



Walter Davis makes a jump shot against Clemson in Carolina's 74-72 win over Tates Locke's Tigers last Thursday night in Carmichael Auditorium. Davis and the rest of the Tar Heels travel to Winston-Salem Wednesday night to play Wake Forest. (Staff photo by Gary Lobraico)

John Dunlap

An opinion on Clemson's Locke

"Hey, you, get your ass out of here. And tell that son-of-a-bitch writer if I ever catch him I will beat the hell out of him. That article is pure trash. I've been reading that (expletive deleted) stuff for years now and I don't need it."

Meet Clemson basketball coach Tates Locke as he came out to talk with the press following Clemson's 74-72 loss to Carolina this past Thursday night in Carmichael. One can easily understand the frustration he had felt watching his team blow a 16 point lead and missing key free throws in the last few minutes.

But then one does have to wonder why a major basketball coach in what is generally considered the best basketball conference in America would use a local newspaper as a scapegoat to vent his frustration. The most ironical thing of all was the schizophrenic sort of behavior Locke went through after his momentary tirade.

Tates became a true-blue, Southern gentleman of a loser. He stood with his head bowed and calmly spoke of the pride he felt for his players and the sorrow that the seniors "had picked a lot of grapes (in Carmichael) not to taste the wine."

Coach Locke's original madness supposedly stemmed from an article written by Howard Owen of *The Chapel Hill Newspaper*. Owen stated in one of his columns that Clemson star Skip Wise was having troubles with Locke and basketball at Clemson. Owen states that the above situation is true, as he got the story from the Clemson athletic director.

Nonetheless, it is pretty obvious that every newspaper in any given area of the country will publish things that could be taken at odds by coaches who are easily offended. One can only assume that South Carolina

papers say things about Carolina sports that could be taken the wrong way.

The fact of the matter is that Tates Locke was a frustrated and uptight coach who did not keep his cool. The funny thing is that local writers who covered the post game interview praised Locke as a humble and respectable coach in defeat. Those writers must have seen a completely different that the one *WCAR* sports director Rickey Willenzik, Chapel Hill writer Dan Collins, and myself saw.

And if there was not much to be said about the post game interview it is because everyone was too scared to ask anything of Coach Locke for fear of bodily harm.

The relationship of the sportswriter to the head coach is a strange one. There are three directions which the sportswriter can go. The first is to be buddy-buddy with the coach. This basically means that the writer says nice things about the coach and in return gets plenty of printable quotes which mean nothing. The second is to challenge the coach all the time, applying a great amount of pressure. The trouble here is that the writer makes too many enemies.

Finally, the writer can depend on his conscience and knowledge of the truth. If this means he puts his personal friendships on the line, then he must do it. Unfortunately, too many writers are treating a coach like Tates Locke better than the man deserves, and the public is not getting the full story.

— Mike Shadrul

Ruggers ready for season

Over the last three springs UNC's dashing ruggers have managed to amass a spectacular record. The Heels in that time span have gone 39-4-1 A's and 22-0 B's. The team has twice been ranked among the top five in the South and in 1973 was offered an invitation to the national collegiate championships.

This spring will hopefully be no different. Continuing the tradition will not, however, be an easy task. This season's schedule looks like a listing of Who's Who in American Rugby. Old Blue, Tulane, New Hampshire, VPI, N.C. State and LSU will offer a stern challenge to the Heels' winning ways.

Two factors will be essential to the team's success this spring. The first key will be recruiting. Team leader Gra Patterson commented: "We were hit hard by graduation last year and we're still weak in several positions. We need a lot of good athletes to come out this spring and to stay

out. We hope a few senior football players will come out. They would be able to give us some needed size and weight."

The second key will be the play of this year's senior class. Seniors will play a number of extremely important positions, particularly in the backfield. Among those who will lead the Blue's attack will be George Crapps at hooker, Tom Maier at wing, Ernie Razzano and Joe Walker at wing forward, Gra Patterson at inside, John Arzonico at outside, Mike Shadrul at fullback and Phil Martin at prop. The ability of the seniors to hold down mistakes in close matches and to

give strong leadership in competition and practice will be important factors in the team's fortunes.

As for the social aspects of the game there is no doubt but that regardless of how the team does on the field UNC will continue to establish new feats of drinking and singing bravado. Several pig roasts and large quantities of the noble brew will serve to nourish both body and soul of the motley Blue band.

For those interested there will be a team meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Union.

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