

Tar Heel SPORTS Tar Heel

UNC downs Navy, Johns Hopkins

Fencing team still undefeated

by Steve Levin
Sports Writer

The air inside Carmichael Auditorium, usually alive with the shrieking exhortations and cries of 8,800 fanatics cheering their beloved hardcourt warriors on, was strangely quiet. The crowd of 300 relaxed in the relative comfort of the Rams Club's seats, but the floor directly below them, instead of being overflowing with the usual troop of photographers, was covered with folding chairs, ground wires, fencing strips, and warmup jackets.

The scene was a fencing match between Carolina and Navy—a very special match. It marked the first chance for the Tar Heels to gain revenge on a Navy team that mauled them 21-6 last year. It was also the Tar Heels' first duel match of the season, and possibly one of their toughest. To show the importance of the match, assistant coach Charlie Poterat wore a tie—the first time he had been seen in anything besides sweat suits.

Leaping out to an early 10-4 lead in the matches, Carolina coasted in with a decisive 16-11 decision over the Middies. In foil and sabre competition, Carolina had a combined 12-6 record, and therein lay the settling of the match.

Jim Krause was undefeated in foil and no less than six other Tar Heels came out of the meet with 2-1 marks. Jim Scott did it in foil, Kevin Gallagher and Bill Shippman in epee, and Travis Hanes, Thurbert Baker, and John Thacker in sabre.

Krause had sweet revenge in his three matches as he redeemed himself for his 0-3 showing against Navy last year.

In his first match Krause had a difficult time gaining his final touch and when he finally got it he said to his opponent, "Thank you very much!"

In epee, Gallagher rallied from a 2-0 deficit to win his first round match 5-4. He won his final match also, this time by the score of 5-1. Shippman won his two victories by 5-3 and 5-4 while Bob Peterson, although he went 0-3 for the meet, lost each match by 5-4 after rallying from deficits each time to tie the matches at 4-4.

The sabre competition provided the most excitement of the Navy meet as Hanes, Baker, and Thacker each won 2 matches by taking quick, early leads and then hanging on for the win in the late stages.

"I was most pleased with foil and sabre against Navy," Carolina coach Ron Miller said. "I was also happy with epee despite their 4-5 record: Navy has a very tough epee squad.

"Even though Peterson had an 0-3 record for his bouts, all of them went 5-4 and six of the nine epee bouts went to 5-4.

"It was a pleasing win for both the coaches and players after the humiliation we suffered at Navy last year. We had to wait til this year to get our revenge."

Straight from the warmth of Carmichael, the Tar Heels traveled to Durham for a match with Johns Hopkins. There they gave one of their best performances of the season—a resounding 18-9

thrashing of Hopkins. This time around epee and foil combined for a 13-5 slate with Gallagher, Peterson, and Shippman going undefeated in epee, and Krause and Phil Reed turning the trick in foil.

The match itself lasted over 3½ hours because one of the judging machines collapsed and refused to respond to treatment.

Jim Scott had been fencing at the time, and after waiting 40 minutes to resume a match he led 3-2, he lost 5-3. Despite Scott's loss, the Tar Heels clinched victory during the second round as they held a commanding 14-2 lead. Kevin Gallagher's 5-4 win in the second round was the deciding match.

In sabre, Travis Hanes and Thurbert Baker went 2-0 while A.J. Keane posted a 1-1 record against the strong Hopkins' sabre team.

Coach Miller commended all the starting fencers by calling the match "an exceptionally outstanding performance."

"Hopkins really isn't that weak, and we were still sky high from the Navy match," he explained.

"Our young fencers had difficulty in the final round, but this really isn't unusual when the outcome of the match is already decided."

Miller expressed pleasure in Phil Reed's performance saying, "his two wins really helped his confidence and it showed how much depth we really have."

The Tar Heels are still undefeated and they now travel to Florida for matches on the weekend against several Florida schools.

Thompson leading ACC scoring race

GREENSBORO (UPI)—Atlantic Coast Conference basketball players once again are chasing David Thompson of North Carolina State for scoring honors.

Thompson, who last year as a sophomore captured the conference scoring crown with a 24.7 average, now has an average of an even 24 points a game in statistics released Wednesday.

Another guard, John Lucas of Maryland, is third with a 19.8 average. Tom McMillen of Maryland, third a year ago, now is fifth, trailing Gus Gerard of Virginia.

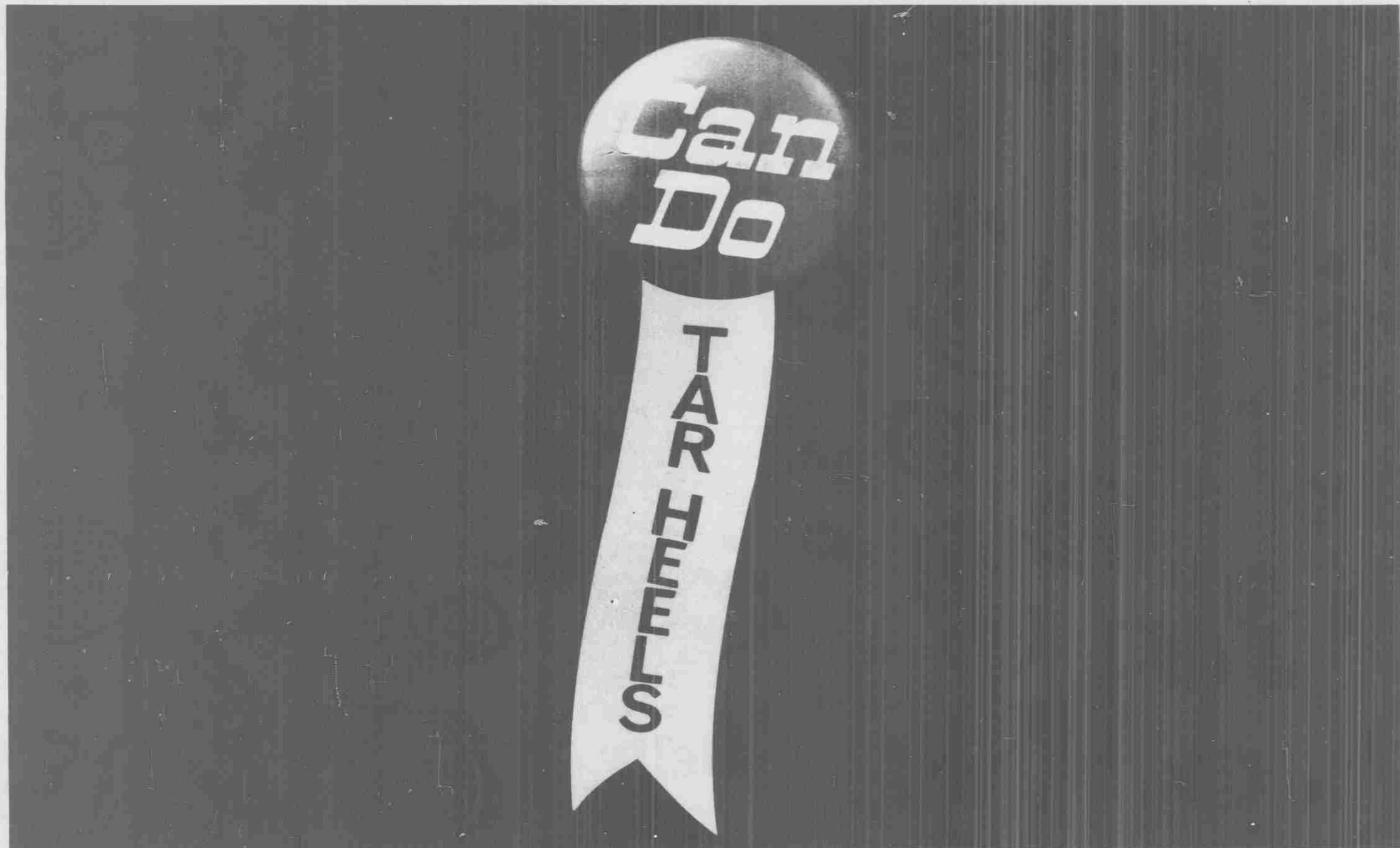
The rebounding lead belongs easily to muscular Len Elmore of Maryland with 15.4 a game.

Tommy Burleson of North Carolina State, who took the rebounding title in the conference last year, is third. His 12.4 average was barely edged by Wayne Rollins' 12.5 mark.

In field goal percentage, Mitch Kupchak of North Carolina with a .662 average is on top. Kupchak is followed in the top five by Bobby Jones of the Tar Heels, then Duke's Bob Fleischer, Darrell Elston of North Carolina and finally David Thompson.

Elston is best from the foul line, connecting on .889 of his free throws.

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