

State tourney next obstacle for gymnasts

by Chip Ensslin
Staff Writer

The UNC women's gymnastics team will compete against Appalachian State, Western Carolina, East Carolina, and Duke in the North Carolina state tournament this weekend in Cullowhee, N.C. The teams which finish first and second will compete next weekend in the regionals in Memphis. Carolina finished second in the state tourney last year.

"We seem to be peaking at the right time," said UNC Assistant Coach Cathy Benton Tuesday.

The Tar Heels have not met Western Carolina this season, but they have defeated Appalachian, Duke, and ECU and gained valuable experience against some of the best teams in the country, including the University of Florida and Towson State.

Teresa Trice will compete in the balance beam and floor exercise events, which she won in last year's state meet. Joan Healy and Lynn Swisher will both be entered in all-around competition, which is based on a total score for all four events. Terry Lodge, Paula Kilpatrick and Ellen Sumner will compete on the uneven bars and Mary Dashiell and Pat Sawyer will perform on the balance beam. Susie Hulse will do the floor exercise for the Tar Heels.

The competition in regionals will be more challenging and competitive since new standards were passed this year to qualify for the nationals. Teams must score a 98-point total to qualify this year. Individuals must be among the top three finishers and also must score at least nine points. The national meet will be held at Appalachian State April 2-4.

Best to come for Heels in ACC tourney?

by Susan Shackelford
Sport Editor

Last year the University of North Carolina did the unexpected at the Atlantic Coast Conference basketball tournament, winning 70-66 in the finals over N.C. State and David Thompson. This year can the Tar Heels do the "expected?"

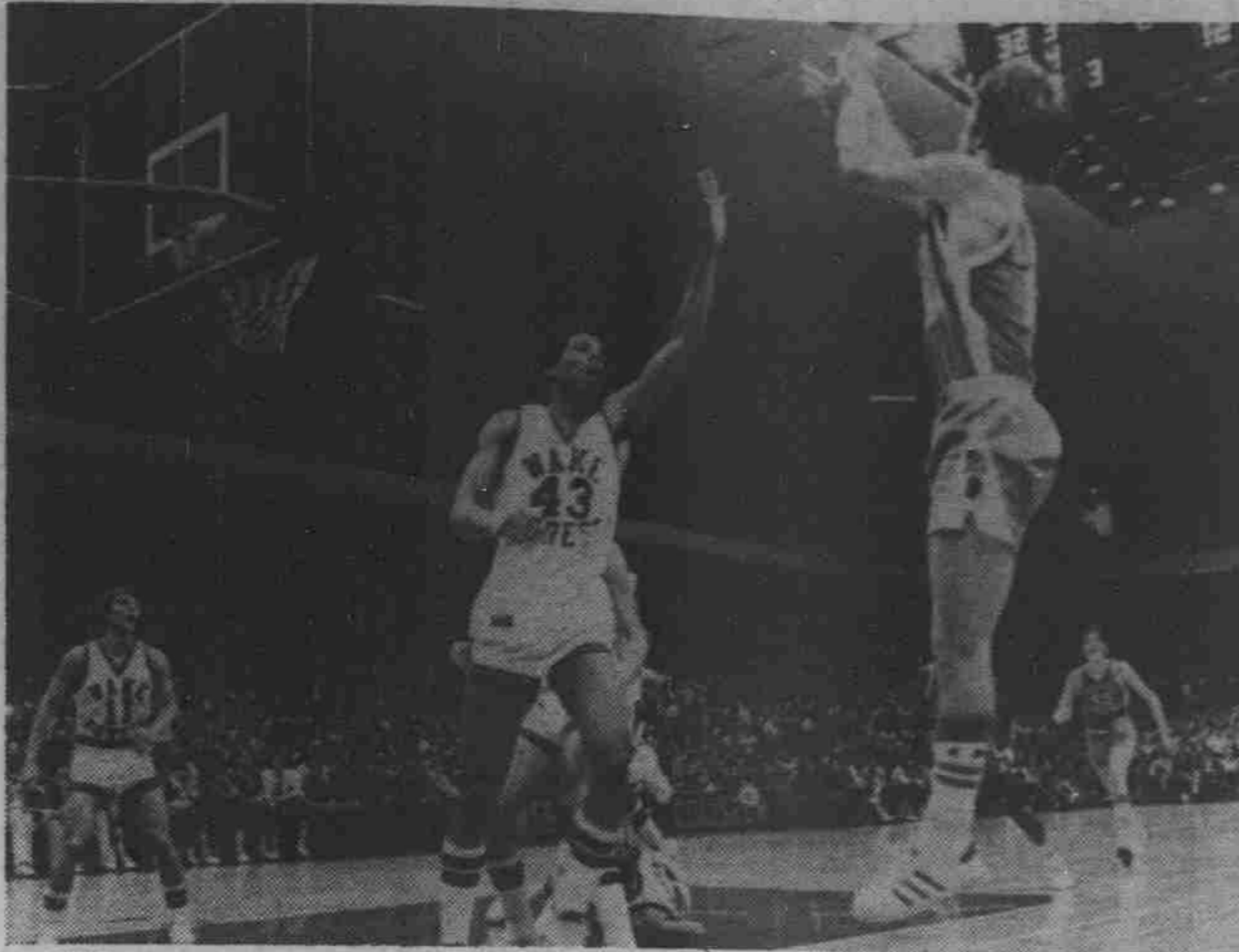
This rests on minds of Tar Heel fans, but others throughout the conference have more immediate concerns. While Carolina has a first round in today's opening round of the tournament, Clemson, Wake Forest, Duke, Maryland, N.C. State and Virginia must put their 1975-76 seasons on the line. The championship game is at 8 p.m. Saturday. Second-seeded Maryland and Duke open the tourney in a 1 p.m. game today, while third-seeded State plays sixth-seeded Virginia at 3 and fourth-seeded Clemson and fifth-seeded Wake Forest tangle at 5.

The tournament is outside North Carolina for the first time in its 22-year history. Maryland Head Coach Lefty Driesell has wanted the tournament in a site such as Capital Centre in Landover, Md. this year, but he claims his Terrapins won't have any home court advantage. UNC's Mitch Kupchak agrees.

"Landover won't hurt us (Tar Heels) any. They give the same number of tickets to each school, so I guess that means each school will have one-seventh of the fans," he said.

"It's going to who's playing well," UNC Head Basketball Coach Dean Smith said Tuesday. "I think we have to go up there confidentially. I hope our best is yet to come."

Carolina's opponent in a 7 p.m. Friday semifinal contest will be the winner of the Wake-Clemson game. Wake beat the Tar Heels, who have only one other loss this season. That defeat came in the Big Four Tournament after Christmas to Wake Forest. During the regular season, however, Carolina handed the Deacons a 25-point loss



UNC guard John Kuester pops a jumper over Wake Forest's Charlie Floyd in January's Big-Four Tournament. Carolina faces the winner of the Clemson-Wake game Friday at 7 p.m. in ACC tourney semifinals.

(99-74) in Chapel Hill and a three-point overtime loss in Winston-Salem (88-85).

Carolina also whipped Clemson twice in the regular season—a 19-point drubbing at the Tigers' Death Valley and a 15-pointer at the Tar Heels' home, Carmichael Auditorium. The Clemson-Wake game is rated a tossup. Because of NCAA probation, Clemson can not go on any higher than the ACC tournament this year. Thus, at most, the Tigers have only three games left on their schedule and will be trying to wrap up the season with a flourish.

Wake, led by Skip Brown and Rod Griffin, is coming off a 98-96 win over N.C. State last Saturday. The Deacons have won

four of their last five ACC games since losing to Carolina Jan. 28, and hope to set up a 1976 finish that can revive an early season fire. Wake went 10-0, climbing into the national rankings before losing 63-58 to Virginia, Jan. 7.

In last year's ACC tournament in Greensboro, Carolina beat both Wake and Clemson before meeting State in the finals. Those first two games were close—Wake, 101-100 on a disputed in-bounds pass that a referee said hit the overhead scoreboard, and Clemson, a mere five-point difference, 76-71.

Both schools' fans, most of whom will be the same this year, will not have forgotten how close they came to defeating the Tar Heels

last year.

Carolina notched its best regular season ever under Smith's leadership with a 24-2 overall slate and 11-1 in the ACC. Smith was named ACC Coach of the Year, while senior center Mitch Kupchak garnered player of the year in the league, and made United Press International's second team All-America. Sophomore guard Phil Ford was also second team A-A and was selected to the *Sporting News*' first team All-America. Kupchak, who dominates the inside for Carolina, and Ford, who penetrates defenses and runs the four corners, are joined by Walter Davis, Tommy LaGarde and John Kuester.

Kupchak and LaGarde have shouldered foul trouble on many occasions this season, forcing Carolina into the four-corner control offense. Last year the Tar Heels used the offense extensively in the tournament. This season they have scored more points per possession than in their regular offense, but opponents are learning to defend it better.

Carolina's reserves must be ready to assume a bigger role. The Blue Team played shorter stretches as the season progressed and only two reserves have played in all 26 games.

In general, going into the tournament, Carolina is shooting 53 per cent from the field and 75 per cent from the foul line. Four players—Davis, 16.8, Kupchak 18.1; LaGarde, 14.5; Ford, 19.2—are averaging in double figures. Kupchak leads rebounding with an average of 11 a game.

If Carolina wins the tournament, it would play in the first round of the Eastern Regional March 13 in Charlotte. But regardless of the tournament, Carolina's regular season championship should put it in a regional, either the Midwest, which is talent-laden with Indiana and Marquette, or in the Far West Regional. The Eastern Regional final is in Greensboro, while the Midwest is in Louisville and the Far West in Los Angeles.

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UNC cagers face ECU as state tourney opens

by Ed Rankin
Staff Writer

While on UNC basketball team takes a day off from the rigors of tournament competition, another Tar Heel team begins a tournament today which could help it gain some measure of revenge.

UNC's women's cagers meet East Carolina tonight at 7 p.m. in Carmichael Auditorium in the opening round of the Division I state tournament. N.C. State and

Students interested in obtaining tickets to the semi-final and final rounds of the ACC tournament should call the Student Union desk at 933-2285 before 9 p.m. Thursday, rather than the DTF office as was announced at the pep rally in the Pit Wednesday.

Appalachian State finished first and second, respectively, in the conference and have first-round byes.

Carolina, an 18-point victor over the Pirates earlier this year, would face N.C. State at 2 p.m. Friday in the semifinals if it wins tonight. And there's not exactly a lot of love lost between the Wolfpack and the Tar Heels.

UNC walloped State 74-61, here in the first game of the season and went on to capture six straight games before a return game with State in Raleigh. That time,

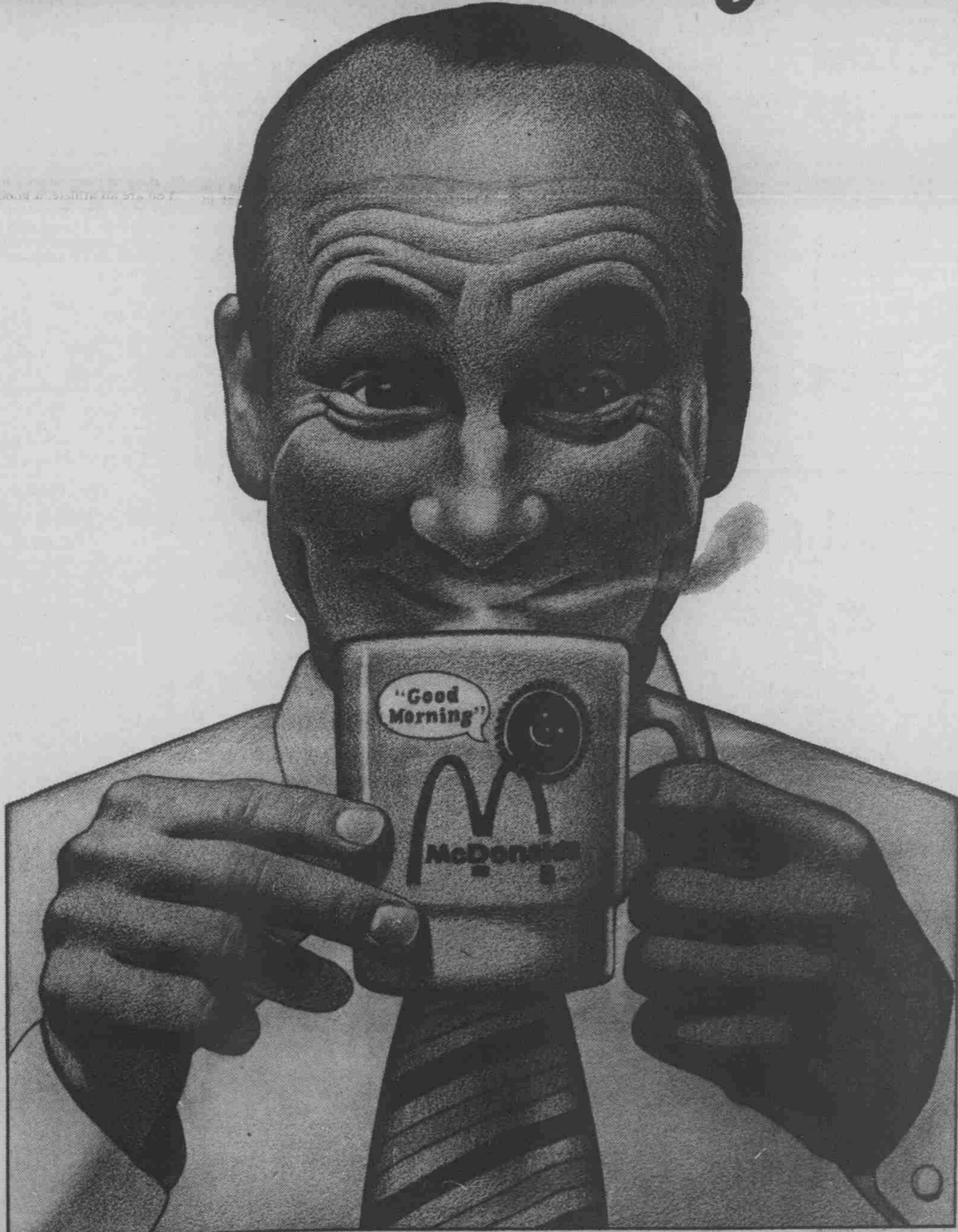
before a statewide television audience, the Wolfpack handed Carolina a 68-58 loss.

The Tar Heels however, won't be seeing red and white on the court tonight. UNC must contain the Pirates in purple and gold if it hopes to win. ECU's Debbie Freeman and Rosie Thompson, both All-Division I selections, rank first and third in scoring in the conference. Freeman scores 24 points per game and averages 13 rebounds while teammate Thompson scores 17.9 per game and grabs 11.6 rebounds. If UNC cannot shut off that talented duo, the Heels may not get the chance to meet State.

"I'd say our chances of winning are excellent," said UNC Coach Angela Lumpkin. "We're one of the strongest teams in the state, although at times we haven't played like it. We've been up and down, and part of that is because of injuries and because we're a young team." Playing in Carmichael should give UNC some advantage, Lumpkin said.

All-division I players Cathy Shoemaker and Cathey Daniels are vital to Carolina's success. The 5-10 Shoemaker is averaging 14.2 points per game and 8.6 rebounds while Daniels, back in the starting lineup after missing four games with a broken finger, owns a 11.6 scoring average and hauls down nine rebounds a game. Other probable starters are Joyce Patterson (10.5 points), Linda Matthews (9.5) and Fran Hardison (5.6 points and 8.9 rebounds).

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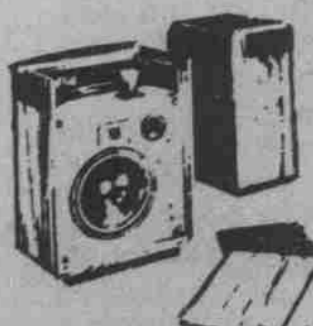
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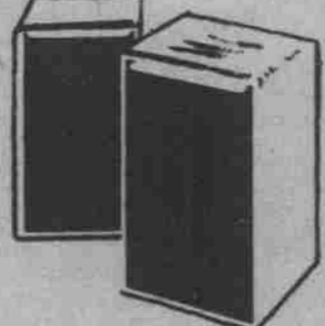
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