Trophies reflect on Lucas' court success

by Gene Upchurch
Staff Writer

DURHAM—John Lucas has always been a good athlete. And the dining room in his parents' home is lined with trophies to prove it.

The inscription on one of the trophies reads "North Carolina Athlete of the Year 1975—Finalist." Lucas looked at the trophy and said, "I don't remember getting this one... oh yeah, that's the year David Thompson won it."

And Lucas continues to be a good athlete. His college basketball record and the record of the University of Maryland basketball team proves it. The 6-3½ senior is a two-time all-American and has held spots on the first team All-Atlantic Coast Conference and first team All-ACC tournament. Lucas was the leading scorer for the Terrapins last year, averaging 19.5 points per game. So far this season, he is averaging 19.7 points per game. Since Lucas was a freshman, the Terrapins have compiled an 83-14 overall record, including a 13-2 record so far this season while ranked no. 3 nationally.

Lucas is also an outstanding tennis player. For the last three years, he has played the no. 1 position for Maryland and has won ACC tennis championships twice, once in singles and once in doubles.

Lucas was a heavily recruited high school basketball and tennis player, and chose to go to Maryland because of Lefty Driesell. Lucas' freshman year was the first year freshmen were allowed to play varsity sports, and he played on a team that included such stars as Tom McMillen and Len Elmore. But the pressure of being a freshman playing on a team with such big names didn't bother Lucas. Lucas played in 30 games that year and averaged 14.2 points per game.

"Pressure is a thing that never bothered me. My talents speak for themselves. A lot of things you get credited for you don't deserve. A lot of things you get blamed for you don't deserve," Lucas said in an interview during semester break.

"You have to work for everything you want. McMillen and Elmore have fingers just like I've got. And nothing beats hard work."

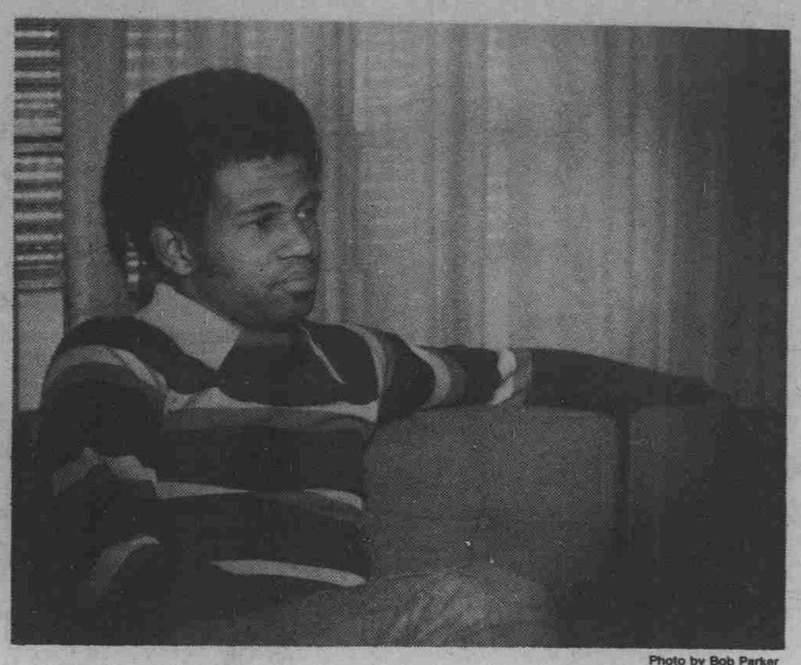

Photo by Bob Parker

Lucas' respect for Driesell goes back to the time the two met.

"Coach Driesell shook my hand straight up—he didn't use the black handshake. A lot of coaches that recruited me seemed to think that the proper thing to do was to use the black handshake because I was black. Coach Driesell didn't think that. He's a very honest individual," Lucas said.

Driesell is one of the most controversial and colorful coaches in America and has gained a reputation for breaking chairs and lockers.

It is "an experience in itself" Lucas said, to play for Driesell.

"He's a winner. He's the hardest working individual I've ever seen. I'd give an arm and a leg for Coach Driesell anywhere, on or off the basketball court. Driesell is the best coach in America."

Driesell has had a great influence on Lucas' attitude and his career. An example of this, Lucas said, was the Maryland game against N.C. State last year in the ACC tournament. Maryland was down 17 points with four minutes left in the game.

"Coach called us over to the bench and said, 'Let's go, we've waited long enough.' Everyone just looked at one another and thought 'He must know something we don't know.' With four seconds left, we were one point ahead. But State came back with a big play to win the game."

Lucas and Driesell share a common goal—to win the national basketball championship.

"You go places to achieve goals. The reason I didn't leave college to turn pro was because my goal in college was to win the national championship. There's no sense in deviating from any goals you set."

Lucas said that it is fun to compete against teams from this area. He said that he gets real satisfaction when Maryland beats Carolina, Duke or N.C. State. In fact, his best performances last year were against N.C. State and Carolina when he scored 30 and 31 points, respectively.

One thing Lucas remembers most vividly about playing against Carolina in Carmichael Auditorium was the crowd.

"I remember last year when we (Maryland) were up 27 points, the Carolina crowd kept cheering. Carolina cut our lead down to 18 points and the cheering got louder and louder."

Lucas would like to play both basketball and tennis professionally after he graduates, and was recently drafted by Hawaii of World Team Tennis. But he is also interested in college coaching, and would like to apply to a major university for a coaching job.

"I think you should do what you do for love. You shouldn't do anything for money. You should always do it for love, whether you're a pusher or a pimp or a businessman."

When a young athlete asks Lucas for advice on how to become a star, Lucas tells him that not everyone can be a great basketball player.

"It just doesn't work out that way. That's why it's important to get a good education.

"Hard work is important. You can achieve anything with hard work."

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Weekend road trips

Wrestlers test Navy

Carolina wrestlers, coming off a victory last Tuesday over previously undefeated N.C. State, challenge ninth-ranked Navy and 13th-ranked Clarion Saturday afternoon in dual matches in Annapolis, Md.

Carolina defeated State 19-15, despite injuries that have hampered Scott and Chris Conkwright, Dave Casale and Carl Hoffman. The win gives Carolina first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

UNC Wrestling Coach Bill Lam indicated he's in doubt about the starting status of the Conkwrights Saturday.

"I'm sure that wrestling State aggravated their shoulders some, and it's tough to decide whether to risk further injury or hold them out to let them heal," Lam said.

If the Conkwrights do start, they'll wrestle in only one of the matches, with Rocky Wing replacing Scott at 118 pounds and David Breece starting for Chris at 134 in the other.

Dave Juergens and Tim Reaume will wrestle at 142, Hoffman and Joe Ryan 167, and Casale and Bucky Gaudreau 190. Starting both matches will be Curtis Rudolph (126), Jeff Reingten (150), Mike Benzel (158), Dean Brior (177) and Dee Hardison (Hwt).

Carolina's next home match is Jan. 29 against East Carolina.

The UNC **women's gymnastics** team will open its 1976 season tonight in Boone against Appalachian State University. Joan Healy and Lynn Swisher will compete for the Tar Heels in the demanding all-around category, doing routines on the uneven bars, balance beam, vaulting horse and floor exercise.

Sophomore Teresa Trice is favored in the balance beam and floor exercise, two events she won at the state meet last year.

Each team is allowed to enter a maximum of six girls in each of the four events.

The gymnasts' first home match is Wednesday, Jan. 28 in Carmichael.

UNC's **women cagers** attempt to keep their unblemished record intact tonight when they meet Winthrop College in Rock Hill, S.C. The Heels, 5-0, will also play the University of South Carolina Saturday in Columbia, S.C.

Winthrop has compiled a 3-1 record this season while the Gamecocks are 2-4.

Carolina has four scorers averaging in double figures, with Cathy Shoemaker leading the team averaging 16 points per game. Courtney Peck follows with 12 per game and Linda Matthews and Cathey Daniels each average 11.

Imps blast J. V.s, 96-63

Duke started five varsity members and Carolina never started hitting as the Blue Imps routed the Tar Babies 96-63 Wednesday at Durham in a junior varsity game.

Harold Morrison, who later played a few minutes in the varsity contest with Wake Forest, led the Blue Imps, scoring 22 points and pulling down 13 rebounds. Bruce Bell added 12 more points and three others scored ten as Duke shot 49.3 per cent from the floor.

Ged Doughton led the Tar Babies with 14 points, followed by Randy Wiel with 13 and Archie Shaw with 12. Carolina hit only 20 of 71 field goal attempts to finish with a dismal 28.2 per cent.

Duke led the whole game, but Carolina stayed within six points throughout the first half until a final spurt put the Blue Imps up by 14, 46-32, at halftime.

Wiel picked up his fourth foul only 10 seconds into the second half and sat out much of the remainder of the game. Duke outscored UNC 32-14 at one point of the second half.

— Grant Vosburgh

Club sports

Bowlers strike State

The UNC Men's Bowling Team defeated N.C. State last Saturday in Raleigh, 4500-4346, to avenge an earlier loss to the Wolfpack. Dave Wilkerson led the Tar Heels for the second week in a row with a 195 average and a high game of 214. The men's team is now 3-1.

Carolina's Women's Bowling team split two three-game matches against State. UNC won the first as Linda Williams and Connie Hutchins each bowled a series-high 461, but State fought back to take the second, 2197-2128.

The women have changed to bowling two three-game matches instead of the customary five-game match in order to become eligible for the National Bowling Council tournament at the end of the season.

The public is invited to watch UNC's next home match, Saturday, Jan. 24 against the University of Virginia. The match is set for 1 p.m. on the Union bowling lanes.

Carolina's **ice hockey** club team will travel to Atlanta Jan. 31 where it will play two games in three days. They will take on Georgia Tech Friday, Jan. 30 in the Omni as a preliminary to the Atlanta Flames-Boston Bruins game, then they will face Emory University on Sunday.

The Vanderbilt University Center for Health Services

is soliciting **applicants for the position of Student Co-Director.** The position entails full-time work with community and student groups on economic, political, and social issues in the South for one year. Undergraduate, recent graduates, graduate and professional students are invited to apply. For further information contact the Center for Health Services, Vanderbilt University, Station 17, Nashville, Tennessee 37232, **(615) 322-4799.** All applications should include experience in community organizing and list three references. **Applications are due by February 16, 1976.**

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27 Faint
29 Stroke
30 Transgress
31 Boundaries
33 Vegetable (pl.)
35 Girl's name
36 Edible seed
38 Clan
40 Urge on
41 Brag
43 Conjunction
44 Symbol for nickel
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48 Tall structures
50 European ermines
52 Bird's home
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11 Rants
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22 Girl's name
24 Painful spots
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32 Blemishes
33 Foundations
34 Games
35 Period of fasting
37 Organ of hearing
39 Spanish for "three"
41 Man's nickname
42 Makes lace
45 Things, in law
46 Pedal digit
49 Pronoun
51 Cooled lava

Answer to Thursday's Puzzle

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LOB ALEA OPAL
ALE TEMPORARY
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EA ENS NOTE
PAS LAD FINAL
AL RAT PAC IS
STREW PAD ELA
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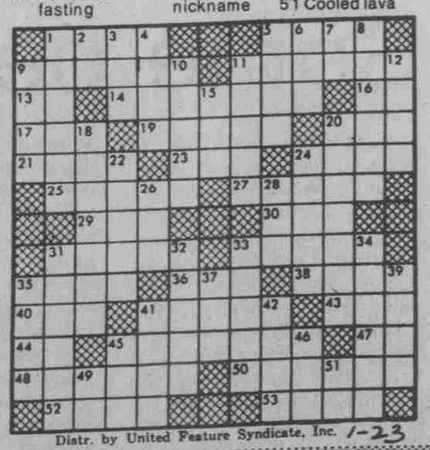

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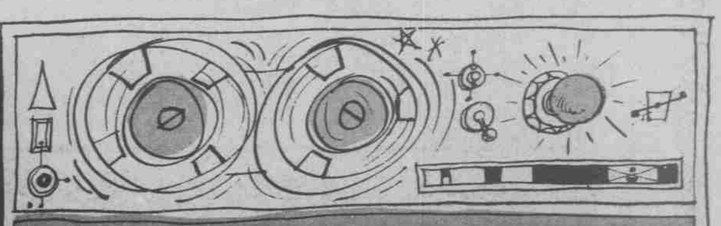

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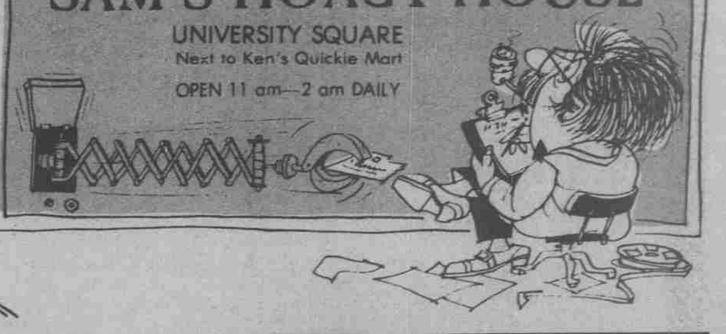

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