

'3,000 Miles To Lose By 7 Feet, 2 Inches'

UCLA Commits Double-Homicide On Way To National Basketball Title

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Remember the way Jack Webb (Sgt. Joe Friday) used to begin the old Dragnet series?

"This is the city," he would say, "Los Angeles, California." The he'd tell you the time and the weather and how it was that he and his partner, Frank Smith, were working the night shift out of homicide.

Friday should have no problem investigating the annihilation of two basketball teams that occurred this past weekend at the NCAA finals.

UCLA, the greatest collegiate basketball game ever assembled, destroyed Houston on Friday night, 101-69 and North Carolina on Saturday night, 78-55.

On each occasion some 15,000 witnesses saw it happen at the beautiful Los Angeles Sports Arena.

You would not believe Lew Alcindor's greatness unless you saw him in person. The same can be said for his team and the beauty of the city they call home.

The trip was strenuous. Over 3000 miles by Eastern to

Chicago and TWA to Los Angeles. Billy Carmichael of the Chapel Hill Weekly has the best line for it, "North Carolina," he says, "went 3,000 miles to lose by seven feet two inches."

Less Alcindor the Tar Heels might have repeated their 1957 performance against Wilt Chamberlain's Kansas team.

In the championship game North Carolina forced 26 turnovers but it made 23. Bruin Coach John Wooden called that number "horrible."

Except for Alcindor, who scored 34 points (15 of 24 and four of four) no UCLA player had more than three field goals.

Dick Grubar and Charlie Scott played their usual outstanding defense against Mike Warren and Lucius Allen.

North Carolina shot 35 per cent from the floor, as much its undoing as anything else. That's no worse than average against the Bruins' first team, by the way.

The Los Angeles press had little good to say about anyone other than the Bruins. In fact, some visiting dignitaries from the Tar Heel state were a little miffed by such comments as appeared in Jim Murray's LA Times column Sunday morning.

"It wasn't a game," he wrote of the title dash, "it was a Death Watch. No one expected much of North Carolina and they didn't disappoint. North Carolina had nothing to lose—so they lost it."

"They thought they could get at least a tie if they hid the ball. The way they played the first half of the game, the basket was superfluous. So was the ball."

"The University of North Carolina gave it a good try but UCLA had too many horses for the stall. The guys were under a further handicap. Their rooting section's idea of a cheer is 'Go, Heels.'"

You must understand, of course, that it is Murray's style to be insulting. However, neither of the papers accorded the type of respect or attention befitting the top four basketball teams in the country.

There is no end in sight for the Bruins' reign, unless they schedule the Philadelphia 76'ers. Coming in next year is the best junior college transfer in the country and a freshman who gave Alcindor a tough time in scrimmages.

Graduating is Warren and forward Mike Lynn. It's rumored that Allen may be in grade trouble but he'll probably make it back too along with Lew Lynn Schakelford and top receive Kenny Heitz.

Los Angeles is a friendly town but there is no love lost between the basketball fans of LA and anything which has to do with Houston.

They cheered just as hard when the Bruins beat the Cougars on Friday night as when Ohio State did the same on Saturday evening.

Alcindor appeared after the UCLA-Houston game on Friday evening robed in a traditional African garb. A few disapproving "tut-tut's" had him in a nice looking suit after the championship game.

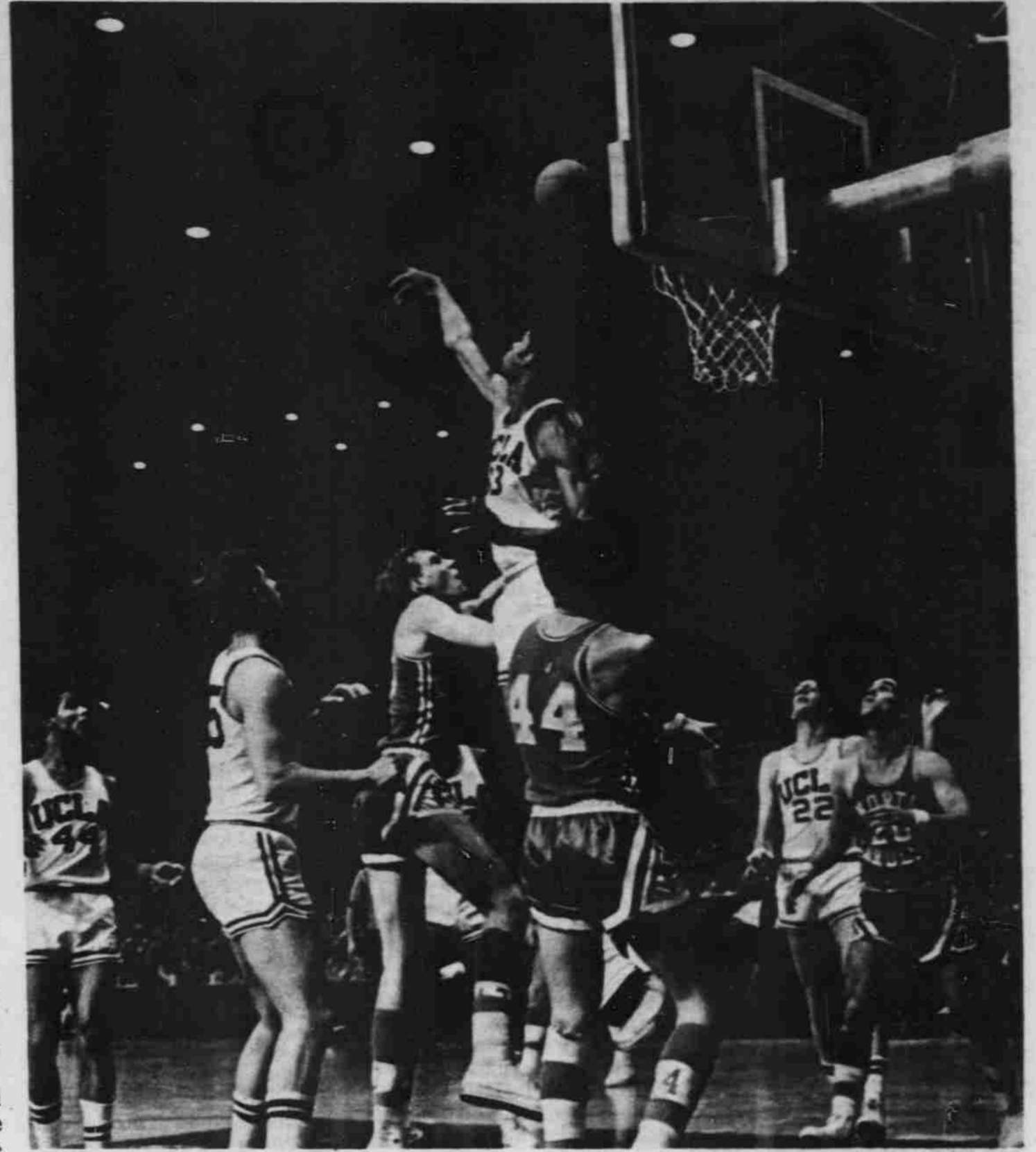
Rusty Clark, who had four of his 12 shots blocked by Lew, called Alcindor, "the biggest man I've ever seen."

Carolina's fans ended the game with a "We'll be back." UCLA's added, "So will we."

Next year in Louisville, Ky.



Charlie Scott gives Bruin guard Lucius Allen trouble as the Tar Heels press defensively in the second half of the championship loss to UCLA. Carolina trailed at the time, 62-40 with just over eight minutes remaining.



Lew Alcindor, UCLA's 7-2 All American, blocked five shots in the game and four of them were Clark's, who called Lew the "biggest man I've ever seen."

A-A Miller On NCAA Star Team

North Carolina's All-America forward Larry Miller joined four members of the champion UCLA Bruins on the 1968 all-tournament team of the NCAA playoffs in Los Angeles.

The 6-4 senior scored 34 points in two games as the Tar Heels finished their season as the nation's number two team. The UCLA players picked were Lew Alcindor, Mike Warren, Lucius Allen, and Lynn Shackelford.

Alcindor was chosen the top player in the post-season classic for the second consecutive year. The 7-1 center poured in 53 points in pacing the Uclans to victories over Houston and Carolina for their second straight national crown.

Alcindor, Warren, and Allen were named to the all-tourney team last year. Elvin Hayes, College Basketball Player of the Year for 1968, was not selected this season. The Cougar forward tallied 44 points in Houston's two losses.

The all-star squad was selected by sportswriters and sportscasters covering the championships.

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CAROLINA

SUN.—MON.—TUES.

'Shoot If You Must...'

"...this old gray head but spare my country's flag."

The villain of this drama is the fellow on the far right.

Lew Alcindor, who stands 86 inches tall and weighs 230 pounds, scored 34 points, blocked five shots and recovered 16 rebounds Saturday night as his UCLA walloped North Carolina 78-55 in the NCAA title game.

The 23 point defeat, the worst in the history of the championship finals, was a pain to watch.

North Carolina sent one very good basketball team and some 1,000 loyalists to support it in the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

Alcindor was just too much, however, even while the number two Tar Heels tried harder.



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