

## Varsity basketball season begins

# Blue-White game at 4:30 p.m.

Elliott Warnock  
Sports Editor

"Swear to God . . . every year we're really optimistic about football. Everybody's got a lot of enthusiasm. Then three weeks into the season, everybody's ready for basketball."

—Jocks at Jeff's Bookstore, 1968

Things have changed a little since 1968 in Chapel Hill. It takes a little longer than three weeks for everyone to start getting into basketball. Hell . . . it took nine weeks this year.

Carolina fans will get their long awaited chance to see the varsity basketball team play in Carmichael Auditorium. The Blue-White game will be played at 4:30 p.m. following the Army-UNC football game in Kenan.

North Carolina is steeped in basketball tradition, and under the leadership of head coach Dean Smith, figures to be a contender for the national

title again this year. With defending champion North Carolina State right down Highway 54 in Raleigh, the Tar Heels will have to be at their best to get to the finals of the NCAA.

Carolina will have a hard time filling the shoes of graduated Bobby Jones, now making a name for himself as a rookie in the pro ranks.

Also gone are forward John O'Donnell, guards Ray Hite and Darrell Elston.

Guard Ray Harrison will be out for the season on the advice of his doctors, but could be back for the 1975 season. Smith calls the loss of Harrison a "major blow."

Smith is still optimistic about the teams chances in the race for the ACC title, despite one of the toughest schedules in the NCAA. "We should be one of the four or five teams in contention," he comments, "but all of us, of course will be trying to fight off

North Carolina State's bid for another national championship."

Returning leaders for the squad will be forward Ed Stahl, 6-10 from Columbus, O.; forward Mitch Kupchak, 6-9 of Brentwood, N.Y.; and swingman Walter Davis, 6-5 from Charlotte.

Kupchak and Stahl spent a lot of time rotating in the frontcourt, and did a good job while they were doing it. Fans will be looking for both of them to dominate play under the boards.

In addition to Stahl and Kupchak, Smith has Tommy Lagarde to fill in at the forward position.

The Tar Heels look strong in the guard positions also. Mickey Bell is a sure bet for playing time along with John Kuester of Richmond and Phil Ford of Rocky Mount.

All in all, the Tar Heels seem to have good depth. Fans can judge for themselves at the Blue-White game.

## Jayvee program steady

by Jim Thomas  
Sports Writer

The National Collegiate Athletic Association passed the freshmen eligibility rule three years ago, giving talented freshmen an opportunity to play on the varsity in their first year of intercollegiate competition. Since then a number of freshmen have made exceptional contributions to the athletic success achieved by the Atlantic Coast Conference. As a result many schools are getting away from a freshmen program to a junior varsity (jayvee) program or dropping the freshmen program entirely.

N.C. State abandoned the jayvee basketball program last year and only recently decided to revive the jayvee team. North Carolina head basketball coach Dean Smith, however, sees the jayvee team as a "beneficial experience."

"There is a two-fold purpose behind the jayvee basketball program," said Smith. "One is to have as many students participating in intercollegiate athletics as we can. This gives a young man a chance to continue something he enjoyed in high school and represent his school.

"A secondary purpose is to find players on the jayvee who were not recruited and may eventually help the varsity. Mickey Bell and Dale Gipple are examples of people we did not even know were coming to school and ended up playing a lot and helping us," stated Smith.

This year Woody Coley, Eric Harry and Donnie Smith may be playing some varsity due to the dearth of scholarship players. Carolina signed only two freshmen—Phil Ford and Tom Zaliagaris—both will be playing on the varsity. Zaliagaris may play a game or two on the jayvees to give him some experience, but the team will be predominately walk-ons out of the student body.

Coaching the jayvees this season will be former UNC guard Eddie Fogler. Fogler split coaching duties with assistant coach Bill Gutheridge last year after two years as a graduate assistant.

The de-emphasis on jayvee basketball programs has caused problems in scheduling opponents. "We would like

to play all the schools in this area," said Fogler, "but some did not decide to have jayvee teams until it was too late."

N.C. State did not field a jayvee team last year. Virginia and Wake Forest decided to have one at the last second. Duke will have a jayvee team but will only play home games. "I would have liked to continue our home-home arrangement preliminary to our varsity games," commented Fogler, "but I could not wait for their decision, we finish scheduling in May. Therefore we

have to schedule junior colleges which is even tougher."

The jayvee team will be composed mostly of freshmen and sophomores and may have a tough time competing against the stronger junior colleges. In addition to Coley, Harry and Smith, other members of the jayvee team are Bob Boyan, John Cohen, George Forrest, Mike Fox, Fletcher Gregory, Frank Hill, Alan Irvin, Ray Legg, Larry Poole, Clay Richardson and Brian Tallent.

## UNC guards look good

by Susan Shackelford  
Asst. Sports Editor

Heads-up hustling and backcourt ball-handling have long been the trademarks of Carolina's basketball guards. They lead the fastbreaks, call the offenses and methodically work the ball into frontcourt complements, "the big men."

Individualism under head coach Dean Smith is usually at a minimum. But with the recent success of less-constrained guards, such as N.C. State's Monte Towe and Mo Rivers and Maryland's John Lucas, the more controlled approach has been criticized.

Prompting this comparison—and ultimate questioning of UNC backcourt style—was the Tar Heels' disappointing finish last season when they were drubbed by Maryland in the ACC tourney and then lost in the NIT.

Should the Carolina guard corps be allowed more freedom, a chance to depart from set offensive plans and move instinctively against an opponent? The answer rests with Coach Smith, who in fact said at the end last season some changes might be needed.

Several shifts have already occurred, that is, at least in personnel. Gone are Ray Hite, Ray Harrison and Darrell Elston, last year's regulars. Vying for their replacement are senior Brad Hoffman, junior Dave Hanners and sophomore John Kuester and freshman Phil Ford.

"Basically the (guard) style is about the same," Hoffman assessed after practice one day this week. "You can't say anything is wrong with the system. Look at Coach Smith's record; it speaks for itself (264-96, 13 UNC seasons)."

Admitting some slight differences, the Columbus, Ohio native continued, "Everybody's a little freer . . . free lance, I guess. But it's not that great a change. Why

would we want to change what has worked year after year?"

"Everybody's got a theory about what happened last year. It could have been more than one thing that caused it (the letdown)," Hoffman, sitting courtside in Carmichael Auditorium, offered. "I know our team unity is better this year. We're all closer and I think that's going to carry over to the court."

"We're also trying to instill confidence in ourselves," the 5-10 guard added. "We want to overcome being hesitant in our play."

Reinforcing the idea of little style change, Kuester, in a separate interview, noted, "We'll still be fast-breaking and pressing, and if you have the shot you take it."

"I'm looking forward to this season," Kuester continued. "We know the system well enough. Our inexperience is one thing, but wanting to play so bad—that's the way we all feel. I'm not worried at all. We know we can execute."

"I couldn't really tell you what it was last year," the 6-2 Richmond native, who played much varsity ball last year, said. "I can't pinpoint anything. Our practices were good, but our execution just wasn't as good in games. Execution is the key."

Meanwhile, Hanners, who played junior varsity last year, sees a mental change. "This year the team attitude has improved 100 per cent. Last year I can remember I didn't hang around with other players. This year we're a lot closer."

Considering a backcourt style, he asserted, "I don't agree we'll have to change. I like the way it is. State and Maryland both have great programs, but Carolina—well, we won 22 games last year. I'd stay with UNC with respect to backcourt."

Hanners, after suffering mononucleosis his frosh season without full recovery last season, must battle the experience edge that Hoffman and Kuester draw on towards starting roles. If Coach Smith runs a big guard, either 6-5 sophomore Walter Davis or



Ed Stahl

6-5 junior Bill Chambers is expected to get the assignment.

Wait a minute. No one is overlooking the highly-touted talent of Phil Ford, whose quickness, speed and jumping ability makes him a strong rebounder, and scoring guard.

However, an initial starting role for the 6-2 guard is doubtful. Playing college defense is an adjustment, the Rocky Mount prep all-America said, and "I'm finding out there is a lot of difference between college and high school. In high school most of the time, you don't have that many good players on the court."

What about pressure? "If Coach Smith has enough confidence in me then I guess I can do the job. I feel the pressure sometimes, but I hardly think about it."

"I hardly even think about the people (at a game). It's just like the stands are empty," Ford said.

Whether the backcourt will be the nucleus of the team leadership may be the special concern of Hoffman, the only senior backcourter.

"Ed (Stahl), Mickey (Bell, the other seniors) and I have dedicated ourselves to work together," Hoffman said. "We will try to be leaders all the time, having enthusiasm, giving encouragement and helping each other on the court."

"Being a senior, this is my last year. I had a good freshman year and really good sophomore year, playing about 15 to 20 minutes," Hoffman paused, "but last year was a real letdown."

"I was upset because I didn't feel like I got to contribute to the team when I could've. I've always had confidence in my game and last year was the first time it broke."

"When I was a freshman I played against Towe and Lucas and I think I did a respectable job," the blond playmaker analyzed. "And I feel like now if I have an opportunity to play, I can live up to my confidence."