

SPORTS

Showdown for Terps at Westwood corral

by Michael Davis
Asst Sports Editor

They'll be a big shootout Saturday night when Loose Lips Lefty takes his Potomac Posse out West to take on the big, bad, notorious Walton gang.

According to old Loose Lips, after his boys, Big Mac and Lil' Luke get through with the pack from the Pac 8, there will be nothing but defeated hustlers and weeping women on the streets of Westwood.

When the smoke clears and the bodies are counted, the University of Maryland Terrapins will have pulled off the gunfight of the century — better than plugging John Wayne with your sixiron or putting Jesse James six feet under — they will have blown out the baddest basketball team ever in the collegiate ranks. All this will come about podners, if the Terrapins can put everything together and play a flawless game against the seven-times defending national champion UCLA Bruins.

If any team has the talent, (excluding the infamous Natty Norman and his Raleigh Renegades) to get lucky and whip UCLA on their homecourt, it's this year's veteran-loaded Maryland team.

Returning for last year's ACC representative in the NCAA tournament will be 6-11 All-American Tom McMillan, 6-9 All-American Len Elmore, and 6-4 sophomore desperado John Lucas, who



McMillan: waiting

unquestionably is the only freshman player to ever lead the ACC tournament in scoring. Joining this trio in the starting lineup will be 6-9 center Tom Roy who played with ferocity at the tail end of last season, and 6-3 guard Maurice Howard who very well might lead the ACC in quickness, assists and great one-liners.

Unlike other years when Lefty Driesell used to herd excess talent like cattle to his bench, this year he is only carrying five reserves. Playing a reserve role up front will be the rough and ready 6-8 Owen Brown and 6-8 freshman Wilson Washington.

There's a lot of talent hanging around Lefty's bunkhouse now, and for Driesell it will be a matter again this season of trying to blend five diversified talents into a consistent, smooth, cohesive unit — something Ole Loose Lips has never quite accomplished.

If Maryland is to upset UCLA Saturday night (11:30 p.m. EST) they're going to have to do a world of things right and not altogether too much wrong.

Maryland's backcourt, which might be the quickest the ACC has to offer, has to have an exceptional night at both ends of the court. Lucas and Howard are going to have to play the hounding defense in an effort to stop the ball early and often. If UCLA guards Tommy Curtis and Greg Lee are free to lob the pass over the middle to Walton with consistency, it's Goodnight Irene for the Terps.

Maryland's guard corps is going to have to outshoot the Bruin backcourt in order to keep them in the ballgame.

The best thing to do in regards to Walton is to forget about him. He's going to have a super night both offensively and defensively and there's nothing anyone is going to do about it.

The key to the game will be at forward where Elmore, McMillan, and Roy are going to have to cash in on a lot of loose balls and junk shots, rebound, and fire the outlet pass out from underneath quickly.

The stakes will be high for both sides when the shooting starts Saturday — for UCLA their 75 plus winning streak will be on the line and for Lefty Driesell and his Maryland honchos, a great amount of pride and long awaited hope for recognition is at stake.

Make mine three fingers of redevye, there stranger.

Lam sets wrestling goals high

by Jim Thomas
Sports Writer

The office of coach Dean Smith is a design of the times; plush carpet, trophies and Tar Heel memoranda reflect the success of Carolina basketball over the years.

Just down the hall Bill Lam resides in a converted broom closet, its barren walls denote the dismal wrestling seasons of the past. In this stark setting Lam outlined his ambitious timetable for wrestling prominence.

"This year, our goal is to have a .500 season and be one of the top three teams in the Atlantic Coast Conference."

"In three years I expect Carolina to be in the top 15-20 teams in the country."

"In four years, we want to be in the top ten," he said.

Such assertions are the reason athletic director Homer Rice brought Lam from Oklahoma to replace Sam Barnes who retired to teach English full-time. Under Barnes, the Tar Heels were well versed but had only two winning seasons in 20 years.

Bill Lam, however, is used to winning. He was a three-time All-American at the University of Oklahoma from 1963-1966. During that time Lam won more matches than any other Oklahoma Wrestler.

Rice, who knew Lam while coaching

football at Oklahoma, lured him away from a successful six-year tenure at Norman High School (state wrestling runner-up three years in a row, plus Coach of the Year honors in 1971) with assurances of financial support for a big-time program.

"Not many people know this," said Lam, "but wrestling is the third largest money-maker in college athletics nationwide. Wrestling is the major sport in the Mid-West and interest is growing in the South. Alabama and Tennessee have both started a wrestling scholarship program, and the sport has caught on in many places in the country."

The enthusiastic young coach got off to a late start though; he was not hired until last April when most of the recruiting had passed him by. However Lam had contacts with about 4,000 kids he made by appearing at clinics across the country with Chris Taylor and Dan Gable. "I knew where to go and how to sell them," he said. "Now we have to get winning and get big crowds."

Lam has been waging a one-man campaign to stir up interest around campus. He has plans to visit fraternities to talk up the sport, to pass out programs during matches explaining the complexities of the scoring system and operate a wrestling camp to educate North Carolina youngsters.

Although Lam's public relations work

helped, it was his reputation as a winner that convinced five Oklahoma freshmen to come with him to Chapel Hill: 118-pound Bob Glasgow, 134-pound Brett Bynum, 142-pound Ken Carter, 150-pound Mark Liddell and 158-pound Bob Carter. In addition, Lam persuaded Scott Conkwright, a 118-pounder from Virginia Beach to transfer from Oklahoma State. He will be eligible next year.

Despite their youth, eight of the ten starters are freshmen. Lam feels "we've got the schedule and the talent to finish .500. The kids are beginning to believe it."

Lam puts them through the same training routine the Olympic team used weight lifting and two miles of running every other day and five miles a day in between.

"Coach Lam is an inspiration to the team," said Gary Wheeler, a veteran from last year's squad. "He makes it tough on us but we stick to it because we know he went through the same thing and knows what it is like."

Such an attitude encourages Lam. "From the record (2-12 last year) I thought I would be inheriting a bunch of losers. I'll be surprised if they all stay out until the season starts Nov. 23. In a grueling sport like this with educational responsibilities it can be tough. Still I don't see any quitters in this bunch," he said.



Bill Lam



Lefty

Collegiate tourney at UNC

The top wrestlers in the state will come to Carmichael Auditorium this weekend when the University of North Carolina hosts the annual N.C. Collegiate Wrestling Tournament.

Action gets underway today with an afternoon session at noon and an evening session at 7 p.m. Saturday's two sessions will also be at those times.

Every college in the state which has a wrestling program will be represented at the tournament. Carolina coach Bill Lam says there will be 16 teams and over 200

individuals competing.

"This should be an exciting tournament," said Lam. "The calibre of wrestling has picked up tremendously in this state."

No team scores will be kept in the tournament, but East Carolina is expected to field another strong team. The Pirates have been picked as the pre-season choice for small college national champions.

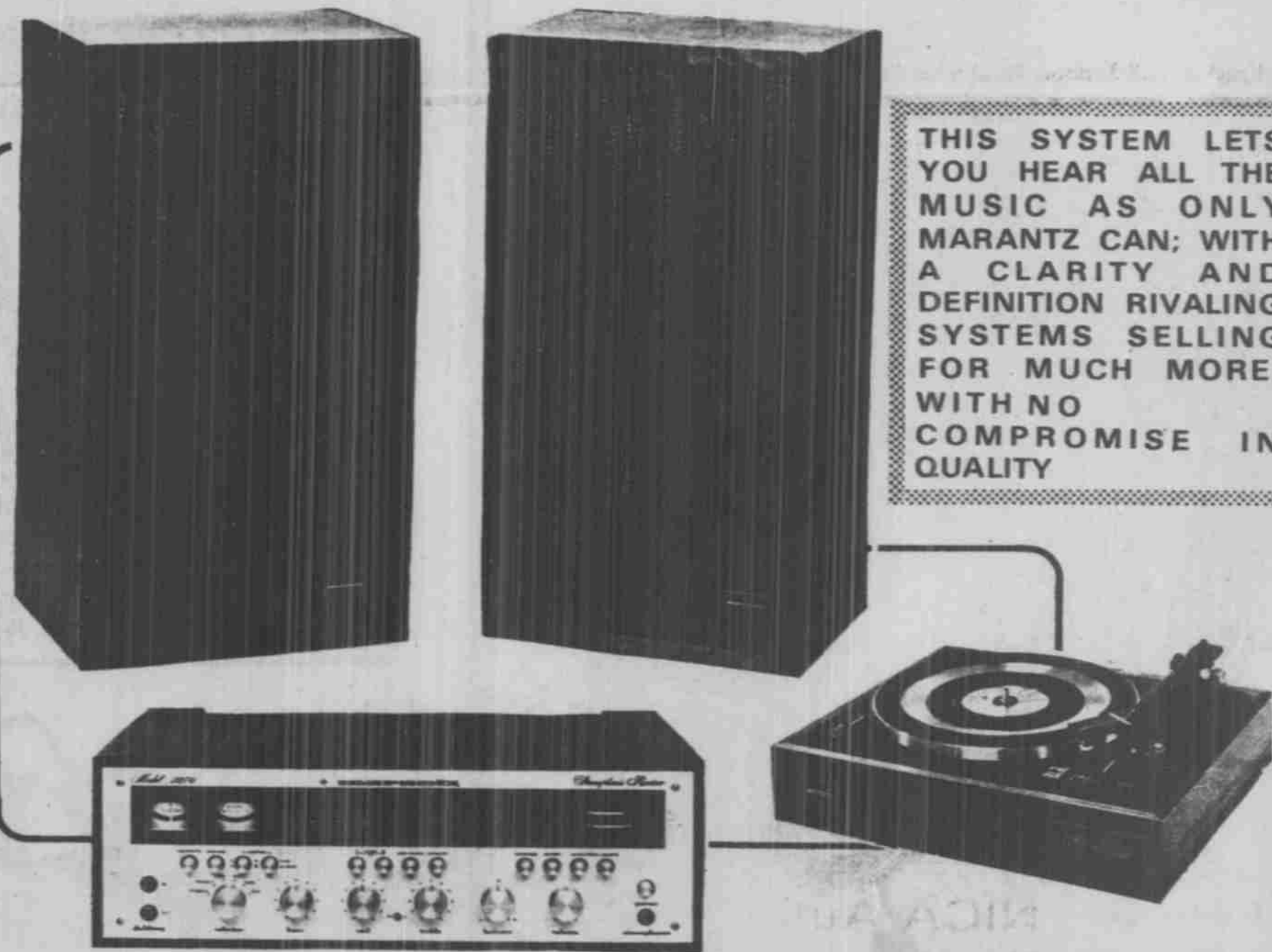
Lam feels Carolina will field a much improved team this year. His top hope in this tournament may be Brett Bynum at 134

pounds.

Another top Tar Heel prospect this weekend will be Scott Conkwright. Conkwright, who competes at 118, is a transfer from Oklahoma State. He is ineligible to compete with the Tar Heels this winter, but will wrestle in the tournament unattached.

Carolina students will be admitted free to all four sessions. Tickets for the general public are \$3 with each individual session costing \$1. Children will be admitted for 50 cents.

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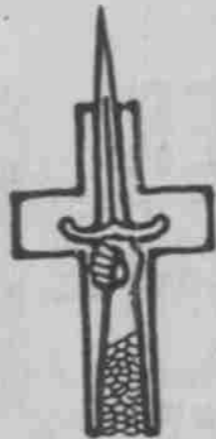
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