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Marquette stuns Carolina, 67-59

Defeat brings tears to eyes of players; season ends 28-5

By GENE UPCHURCH
Sports Editor

ATLANTA—North Carolina almost became the No. 1 basketball team in the nation Monday night, but a group of yellow-and-blue-clad Marquette Warriors became the national champions instead, winning the NCAA basketball tournament 67-59 here in the Omni.

The tears in the eyes of the Tar Heel players, fans and cheerleaders as the game ended showed what a big word "almost" is. Carolina, after being down by 12 points at halftime, made a furious comeback to tie the game at 41-41, and went to the Four Corners stall offense. Marquette responded with its own version of the delay game and kept the Tar Heels just an arm's length away from hanging an NCAA championship banner in Carmichael Auditorium.

"I wanted to win for the seniors and all the guys on our team," UNC guard Phil Ford said quietly after the loss. "Now we have to wait until Oct. 15 to start over again. That's one of the great things about athletics. Life is gonna go on win or lose."

The scene in the Carolina lockerroom after the game was one of sadness. The seniors—Walter Davis, Bruce Buckley, Woody Coley, John Kuester and Tom LaGarde—had had time to think over the game that brought an end to their careers at Carolina.

"I looked at my jersey as I went to the showers," Davis said. "I looked at the number on it and thought to myself that this would be the last time I would take it off."

For the freshmen on the Tar Heel squad, all of whom had made a tremendous contribution to the program, it was time to think of the past season and of the season to come. Among those were Mike O'Koren, voted to the all-tournament team after he scored 31 points against Nevada-Las Vegas in the semifinal game Saturday and 14 against Marquette.

"I felt like we'd win it," he said. "If my shots and everybody else's shots had dropped, it would have helped."

Carolina went to the Four Corners with over 12 minutes left in the game.

"I thought it would rattle them when we held the ball with the score tied," O'Koren said. "But it didn't."

Ford scored only six points in the game, but refused to blame his off-scoring night or a sore elbow for the loss. Ford injured his elbow in the semifinal game of the Eastern Regional tournament against Notre Dame, and he took a bad tumble out of bounds chasing a ball in the first half. After the fall, he returned to the floor slowly.

"I don't want anybody to quote me as saying my elbow hurt my play tonight or cost us the game," he said. "But I feel that I have been useless to the team for the past two games. Anytime you play for the national championship, that should be enough to get you up to win." Ford returned to the court for second-half warm-ups late because he was receiving ice treatment on the elbow.

Marquette played inspired basketball, UNC Coach Dean Smith said, and blamed the Warriors' alternating zone defense for Carolina's inability to score.

"I thought we were in charge when we went to the Four Corners with the score tied," he said. "We went to the Four Corners to try to pull Marquette out of its zone defense."

The championship game was Marquette Coach Al McGuire's last as a college coach. He put on a good show for fans in the Omni with his gestures to officials on questionable calls, and one time almost turned over his chair backwards after flinging himself into it in a fit of disgust. But after the game he was subdued and quiet, and he praised Smith for the UNC coach's moves in the game.

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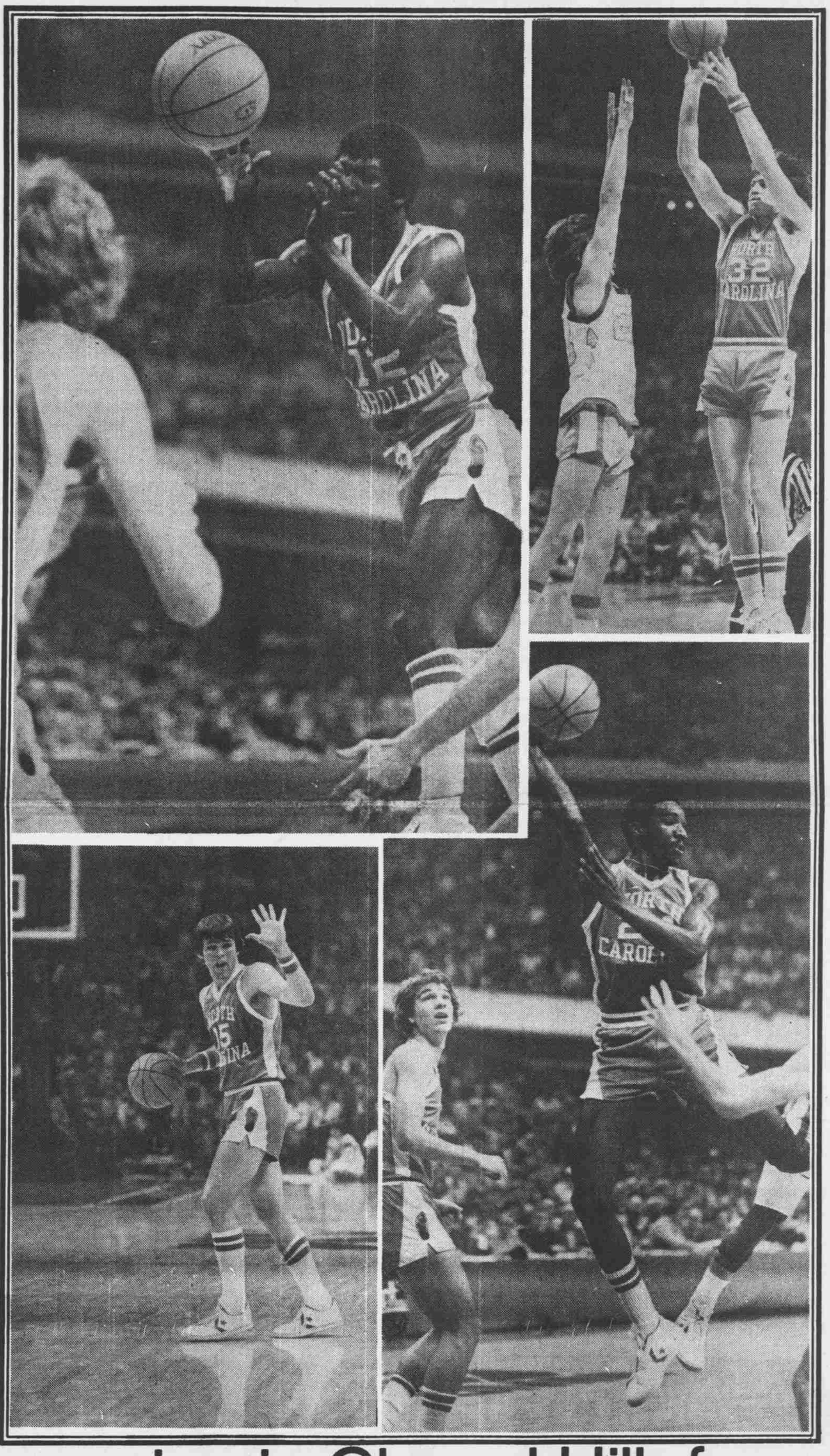

Quest for crown ends at Warrior free throw stripe

By GRANT VOSBURGH
Staff Writer

ATLANTA—The same things that made the miracle killed any chance for the culmination of a dream.

The Miracle Kids' clutch free throw shooting helped push them past Virginia, Purdue, Notre Dame, Kentucky, and Nevada-Las Vegas. But against the Marquette Warriors Monday night in the NCAA championship game, UNC's string was broken. It was Marquette who hit the crucial foul shots on its way to a 67-59 win.

The Warriors hit 14 straight foul shots in the final two minutes to erase any thoughts Carolina might have had about coming back.

The Tar Heels, however, gave it their best shot. Down by 12 points at the half, Carolina made a run in the early part of the second half and pulled even 43-43 with 14:19 left in the game. At that point it seemed like the miracle was, indeed, destined to become a reality. Such comebacks had become a trademark of the 1977 Tar Heels.

But a patient Marquette team would not let the Heels take away its going away present for Al McGuire, who coached his final game for the Warriors.

"I was not emotional until the five-second count triggered me," McGuire said. "I trigger easily.

"Right now I feel washed out."

McGuire said the national championship brought with it a lot of memory.

"At the end of the game, I sat there and thought of all the lockerrooms, the dirty jokes, the pals and the other things a New York street fighter knows growing up," he said.

The Warriors and the Tar Heels played it even through the first 12 minutes of the game, with each team taking its time on offense and applying a variety of tight defenses. Then with 7:32 left in the first half, Warrior forward Bo Ellis hit a six-footer from the side to put his team up 18-15.

Suddenly, all hell broke loose for Carolina.

The Warriors went on a rampage, outscoring the Heels 21-12 for the remainder of the half. As the Tar Heels entered the lockerroom, the score stood 39-27.

But something happened during that 20 minutes between halves. The same thing had happened time and again during the Heels' quest for the national title.

"At the end of the half Coach (Dean) Smith told us that we had out-possessioned them by three," freshman Rich Yonakor said. "He told us that we would just have to dig in more on defense and hope that their shots wouldn't fall like they had in the first half."

The Tar Heels insisted on getting back in the running. And it didn't taken them very long.

Mike O'Koren, who was named to the all-tournament team, sparked Carolina to a rally at the outset of the second half. Carolina outscored the Warriors 16-4 in only seven minutes, tying the score at 43 all. O'Koren himself scored half of those UNC points.

It was then that a crucial play that UNC's Smith thought might have been the turning point occured. Bruce Buckley put up a shot out of the Four Corners with 12 minutes. Ellis, however, batted the ball away at the rim. Buckley and his teammates thought the call should have been goal tending, but the referee ruled it a clean block.

"It could have gone either way," Smith said of the call.

Marquette got the loose ball, took to the other end of the court and entered its delay offense. The game became an uphill battle for the Tar Heels.

The Warriors passed up outside shots and took only high percentage shots. The Heels managed to pull even, 47-47, at 6:22 on two Walter Davis foul shots, but a pair

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Mixed emotions reign in Chapel Hill; fans drown defeat

By CHUCK ALSTON
National News Editor

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh!.!.!.!!!

What can you say about a dream that died?

The only responses the campus had to offer were the sounds of kicked trash cans...curses...and a fade into nothingness as silence reigned supreme across the campus...a lonely GO CAROLINA reached out...but it too faded...the sounds of kicked trash cans...

There was no joy in Mudville.

Earlier, the emotion was hope, not sorrow, and the crowds stayed loyal to the end.

"They played their best," one fan remarked, leaving the basement of the Carolina Union where the remains of a crowd were filing out.

"They did good, they got there. It's perfect for Al McGuire. His last game, you know."

For Al McGuire's last game, packed houses were the rule in dorm lobbies across campus. In Connor, a crowd of approximately 80 had crammed into every possible viewing position to watch the game.

The national anthem gave way to clapping and at T-Minus 3:56 Dean Smith appeared on the screen...The clapping yielded to shushes as Dean gave the Tar Heel outlook on the game.

"... *a 6-2 junior from Rocky Mount* ..." the voice from the TV said...And the crowd responded, appropriately.

Yonakor's first rebound brought the crowd to its feet, and from there on Marquette fouls brought chants of "you, you," and Tar Heel baskets brought oohs and aahs.

Phil Ford's first spectacular lay-up met with pandemonium.

"If we win, this town won't sleep tonight," Charlie Scheeler of the Connor crowd said.

"After we win the game, I'm going to pin a note to my shirt—please return to 110 Connor,' " Bruce Johnston, a sophomore, said.

But the expectations of the first-half crowd gave way to more solemn half-time comments.

"They ought to change that goal."

"What's the matter with it, Bill?"

"The ball won't go in."

A quiet set in as fans absorbed the 10-point half-time deficit. Seats and beer cans were exchanged for bathrooms, and the crowd braced itself for the second half.

In the basement of the Carolina Union approximately 80 people screamed and cheered as the Tar Heels stormed back to within six at 39-33 in the second half.

Jump ball...possession...the Marquette lead was cut to four...a time out....

"We gonna do it, man, we gonna do it."

And later, a jumper to put the Heels ahead by two. All hell broke loose...The crowd fell into rhythmic clapping. GO, GO, GO....

The four corners brought the Union crowd back down to a restless, restrained rumble...and as the minutes slipped away, so did the score. So did the crowd.

The final Walter Davis shot, and UNC points, revived frustrated fans for a last cheer...But it was over.

Uptown a different scene prevailed. Within minutes after the game, a throng of approximately 6,000 packed Franklin Street—splotched Carolina blue and filled with bottles and cans—to listen to three bands and watch a bonfire in front of Silent Sam.

"I've never seen this many drunk people in my life," one observer remarked. Meanwhile, the crowd continued to crash bottles into the gutter.

A policeman directing traffic at the corner of Mallette and Cameron was injured and taken to N.C. Memorial Hospital. At the corner of Rosemary and Columbia Streets a girl was hit by a driverless car upset by attempts to turn it over.

"Nobody seems to be really mad," Officer William E. Frick said.

Hanging out of an overcrowded car leaving the Union parking lot, one fan left the game behind with his final words, "We're No. 2."

But it was a mix of the "We're No. 2" and the "we're really No. 1" that remained.

"We'll be back next year."

"Man, we did it this year."