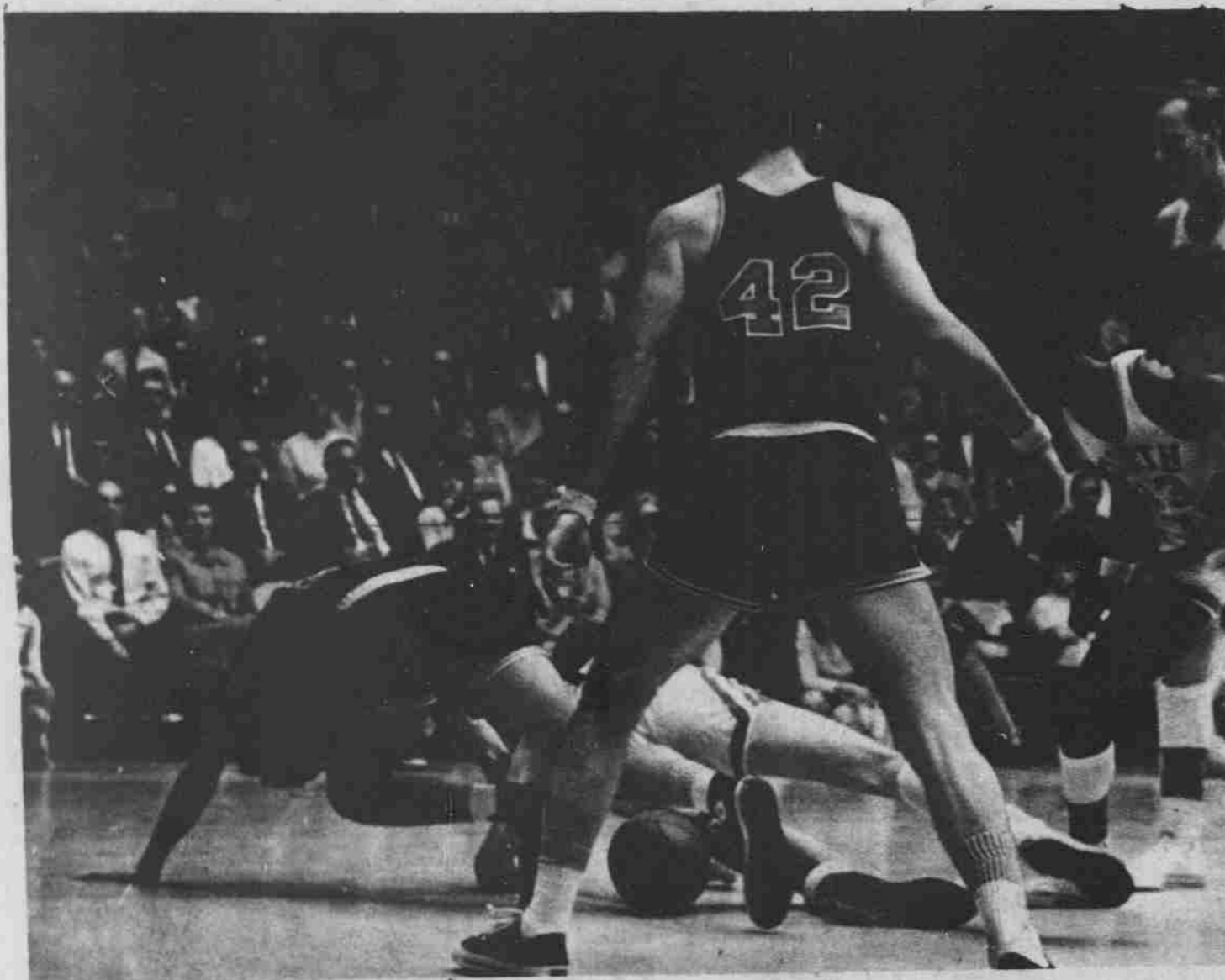
All 16 of his points came in the first half but as Jack Williams UNC's Sports Information Director noted, "This is the amazing thing about Miller. He doesn't care about his own output or his own scoring average."

"When the final outcome of the game is up for grabs, you'll hear from him — otherwise, he plays a good but not explosive game."

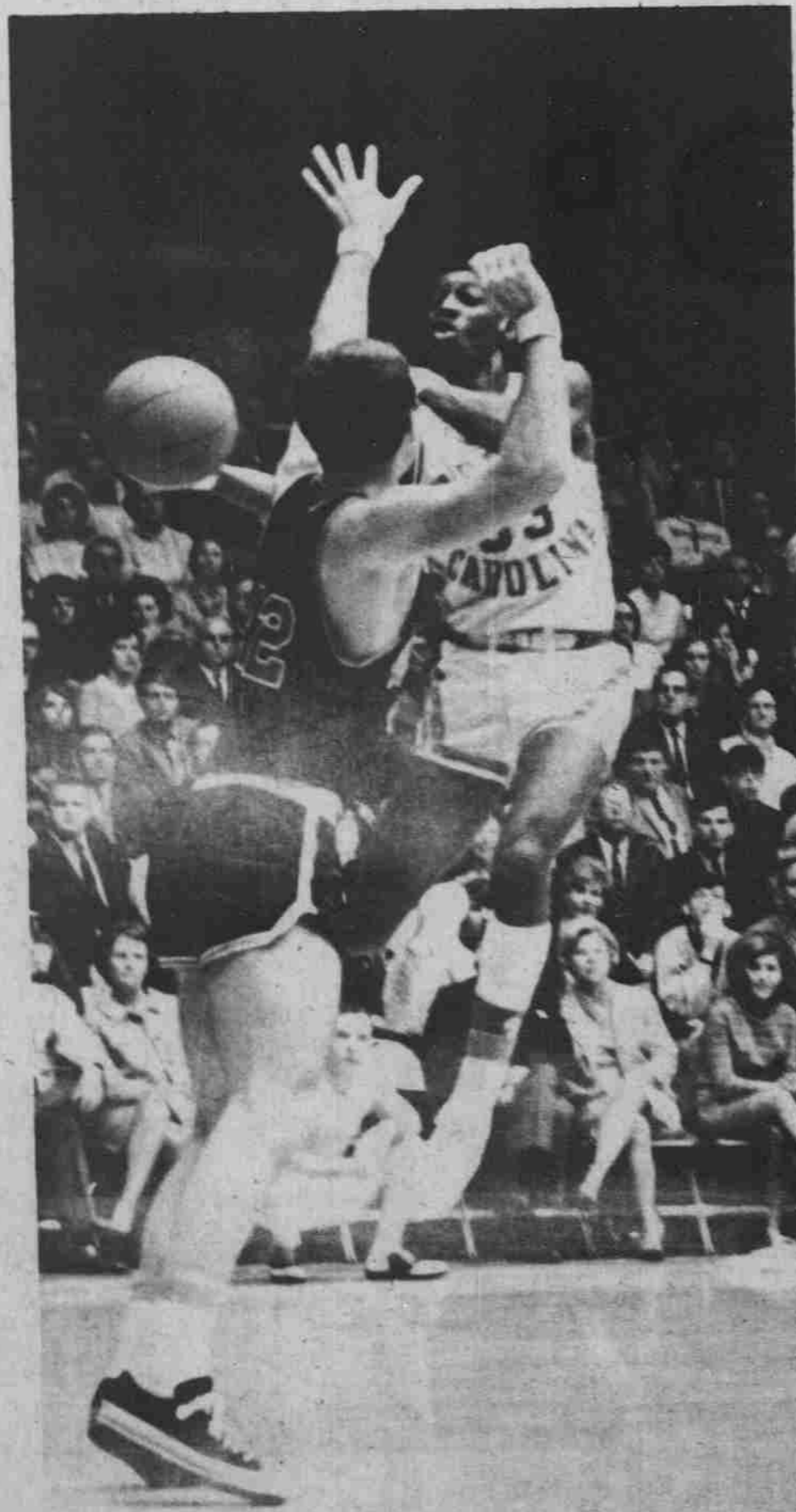
Reserve Joe Brown, who could be starting for any other ACC team, had a fine game. Brown hit for 16 points equalling Miller's output.

This game is over. The records are set and the score is recorded. The Tar Heels meet the Cavaliers again in Charlottesville on Saturday, Feb. 24.

"I know it will be tougher up there," Smith said. "We'll bounce back. I'm real proud of this team," Gibson countered.



Spills were infrequent, but the few were spectacular



Scott sparkled with eight assists



Brown poured in plenty, most from inside



The ball seemed rather elusive at times