

# Lakers Get Nod With Reed Ailing

Ken Tilley

Gone are the days when Bill Russell would rise up with a superhuman effort and lead the Boston Celtics to victory in the NBA playoffs.

Today the world is less secure, the future is a little less predictable. Today there is no Bill Russell in the finals of professional basketball. The Boston Celtic's dynasty has fallen, and two other teams are battling for the glory which was once exclusive to the Celtics.

It would be difficult to choose a clear-cut favorite in the race for the NBA crown this year. Both New York and Los Angeles have assembled outstanding individual performers, and both teams' records are impressive.

After six playoff games, the Knicks and the Lakers are deadlocked with three victories apiece. The seventh game Friday night in New York will decide the successor to the immortal Celtics.

Two factors will be present in this seventh game which cloud any attempt to predict the outcome of the encounter.

Factor one involves the home court advantage. New York's Madison Square Garden can be quite a hostile atmosphere in which an opposing team must play. Milwaukee found the Garden to be openly inimical in earlier playoff games with the Knicks.

## The Home Court Factor

Bettors and prognosticators will have to consider the home court advantage as a strong edge in favor of the New York club, but a second factor in the deciding contest may offset the friendly confines of the Garden.

Both clubs have been slowed by injuries to key personnel, but in the fifth game of the playoff series, the Knicks were dealt a serious jolt.

Willis Reed, New York's star center and the NBA's Most Valuable Player, suffered a blow in the fifth match resulting in strained hip muscles.

Reed was slowed considerably for the remainder of the game (though the Knicks came from behind to win), and was sidelined for the entirety of the sixth game.

Without his star big man, New York Coach Red Holzman was forced to use three players in an attempt to stop the Lakers' Wilt Chamberlain.

None of the three could curtail the Los Angeles giant, and Wilt scored 45 points in leading his team to a 135-113 victory over the Knicks. Chamberlain also pulled down 27 rebounds against the Reedless New Yorkers.

Reed has indicated that he will play Friday night, but even if he is able to last the full 48 minutes, his play will certainly suffer due to the injury.

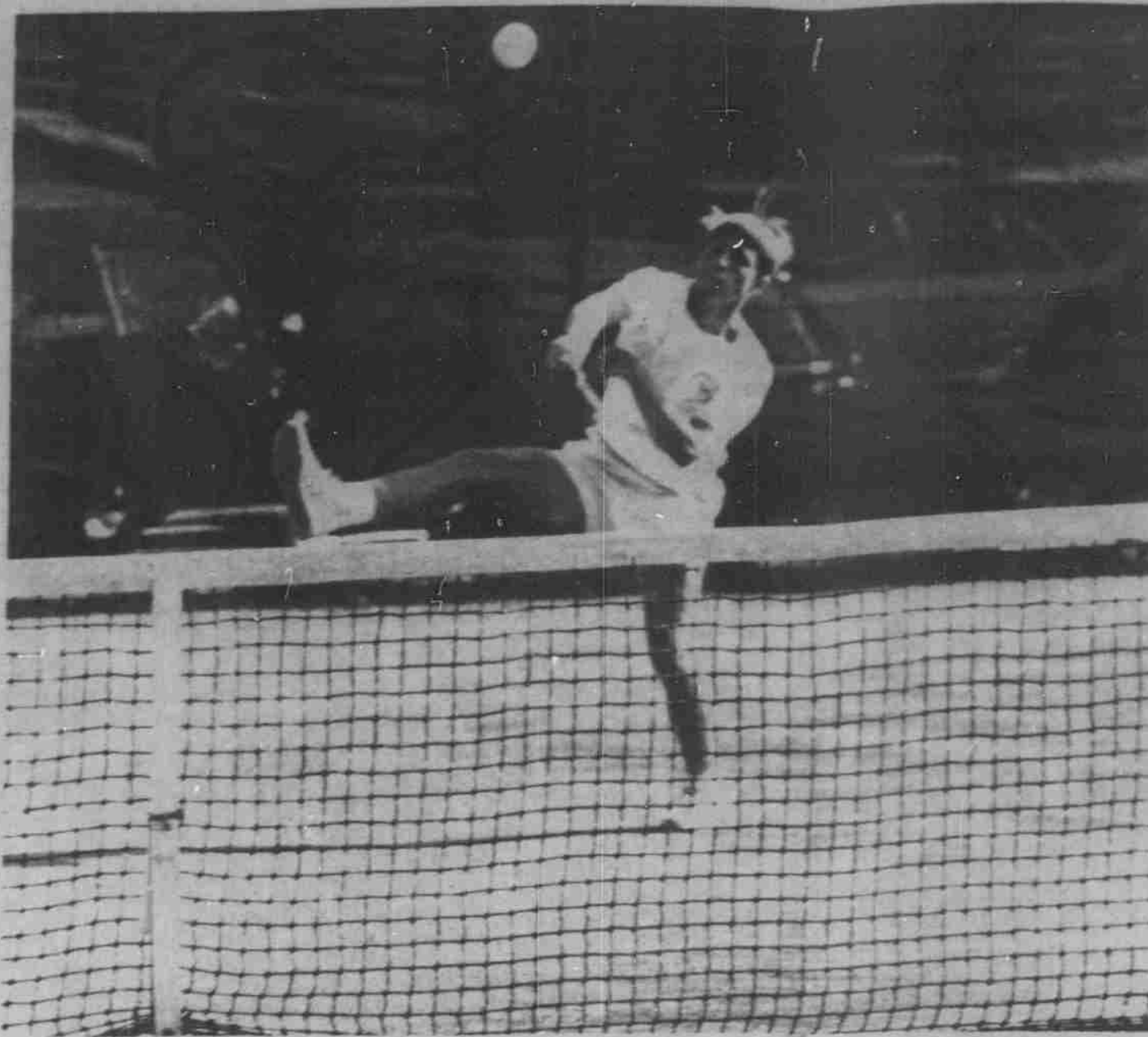
Chamberlain has shown that he can dominate a game when he feels like playing up to his potential. Will an injured Reed be able to control Wilt? Can Chamberlain get himself up for the final game?

Two other questions must be asked. Both probably merit an affirmative answer.

First, will the Knicks be fired up to "win one for Willis?" Second, will the Lakers be fired up to "win one for West?" (Jerry West, one of the games most greatest players, has yet to win and play for a club which has won an NBA title.)

Unanswered questions added to offsetting advantages and disadvantages seem to indicate that Friday's game will be exciting and suspenseful no matter which team one supports.

And after all the excitement and suspense settles, there will be a new NBA champion. My choice as the Celtics' successors—the Los Angeles Lakers



Heels Begin Quest For Tennis Title

# Runners In Four Way Fight For Second Spot

By Mark Whicker Sports Writer

As Maryland looks down serenely from its perch atop the ACC, four other schools will battle it out for second in the conference track meet in Raleigh, starting at 7:00.

Carolina, Duke, Clemson and South Carolina are all prospective runners-up, with the Heels given the best chance because of their dominance in field events.

Unfortunately, Carolina's strengths coincide with the Tar Heels' best spots. Shot putter John Jessup will vie with Maryland's Jack Hanley and Bill MacLachlan for the title,

and high jumper Dave Hilliard, who has cleared 6'9 3/4", is pointing for UM's Joe David. David and Hanley are defending ACC champs.

Pole vaulter Rick Wilson, who has been unbeatable in recent weeks, faces Maryland's Buddy Williamson, loser to Wilson in the Heel-Terp dual meet.

Charlie Gibson, who recently joined Hilliard and Wilson in qualifying for the nationals, has rough competition in Maryland's javelin ace Jack Bacon and Dave Reese, as well as defending champ Roger Collins of Clemson.

Hubert West, winner of the WTVB broad jump, is looking forward to meeting Mike Neff of Maryland and Jim Shannon of Virginia, while the rest of the conference looks up to Darryl Kelly, UNC's undefeated triple jumper.

Terry Sellers, UNC's only returning conference champ besides Wilson, will meet Duke's Mike Murphy in the 440 plus other contenders. The Tar Heels, crippled by the loss of hurdler Dennis Suich and

Mike Canzonieri, will rely on sprinters, West, Bob Weaver and Ike Oglesby, improving hurdler Reid Hilton, half-miler Kenny Helms, and distance runner Larry Widgeon.

Maryland should own the distances with John Baker, Russ Taintor and Charley Shrader, and their hurdling team of Marshall and Marvin Bush is also tough to catch. Tyrone Brown and Tony

Greene will carry Maryland's hopes in the sprint against Clemson's Josh Collins, Wake Forest's Jack Dolbin, and South Carolina's Jim Small.

State's Gareth Hayes has been improving his mile times with each race and appears to be peaking for the ACC meet, run on his own track.

# Dorn Lone Casualty As Tourney Opens

By Bruce Gurganus Sports Writer

Yesterday's first round of the 17th annual Atlantic Coast Conference tennis tournament featured two upsets. UNC's number three singles entry, second seeded Joe Dorn was upset by South Carolina's seventh seeded Bill Austin. But offsetting this setback was the defeat of Clemson's top ranked sixth flight player Terry Wilkins by USC's Barry Altman, who was the last seed in that division.

After winning the first set 6-0 Dorn faltered to a 6-4 loss of the second. In the final and deciding set the senior from Atlanta held a 5-4 lead over Austin, but the determined USC netter took three straight games and the match.

But other than Dorn's disappointing loss, Coach Don Skakle's undefeated Tar Heels showed why they are picked to bring the ACC tennis championship back to Chapel Hill. Captain Lee Langstroth, determined, intense, and sporting a black arm band swept to a 6-1, 6-1 win over James Hunt of NC State.

In the second flight freshman and top seeded Freddie McNair was surprisingly extended by Duke's Charles Benedict 6-2, 5-7 and 6-1. Just last week McNair had beaten Benedict by 6-1 and 6-2 scores.

Following Dorn's three set marathon catastrophe Jimmy Corn posted doubts as to his number two seeding with a 6-0, 6-2 win over completely outclassed Bob Brewer of Wake Forest. Tomorrow's action should set the stage for a finals revenge match between Corn and Clemson's Steve Parsons, who took their regular season match in straight sets.

Second seeded Fred Rawlings kept up the Carolina sweep with a smashing 6-1, 6-1 victory over Wake Forest's Grayson Brown. Rawlings and Corn are also favored to take the third flight doubles title.

Allen Lassiter, returning from a brief illness, got revenge for a regular season defeat by breezing by Duke's Blair Sanders 6-1, 6-1. With the defeat of Wilkins, Lassiter is now the favorite to take the sixth flight championship.

Coach Skakle was pleased with the play of his singles players, but he commented that Virginia also won five of their first six matches Thursday. With the surprisingly strong UVa entry the team battle seems to be between UNC, Virginia, and defending champ Clemson.

Today's action will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conveniently all five of Carolina's remaining singles winners will be playing their semifinal matches at 10:30 this morning. Doubles action will continue today with UNC's second and third teams favored and the number one team of McNair and Dorn is seeded second behind Maryland's team.

The public is invited to attend the tournament, which will be going on all day today, and the finals in the championship bracket will be played Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

# Hill Doing It All In Statistics Race

It is no fault of Eddie Hill's that six games separate Carolina from the league lead in Atlantic Coast Conference baseball.

While the Tar Heels have failed to successfully defend their ACC pennant, handyman Hill has been enjoying a brilliant season.

The UNC senior ranks second in the league in batting average and pitching victories and third in earned run average.

The only thing he hasn't done with supreme efficiency is sell peanuts—and he hasn't tried that yet.

Hill carried a .413 batting mark into this week's play. He went hitless Tuesday in a doubleheader with N.C. State, which dropped his figure to .388.

The Tar Heel first baseman trailed Maryland's Dave Suave, who was swinging at a .430 pace as the week began.

With a 4-0 record on the mound and a sensational 0.93 ERA, Hill was actually the ranking hurler in the league, statistically.

Although he suffered his first defeat against State, the slim righthander still placed second behind Clemson's Dave Van Volkenburg (5-0) in wins.

And his ERA was surpassed, only by a trio of hurlers with the microscopic figures of 0.34 and 0.68. Clemson's Jay Bevis was the leader.

There were no new races along the league's top five batsmen, but three newcomers crept into the top ten.

Hill's total of 31 hits ranked him fourth in that department and his five home runs earned him fifth spot among the ACC sluggers.

Righthander Gene Hiser of Maryland had driven in 31 runs to outdistance the closest competition by eight.

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# Rally Lifts Heels To Win Over Louisburg

By Ken Tilley Sports Writer

A ninth inning rally lifted Carolina's Junior Varsity baseball team to a 5-4 victory over Louisburg College Wednesday night.

Jack Leachman batted in two runs in the bottom of the final inning with a one out-bases loaded single to give the Tar Heels their sixth straight win.

Louisburg, champions of the Cavalier-Tar Heel Conference with a 17-4 record, jumped to a 3-0 lead in the second inning.

Starting pitcher Bill Wardle walked three men, gave up two hits, and was further hindered by a Tar Baby fielding error in permitting the early Louisburg scores.

Louisburg added a fourth run in the fourth inning, an unearned score off Wardle.

But tight relief pitching by winning pitcher Steve Groome (2-1) and a strong attack at the plate enabled the Tar Babies to capture their tenth win of the season.

Carolina's offensive explosion burst open in the fourth frame. George Booth, Jim Blane, and Wes Hege singled to load the bases. A walk to pinch hitter Bob Lowery brought home one

tally, and a single by Dal Branch scored two more runs.

Groome shackled Louisburg in the remaining five innings on one hit and two walks. The righthanded hurler's shutout pitching allowed the Tar Babies to enter the final inning behind only 4-3.

Earlier in the season Carolina had dropped a 7-5 game to Louisburg. A repeat of that game was not to take place Wednesday.

Pinch hitter Ken Thompson opened the inning with a single, and Branch followed with a sacrifice bunt which he beat out for a single.

Tom Gillis singled to left to load the bases, then Leachman added his game winning hit. The Tar Babies collected 12 hits, two each by Branch, Gillis, Booth, and Hege. Timely hitting such as was displayed Wednesday has brought the JV squad from behind more than once this year, leading them to a highly successful season.

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