



Teamwork

Gawking Blue Devils watch helplessly as John O'Donnell and Mitch Kupchak sneak inside for an easy score in UNC's win over Duke. Miami visits Chapel Hill for another game Wednesday night. (Staff photo by George Brown)

For tourney bids

NCAA: the chase is on

by Michael Davis
Sports Writer

As the ACC season comes to an exciting conclusion with the final league games and tournament, perhaps it's time to look around the rest of the country in order to get an indication of who is NCAA bound.

The best race in the country aside from the ACC is that of the Big 10. Purdue (7-2) and Minnesota (6-2) figure to decide that question when they meet March 3. Indiana (7-3) lost a decision recently to the Gophers, but their hopes for a post season berth are not entirely extinguished.

Penn and Princeton may have to battle in a playoff for the Ivy title. Both the Quaker and Tiger squads have 9-1 league

marks, with Harvard in a second place tie with Brown, knotted at 6-4.

Miami of Ohio (7-2), who will visit Chapel Hill this week, should be the Mid-American Conference entry in the NCAA tourney. Bowling Green has a shot at the title with a 7-3 record, but the Redskins of Miami have two easy teams to beat to clinch the title in Western Michigan (1-8) and Kent State (3-6).

In the Southern Conference, Furman (11-2) and Davidson (8-1) are favorites to survive the rugged league tournament.

It looks good for Texas Tech in the Southwest Conference (9-1) and the Vols of Tennessee (10-2) and Alabama's Crimson Tide (yes, they also play basketball at 'Bama) at 9-3 are the major contenders in the Southeastern Conference. Not to be completely

forgotten are Vanderbilt (10-4) and perennial toughie Kentucky (9-4) in the red-hot Southeastern league.

Memphis State (10-1) has outlasted Louisville (8-3) and can mathematically assure themselves of at least a tie in the Missouri Valley when they meet North Texas State on Thursday.

In the Big Eight, Jack Hartman's Kansas State squad (8-1) is rolling along in fine fashion. Colorado (6-2) has an outside chance to be Big Eight champions, but Hartman's Wildcats have been playing great basketball all season long.

Austin Peay (9-1) behind sensational James (Fly) Williams are heavy favorites in the Ohio Valley, while Brigham Young, Arizona State, and New Mexico are vying for the Western A.A. title.

Weber State has clinched the Big Sky championship for the sixth year in succession. The Wildcats, 17-6 overall, should have their hands full when they open the western regionals with Long Beach State (21-1), Pacific A.A. champion.

And, oh yes, UCLA (yawn) should cakewalk to the Pacific Eight championship unless California sinks into the sea, or unless they add one more team into the NBA Pacific Division.

There are several outstanding independent teams that should clout some of the conference winners in March. Al McGuire's Marquette Warriors are a fine, hustling team (20-2) while the Friars of Providence College (17-3) with super guard Ernie DeGregorio and center Marvin Barnes could be the surprise of the East. Virginia Tech (15-3), Oral Roberts (20-4), and Jacksonville (19-4) are sure to see some post-season play. The Redmen of St. Johns and the Orangemen of Syracuse should also see some action come the middle of next month.

Bad moon rising

by Winston Cavin
Sports Editor

The Duke-State confrontation set for Wednesday night in Durham is building in importance.

The whole area will be watching when the up-and-coming Blue Devils host the undefeated Wolfpack on the deadly Cameron Indoor Stadium floor.

The game will be one of two crucial tests for the Pack before they head for the ACC tournament. Their drive for a possible unbeaten season rests on the contests at Duke and at Carolina. Upsets are definitely not out of the question.

Duke drew nothing but laughs early in the season, as they dropped one close game after another en route to an 8-9 record. They even lost to lowly Georgia Tech.

But, all of a sudden, the Blue Devils have come to the ACC spotlight. They have most of their road games behind them and, playing on their friendly home court, they have rolled to four straight wins.

The surge began for the Devils when coach Bucky Waters' squad upset Maryland, 85-81, in Cameron.

After handing the Terps a shocking defeat, the Devils destroyed Wake Forest, 84-71. Then came the Virginia Cavaliers, and Duke rolled to an impressive 90-66 victory.

Duke's latest win came Saturday when Notre Dame's Irish gave in to the Devils, 86-74. The win set the stage for the State invasion this week.

The game is deserving of all the attention. The Pack has rolled up an impressive 21-0 record, including two

wins over Carolina and two over Maryland.

National rankings will have to go out the window Wednesday. Tom Burleson has never played in Durham, not even when he was a freshman. The game should be considered a tossup.

The demise of the Maryland Terrapins continues to puzzle ACC fans. The Terps have not lived up to their preseason expectations.

Commentary

Lefty Driesell has one of the most talented squads in the country, but so far, Maryland has stumbled to four losses. Nobody knows for sure just what is wrong with the Terps, but some people have ideas. Driesell has come under increasing criticism lately from sports writers around the league.

It is a pity to see a team of Maryland's capabilities floundering around like they have lately. A 95-85 loss to Carolina last week didn't ease the pain, and neither did a hard-earned 69-66 home court win over Clemson.

But all is not lost yet. Driesell and his men still have the ACC tournament to look forward to. It could be just the tonic the Terps need, or it could be the cause of even more criticism for Lefty and his men.

Women cagers divide two with NCCU and Meredith

by Sarah Jane Dixon
Sports Writer

Tuesday, Feb. 13 proved to be indeed an unlucky night for Carolina's women basketball players, as they dropped a close decision to North Carolina Central in Durham. The final score of that contest was 48-43. The Tar Heels had previously beaten Central by a decisive 62-37 score on Jan. 30, so the loss was particularly disappointing to the team.

Central played really a super fine game," said Coach Jeanne Eller. "The difference was in turnovers. We had 21 and they only had nine."

Marsha Mann led all scorers for the night with 21 points. Beth Black for the Tar Heels had nine. Leading scorer for NCCU was B. McKay with 17. The remainder of the scoring for Central was well-balanced throughout the team, with

three players hitting eight points each and one player hitting six.

In the rebounding battle, NCCU defeated Carolina. Individual leaders for the Tar Heels, however, were Mann with 18 and Pat Cowell with six.

The loss dropped the women's record for the season to 4-4.

On Thursday night the Tar Heels played their last home game of the season before an appreciative crowd of several hundred people. They defeated Meredith College by a score of 63-41. Earlier in the season, the team lost a close one to Meredith, 46-44, so the victory was especially sweet for them.

"It was a great defensive effort against a fine Meredith team," commented Coach Eller. "I was very pleased with everyone's play."

The Tar Heels not only shot their best percentage from the field this season -

43.5 per cent - but they also had 44 rebounds, with each person on the team getting at least one.

Marsha Mann was again the leading scorer for the Tar Heels with her season high of 36 points. Mann was also 16 of 17 from the free throw line. Ginger Kimball led the scorers for Meredith with 10.

The victory over Meredith brought the Tar Heels record to 5-4.

On Thursday and Friday nights, Feb. 22 and 23, Carolina will be participating in the D.U.M.P. Tournament at Peace College in Raleigh. Other participants in the tournament are Duke, Meredith and Peace. The Tar Heels opening game is against Meredith at 8:30 p.m. Thursday night. On Friday the respective winners and losers will face each other.

At the conclusion of the D.U.M.P. Tournament, the Tar Heels will begin preparing for the State Tournament to be held March 2 and 3 at Elon College.

Fencing meet here

Both the varsity men's and women's fencing teams of North Carolina will play host to the Blue Devils of arch-rival Duke University at 7 p.m. tonight in Carmichael Auditorium, for what will be the last match of the regular season for both schools.

"This is the last duel meet of the season and I'm sure Duke will be tough," says Carolina coach Ron Miller. "But the season is far from over. Next weekend we enter the state AFLA tournament."

Miller is not worried about getting his team in the proper mood to fence Duke. Besides Duke's present 12-1 record, there is always "a lot of pride at stake."

The 12 wins that the Devils possess include two recent victories over Tennessee and Appalachian State. The Tar Heels also met the Catamounts and Volunteers, defeating them 20-7 and 19-8 respectively. Surprisingly, the Blue Devils

trounced ASU 22-5, and then easily disposed of the Volunteers 23-4.

Last year the Blue Devils finished with a 7-4 record. Led by head coach John LeBar, Duke has entered into recognition as one of the south's better teams.

Miller has stated that this is the only match this season for which he is conservative in his optimism. He also noted the importance of a large crowd and its reaction to the visiting team.

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