

Heels shutout West Virginia

Mountaineers head for hills

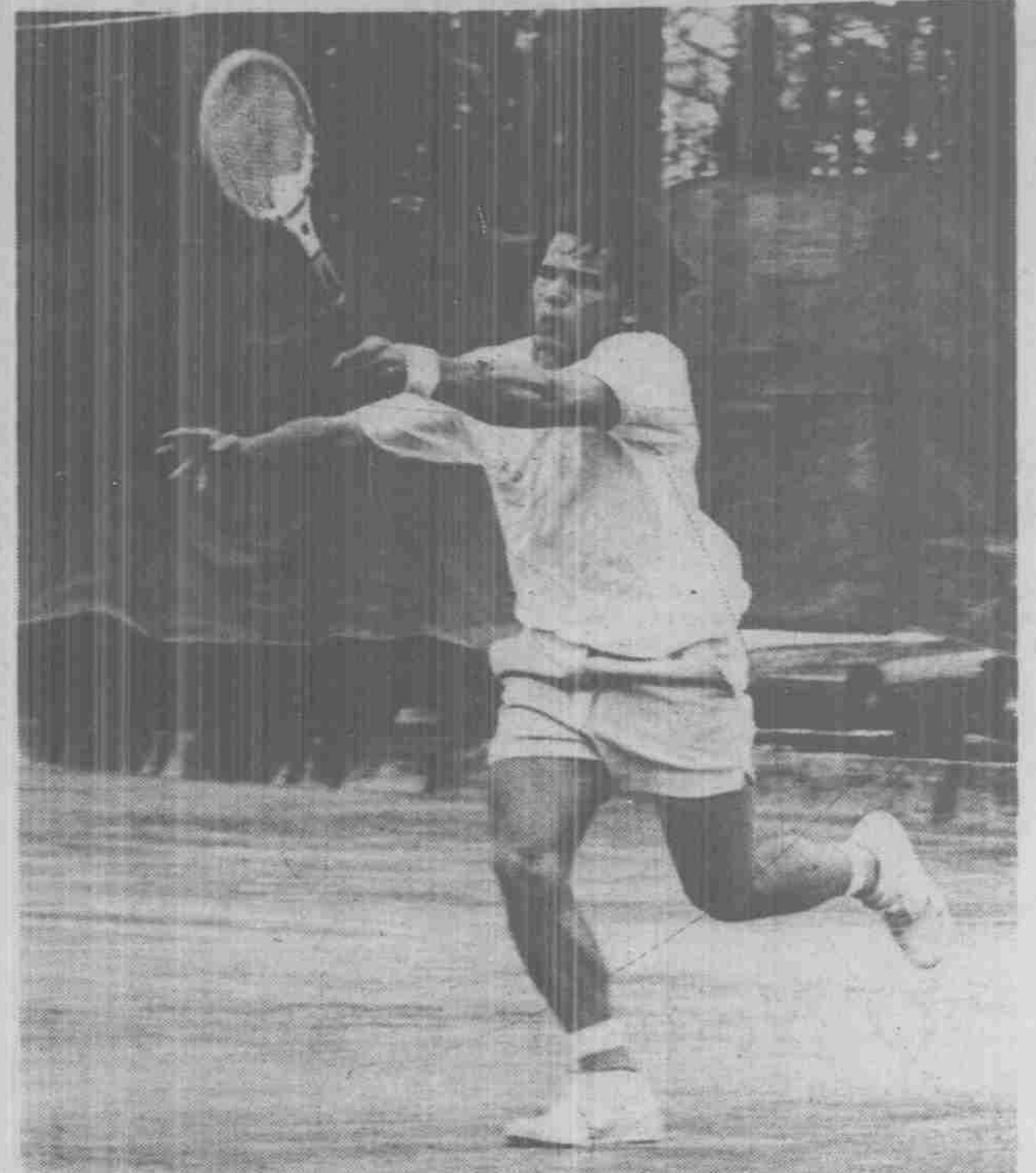
by Elliott Warnock and Michael Davis Sports Editors

Surprise. There was a lot of talk flying around the tennis courts before the 1974 season got underway, talk about all the stars and top performers who left the University of North Carolina; Freddy McNair and Forrest Simmons, the 1973 co-captains, have left to go on to bigger and better things... like money. The talk was about UNC's chances of producing yet another Atlantic Coast Conference crown under the leadership of austere Don Skakle, the man who produced championships time and time again from his head coach position. For all you people who have been biting your nails while pacing around the room waiting for the results of the season's first match... (pause for suspense)... Carolina seems to have a reasonable shot

at the ACC title again this year. Yes, playing on those decrepit old composition courts in back of Cobb Dormitory Tuesday, the Tar Heels continued their winning ways, shutting out yet another opponent. No, it wasn't an ACC opponent; it wasn't even a nationally ranked opponent, but it was West Virginia and the Mountaineers were indeed an opponent. The Tar Heels wiped out West Virginia right on down the line, scoring 108 total games in singles and doubles matches to the Mountaineers 18 games. None of the matches went to three sets. Despite his team's blistering performance, Skakle still remained reserved in his post-game comments saying, "we played like it was our first game of the season. We played as well as we could for an opener." Skakle saw the individual performances of his players as the brightest aspect of the match. "I was real pleased with the play and I must say the players have been working very hard," he exuded.

"We're a little bit ahead of the last year's pace," said Skakle, explaining it to be the "physical aspects and the mental aspects. It's just a question now of getting mentally tough."

The results: UNC 9, W. Va. 0
Singles (UNC 6, W. Va. 0)
 McKee defeated Booth, 6-2, 6-0.
 Hardaway defeated Farr, 6-1, 6-0.
 Brock defeated Partier, 6-0, 6-1.
 Dixon defeated Haller, 6-0, 6-2.
 Garcia defeated Colt, 6-0, 6-1.
 Oberstein defeated Moomau, 6-0, 6-1.
Doubles (UNC 3, W. Va. 0)
 McKee-Brock defeated Booth-Farr, 6-4, 6-4.
 Hardaway-Dixon defeated Parker-Haller, 6-1, 6-1.
 Garcia-Oberstein defeated Colt-Moomau, 6-0, 6-0.



Playing on the number one court for the Tar Heels Tuesday, Rich McKee blitzed his West Virginia opponent in two straight sets, 6-2, 6-0 as North Carolina blasted the Mountaineers, 9-0 in the Heels opening match of the season. (Staff photo by John Locher.)

The battle for the bids

ACC tourney—the ultimate trip

ATLANTA (UPI)—The college basketball soup is filled with alphabetic post-season tournaments, the NCAA, the CCA, the NIT; but it's doubtful any will be more nourishing than the one that decides the ACC this week in Greensboro, N.C. The ACC, the Atlantic Coast Conference, is a seven-team basketball hotbed stretching from Maryland to South Carolina that features three of the top five college teams in the nation and five of the top ten players. It's doubtful that even the NCAA National Finals will be able to make that claim. If the ACC tournament goes according to form, 4th ranked North Carolina (21-4) is going to play 5th ranked Maryland (21-4) in Friday's semi-finals, and the winner of that game is going to play top-ranked North Carolina State (24-1) for the conference title Saturday night. It's going to be a star-filled tournament. David Thompson of N.C. State was a

first-team All-America selection and Tom McMillan and Len Elmore of Maryland, Bobby Jones of North Carolina and Tom Burleson of N.C. State were all named to the second five. State, naturally, is the favorite. After all, the Wolfpack hasn't lost to an ACC foe in two years. In fact, the only State loss in the past two seasons was a Dec. 15 loss to UCLA at St. Louis. The Wolfpack has a golden opportunity to avenge that loss. It would be heavily favored to win the NCAA East Regionals since they are being played on the Wolfpack home court at Raleigh, N.C. And, the NCAA finals are being played at Greensboro. But favorites have been sandbagged in the ACC before. If State, which has a bye for Thursday's first round, should lose in the ACC tournament, there would be no NCAA, no CCA and no NIT for the nation's top-ranked college basketball team. Not only would N.C. State be blocked from avenging that loss to U.C.I.A., it would be blocked from any further post-season play under a rule that prohibits hosts of NCAA regionals from participating in non-NCAA tournaments. This has been one of the arguments against the ACC tournament, an argument that has been overruled by the huge amounts of cash the prestigious event puts into the pockets of conference members and the conference office. It simply isn't fair, argue opponents, that a team, like N.C. State, go through a regular season with a perfect slate—beating every other conference member at least twice—and then risk it all on the breaks of a single game. If N.C. State survives the tournament, North Carolina and Maryland will go to the National Invitational Tournament, giving the NIT two of the nation's top five teams. Consequently, NIT officials are fervently rooting for a Wolfpack victory in the ACC. And it's not inconceivable North Carolina or Maryland, each having won an NIT title in the past three years, could win yet another, while N.C. State captures the NCAA Tournament. Victories in both tournaments would prove what ACC fans have been claiming all along—the Atlantic Coast Conference is the strongest college basketball league in the nation.

State and more State

NEW YORK (UPI)—The United Press International's Board of Coaches major college basketball ratings with first place votes and won-lost records in parentheses:

Team	Points
1. North Carolina St. (21) (24-1)	326
2. Notre Dame (8) (24-1)	286
3. UCLA (5) (22-3)	285
4. North Carolina (21-4)	155
5. Maryland (21-4)	151
6. Vanderbilt (23-2)	144
7. Southern California (22-3)	108
8. Providence (23-3)	78
9. Marquette (22-4)	50
10. Indiana (19-4)	47
11. South Carolina (21-4)	36
12. Long Beach St. (23-2)	33
13. Kansas (19-5)	28
14. New Mexico (20-6)	22
15. Louisville (19-5)	21
16. Alabama (21-4)	20
17. Pittsburgh (23-3)	19
18. Creighton (21-5)	15

19. Michigan (19-4) 14
 20. Syracuse (19-6) 5

Sloan

RALEIGH (UPI)—For the third time in five seasons, Norman Sloan of North Carolina State today was named Basketball Coach of the Year in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Sloan was named in 121 of 142 ballots cast by members of the Atlantic Coast Sports Writers Association to win the Gerry Gerard Award for the second year in a row. Carl Tacy of Wake Forest, with seven votes, was a distant runnerup in the voting. Other votes were shared by Dean Smith of North Carolina, Lefty Driesell of Maryland and Tates Locke of Clemson. Sloan's Wolfpack, ranked no. 1 in the nation, this week will defend its Atlantic Coast Conference championship in the annual ACC tournament. It takes a perfect 12-0 ACC record into the event for an unprecedented second time. State is 24-1 overall. In the past two seasons Sloan has directed State to a 51-1 record, the best in the nation for that period.

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