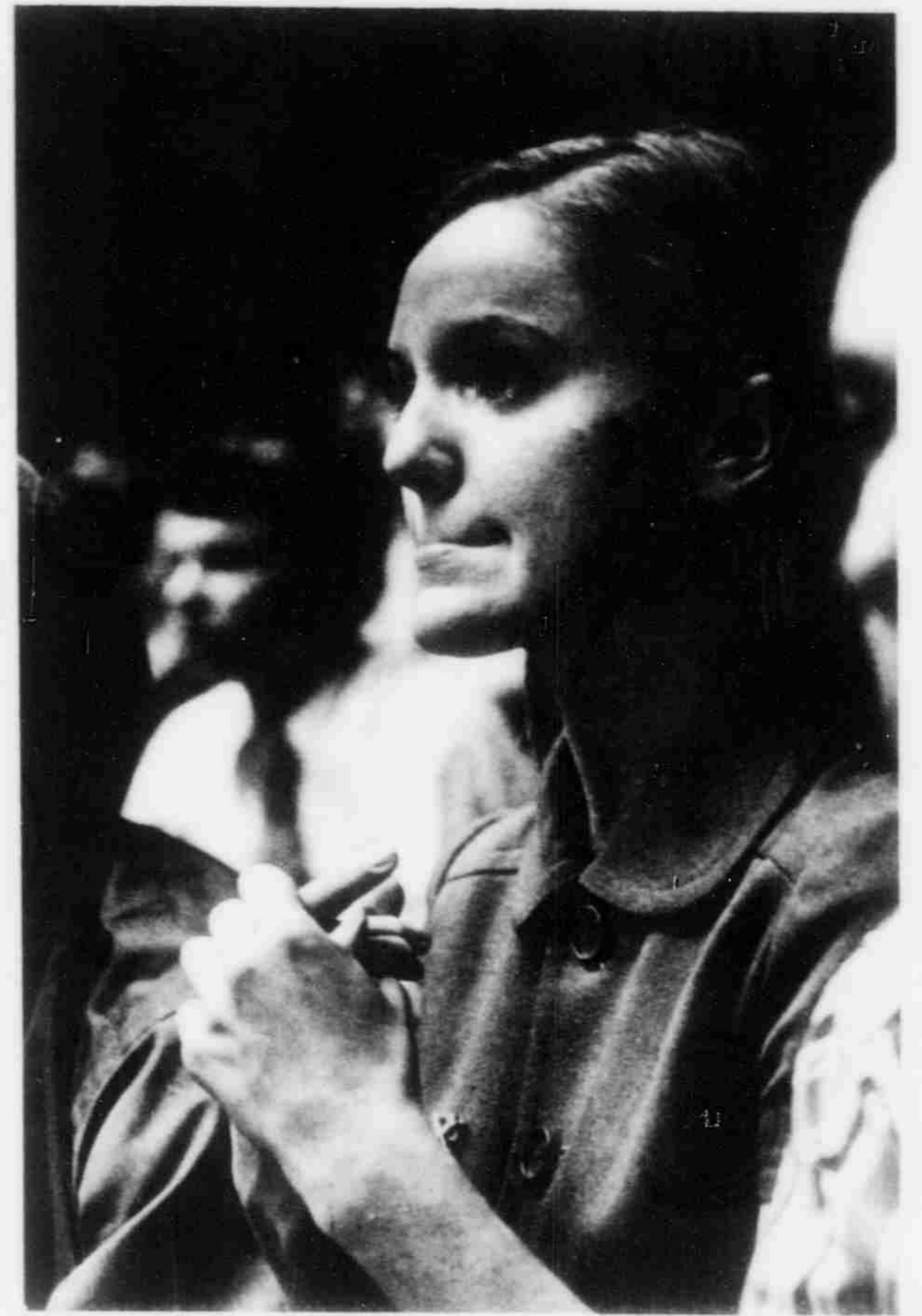


Swofford hit after gain



A tense moment in Carmichael

# War of the cigarettes'

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Wuycik drives on MacGregor

lungs, since I reached the full pack mark again. Playing precisely, we seemed to have it in the bag until Davis sank four straight in the second half. Everybody was hard on the referees (wonder how many packs they smoke?) but we finally won in a walk, 93-75. Revenge for Camel filters.

Feb. 8: Carolina-State in Raleigh. You don't go to a Reynolds Coliseum basketball game for the fun of it. We should have beaten State easily, but all of a sudden Ed Letwisch remembered how to play basketball and made it a close game.

It came down to Lee Dedmon and two foul shots with four seconds left, and that great clutch artist sank them both to win, 65-63. Close to a pack that night. I was resigning myself to these days of nictines and tars.

Feb. 12-13: Carolina vs. Georgia Tech and Clemson in Charlotte. Dedmon showed the big city crowd what a top-flight big man looks like in two sleepy victories, 87-58 and 86-48. He handled Rich Yunkus with astonishing ease.

Hampered by a chronic sore throat, and bothered by the ice under the floor that reminded me of Williamsburg in December, I could barely bring myself to look at a cigarette. Definitely the lost weekend, and it snowed too.

Feb. 17: Carolina-Maryland at College Park. Cigarettes cost more out of state, so you learn to buy cartons. Crowds are more hostile, so the Tar Heels just played better and won easily, 100-76. Life is full of little adjustments.

Tom McMillen stayed in the freshman game for all but five seconds and broke a Cole Field House record with 48 points. The same night our varsity plays there. Some coincidence. And then the crowd starts cheering for Driesell before the game, before it realizes that it's really John Lotz.

Feb. 20: Carolina-South Carolina at

Columbia. John Roche's 32 points in a 72-66 Gamecock win almost overshadowed his kicking George Karl and cursing Dean Smith. The Heels hung in there despite fouls, a sticky USC defense, and the worst kind of abuse from the Coliseum fans.

The most tense game of the year, and they won't let you smoke on press row. You make up for it at halftime, but then your typewriter starts jamming on you and you still can't smoke and a quiet room with padded walls seems very pleasant.

Feb. 22: Carolina-Florida State at Chapel Hill. Dedmon's rebounding was the key to a 70-61 victory, one of the sloppiest games all year. It was a blah game, a real hangover from South Carolina, and cigarettes are necessary during hangovers.

Feb. 27: Carolina-Virginia at Charlottesville. A great game, close and well-played all the way, and Dennis Wuycik led Carolina to a 75-74 victory. No smoking on press row, so I chewed gum and pencil erasers.

Some nut threw a liquor bottle on the court at the buzzer, and pieces rained on the press table. At times like that, a cigarette can mean a lot.

March 3: Carolina-State at Chapel Hill. The crowd was psyched because our freshmen had just beaten theirs. Don McCauley and the basketball seniors were being honored, and Carolina could clinch the ACC title with a win.

The Wolfpack wanted to steal the show, getting a formidable lead at first, but the Tar Heels pulled away at the end, 97-81. At the end, everybody was talking about how UNC had been picked deep in the second division at the year's beginning. The players thought that subject was worth bringing up again.

March 6: Carolina-Duke at Durham. UNC led 40-39 after the best first half of the year, but the Blue Devils came back to win, as they always do in Durham, 92-83. Speculation on the upcoming

tournament was rampant then, and a cigarette is very useful when gesturing and speculating.

March 13: Carolina-South Carolina in the tournament finale in Greensboro. Assistant sports editors don't go to the tournament, which was just as well. South Carolina won a NCAA berth, 52-51, on one bounce of the ball. Only half a pack, since TV commercials cut the string of nervousness and make the games seem like a production.

A cigarette can be your friend when all seems lost, but I would have preferred an instant replay—with a different ending.

The NIT. I chain-smoked serenely by the TV set, knowing that Billy Chamberlain would win the MVP award and that Dave Chadwick would fill in well for the injured Wuycik. Again Dedmon proved his superiority over Georgia Tech's Rich Yunkus, and college basketball's other championship was ours.

If I could watch every game on television, I might have little need for cigarettes at all. Right now I am trying to get used to smoking a pipe. The old cigarette smoke is rebelling against me.

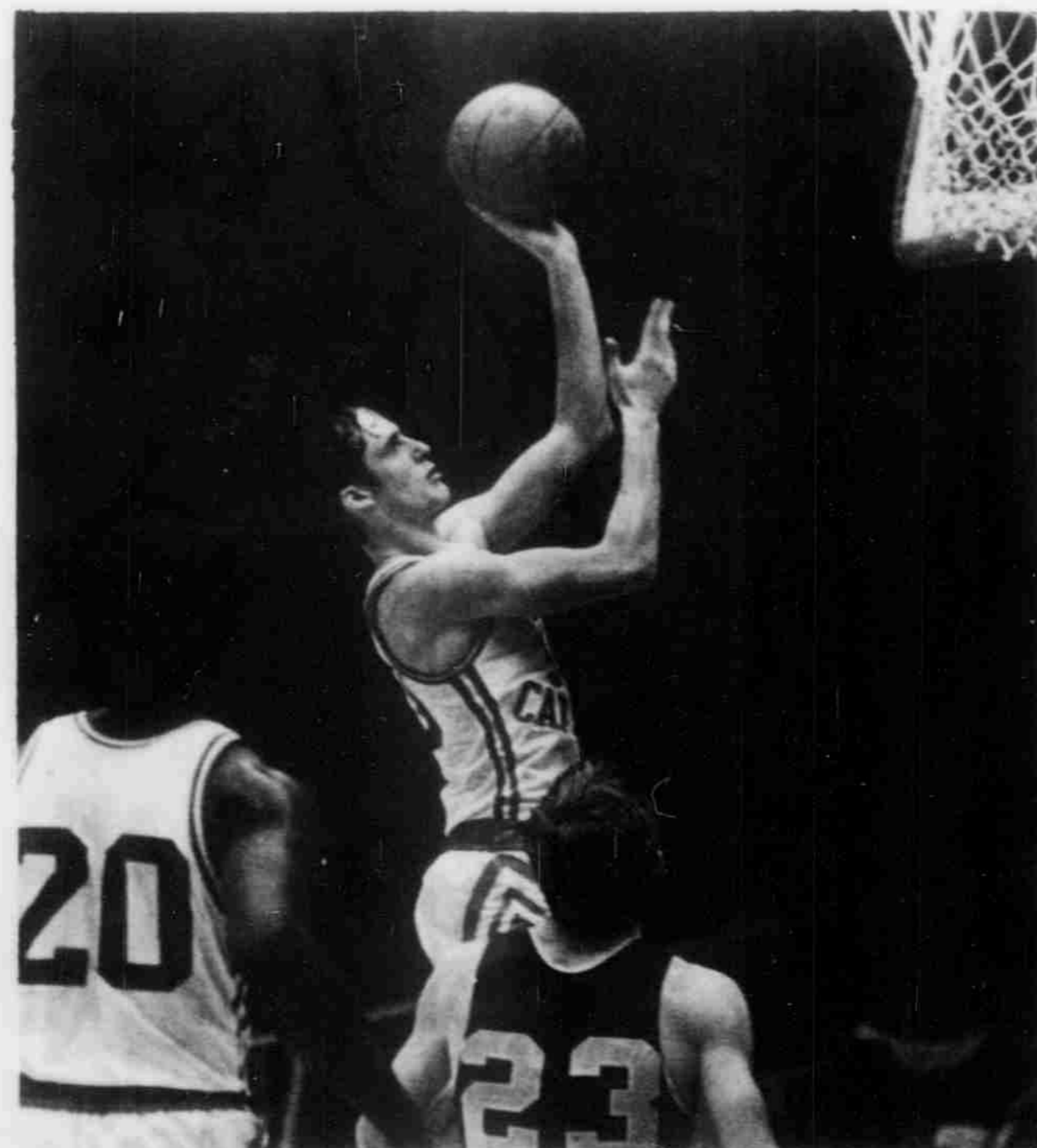
You can't inhale pipe smoke—more than once. So it looks it'll be a return to cigarettes, and winners and losers in another nervous year.

Staff photos by

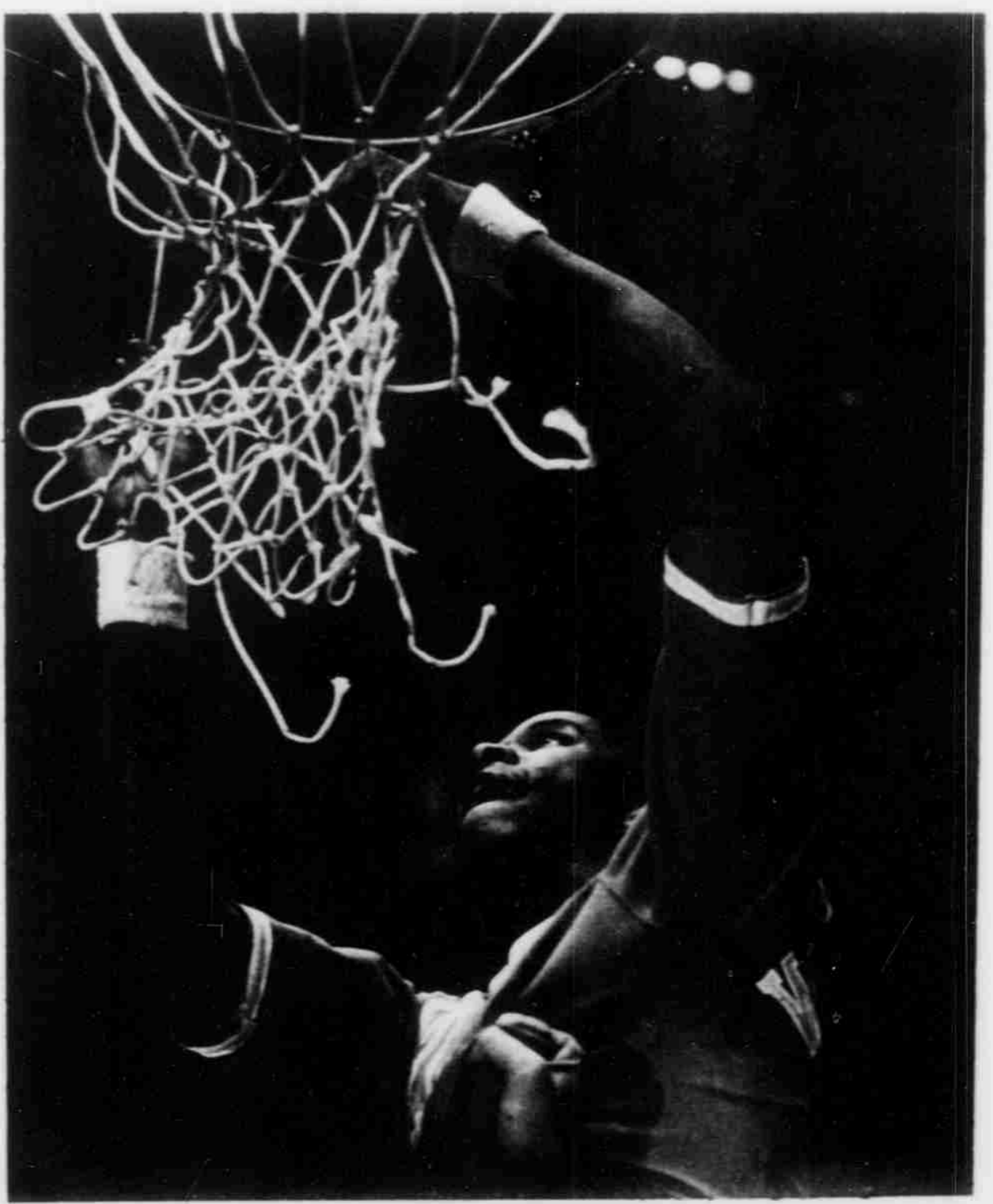
Johnny Lindahl  
Cliff Kolovson  
John Gellman



Huband hooks against Wake



O'Donnell shoots in freshman game



Chamberlain cuts net after NIT win