

Basketball boom for women aids UNC team

by John Hopkins
Staff Writer

Led by the blaring notes of the pep band, about 2,000 UNC fans rocked Carmichael Auditorium with their rendition of "Rah, rah Carolina-lina." On the court, the players, between smiles, were chatting with friends and family who had filtered down from the stands after the final buzzer. Carmichael was a happy place this afternoon of Dec. 6.

And with good reason. The UNC women's basketball team had defeated N. C. State 74-61, a margin that surprised most everybody in the place.

It's always a special occasion in Chapel

Hill when the Tar Heels defeat State in anything, but this was a sweeter victory than most because of the prestige involved. Both teams are expected to battle for the top spot in Division I of the North Carolina Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW). And for the moment, at least, it appears that Carolina has the upper hand.

Both coaches, Angela Lumpkin of UNC and State's Kay Yow agreed that things could be different when the two teams meet again later on. And as Yow was eager to point out, that's the one that will count in the standings. This, the season opener for both teams, was just a warmup for the Jan. 28

meeting in Raleigh, which will be televised. That's right, televised. Women's basketball may be on the verge of the big-time, and for Lumpkin, "It can't come too soon."

Ever since the sport made the transition from club to varsity status in 1968, the UNC program has had a virtual parade of coaches, many of whom lacked adequate time, interest and the necessary expertise to develop the program. For most, it was a matter of getting stuck with the job. Lumpkin is only the second UNC coach to begin a second year.

That kind of shuffling caused at least one player, Dawn Allred, an all-state performer last season, to transfer to another school this year. Specifically mentioning the shifting of coaches, Allred felt she could not "reach my peak here."

Nevertheless, last season the Heels had their most successful year ever. They went through the regular season 14-1, losing only to state champion Elon College in the final game of the season.

But because it jumped the gun on the official starting date of practice the year before, last season's team was denied participation in the state tourney. It did accept a bid to the National Women's Invitational Tournament, where it won one game and lost two.

That squad was dominated by Allred and fellow all-state player Marsha Mann. The two players scored nearly half the team's points for the season. Mann graduated last year.

Though the talent-laden duo of Mann and Allred are gone, the team promises to be more balanced. During pre-season, Lumpkin enthusiastically pointed to that as the club's major asset. She was proved right as four of the five starters hit double figures in the opener against State.

The coach credits a nationwide boom in women's basketball for last year's success and the predicted good season for this year. "The caliber of the people coming in is really high. The student-athletes are much better skilled than in the past, and for that reason, I can't take any credit for the good season last year."

But several Lumpkin-inspired features may help make this and future Tar Heel teams even more successful.

One of these is the inclusion of the first scholarship player in the team's history on this year's roster. Cathy Shoemaker, a 5-10 center from Charleston, S.C., was signed to a partial grant-in-aid (tuition paid only) this year, and promptly scored a team high of 16 points in the opener.

Lumpkin is hopeful of signing several more players to grants next season. "I'll be allowed to offer some," she said. "But I don't know how many yet."

Recruiting presents a problem for the coach. She doesn't have time to go out on the road recruiting like the men's programs permit. Her duties with her team and as a physical education professor prevent the trips.

"Players who want to come to school here sometimes contact me," she said. "Or maybe I get a tip about someone, and I'll contact them. By mail or by phone I might get some statistics on them. Possibly they'll come to

the University at their own expense, and I'll get a look at them.

"It's illegal (against AIAW rules) to pay them money for the trip like the guys do, just like I can't get paid for recruiting. I went to see some kids play before I went home for the holidays, and the money for that came out of my pocket."

Another new wrinkle for this season will be competition with national powers in women's basketball. Two top 20 opponents have been scheduled, Tennessee Tech and Ohio State, with both of those contests coming on Tar Heel road trips.

"Those games will make a difference in how far we progress this year," Lumpkin said. "If we can stay with them like that, I think we'll have a good chance of taking the regionals and going to the national tournament. If we make the regionals, of course."

Also added this year by Lumpkin is the use of a player-to-player defense, something most women collegiate teams don't feel talented enough to handle. Lumpkin feels she has the players this year to use the match-up as the main defense, while also giving the opposition an occasional look at the zone.

UNC's women cagers return to action tonight when they host College of Charleston (S.C.) in Carmichael Auditorium at 8 p.m. Charleston comes to town with a 1-1 record. They defeated Baptist College 73-68, but lost to Anderson College by 31 points.

All these measures are, of course, designed to vault UNC into the elite of women's basketball in the country, a goal Lumpkin would very much like to see.

"I came up in a program where we bought our own uniforms, we had an unpaid coach and any expenses we had, we covered ourselves," she said. "And I didn't like it."

That kind of talk may remind one of the good ole days. You know, when amateur athletics were played by individuals purely for the love of the game. And they were free from the high pressure, win-at-all-costs-and-bend-the-rules type of atmosphere. Won't progress in the direction of the big-time at least cause mixed emotions?

"I don't think so," said Lumpkin. "Maybe I'm too idealistic. I know some abuses can occur when you're working with scholarships and the like. But I also believe in the ethical character of coaches. I don't think it would be a problem for me. And if it is for other coaches, all I can do is apologize for them. I don't think that is the way athletics or any other aspect of life should be."

"No, I don't have mixed emotions. I think progress is super."

Progress also means, according to some, including Congress and HEW, gaining comparable, if not equal, footing with the men's program. And with the men's basketball program here, that leaves a ways to go yet.

"We're getting there," Lumpkin said.

"And one thing that's going to speed its coming is success. And that means winning basketball games."



Staff Photo by Charles Hardy

Cathy Shoemaker drives against Joan Leggett in UNC practice.

Basketball's Shoemaker no longer a court klutz

by Ed Rankin
Staff Writer

How can a 14-year-old "klutz" on her ninth grade basketball team later become the first woman ever to receive a basketball scholarship at Carolina? Maybe because she wasn't that much of a "klutz" anyway, but don't tell freshman Cathy Shoemaker that.

"I really was the klutz of our team," she said. Then, grinning, she added, "I was one of those players who couldn't chew gum and walk at the same time."

The Charleston, S.C. native went through quite a change from the time she picked up her first basketball until today. She rapidly developed her basketball talent to become a two-time all-conference selection from Chicora High School.

The 5-10 Shoemaker played the low post in high school and averaged 22 points, 26 rebounds, nine assists and nine steals a game her senior year. In addition to basketball, Shoemaker played volleyball three years and was the valedictorian of her class.

Shoemaker said her high school coach, Mrs. Ginny Hallman, was instrumental in the development of her skills. "She's the type of coach who can greatly motivate a player," she said. "She made me a dedicated basketball player."

Shoemaker said she looked for a college coach she could respect as much as she did Hallman, and Carolina Head Coach Angela Lumpkin fit the mold. "After I met Coach Lumpkin and visited the campus here, I was sold on UNC."

Several schools approached the highly-touted Shoemaker with basketball and volleyball scholarships, including the University of South Carolina, the College of Charleston and Blount Mountain College in Mississippi.

Shoemaker, who receives a tuition-only scholarship to attend UNC, said "I could have gotten more money from a school in South Carolina, but I wanted to come here. I really love Chapel Hill and its atmosphere."

Shoemaker said she does not feel any additional pressure to perform well simply because she is the only scholarship player on the squad. "I'm treated no differently from any other player. We're all close and do a lot of things together. Besides, I motivate myself to do well because I'm always concerned with improving my skills. I would be concerned with doing my best even if I didn't have the scholarship."

With the talent on this year's women's basketball team, Shoemaker said expectations for an excellent season are high. But, she added, the Tar Heels must take each game one at a time.

Yet, as pleased as Shoemaker is about her team's prospects, she is displeased with the inadequate athletic facilities for UNC women students and with the "inconsideration" shown toward women's athletics. She describes the tiny Women's Gym as "ridiculous" and very outmoded.

"A lot of people must think girls don't dive after loose basketballs or try to save a ball," she said.

When sophomore Joan Leggett went for a ball going out of bounds in a practice earlier this season in Women's Gym, she broke her wrist when she ran into a wall only two feet away.

"The Joan Leggett incident should have been avoided, because no team, men's or women's, should have to play there," she said. The women's team usually practices in Carmichael Auditorium but sometimes must move to the smaller gym when a time conflict arises with another activity in Carmichael.

Shoemaker said that consideration for women's basketball is slowly improving. "Dr. Lumpkin fights for our rights, but many people don't like that."

Shoemaker said she is thinking about a possible physical education major and wants to coach someday.

1976 UNC Women's Basketball Schedule

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Jan. 9 | College of Charleston | Carmichael | 8:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 13 | Duke | Carmichael | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 17 | East Carolina vs N.C. State | Carmichael | 1:00 p.m. |
| *Jan. 18 | Elon vs Carolina | Carmichael | 3:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 23 | East Carolina | Carmichael | 2:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 24 | Winthrop | Rock Hill, S.C. | 7:00 p.m. |
| *Jan. 26 | Univ. of South Carolina | Columbia, S.C. | 2:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 30 | N.C. State | Raleigh, N.C. | 8:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 31 | Belmont | Nashville, Tenn. | 8:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 5-7 | Tennessee Tech | Cookville, Tenn. | 5:00 p.m. |
| | Virginia Invitational (Clemson) | Charlottesville, Va. | 3:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 12 | Wake Forest | Carmichael | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 14 | Old Dominion | Elizabeth City, N.C. | 8:00 p.m. |
| *Feb. 17 | UNC-Greensboro | Carmichael | 7:30 p.m. |
| *Feb. 20 | Western Carolina | Cullowhee, N.C. | 7:00 p.m. |
| *Feb. 23 | Appalachian | Carmichael | 7:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 27 | Ohio State | Columbus, Ohio | 7:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 28 | Marshall University | Huntington, W.Va. | 5:30 p.m. |
| March 4-6 | Division I State Tournament | Carmichael | |
| March 11-13 | Region II Tournament | Cullowhee, N.C. | |
| March 24-28 | AIAW National Tournament | University Park, Pa. | |

* Denotes Division