UNC women's athletics growing; add scholarships, fulltime coach

BY DEDE BILES

Expansion and growth—that's been the name of the game for women's athletics at UNC. Since it came under the jurisdiction of the UNC Athletic Department in 1974, the program has changed from an eight-sport, club-oriented organization to a highly-organized, competitive program of 12 sports.

This change did not happen overnight. Progress was slow the first year because the athletic department had not included women's sports in their budget for the 1974-75 school year.

"The next year (75-76), we were waiting to see how the addition would affect the whole budget," said Frances Hogan, director of women's athletics. "We were taking the advice of the athletic director at that time, Homer Rice, to 'proceed with caution.' '

Just because the changes were made cautiously, it did not mean that the program came to a standstill. Women were offered scholarships and the eight sports were improved. Many major changes in the program, though, have occurred in the year beginning last spring until the present time.

One of the first major changes was last spring with the addition of four new sports to the women's program: softball, indoor track, outdoor track and cross country. These sports were chosen for several reasons.

"Usually new sports come about as the result of a club or a lot of interest," said Hogan. "There had been interest in cross country and track and field for several years, and last year the girls signed a petition. Softball had a club last spring.

"Also," added Hogan, "These sports are offered on the high school level in North Carolina.

Other changes since 1974 include the procedure for awarding scholarships to women athletes. In 1974, the first women's athletic scholarship was given to Camey Timberlake, a star tennis player from Lexington, N.C. In 1975, there were a total of three scholarships including the renewal, and for this year there were 16 scholarships. For the school year of 1977-78 close to 50 women will receive athletic scholarships.

One of the reasons for the big jump in the number of scholarships awarded for 1977-78 is the fact that some of the outstanding women now on UNC's teams, will receive scholarships. Until this year, scholarships had been used for recruiting purposes only.

"The decision came this spring," said Hogan, "Some of our coaches felt they had one or two deserving individuals on their team. If one coach was given this opportunity, then we had to open it up to the other coaches, too."

Another first for UNC women's athletics will occur next year when a full-time women's basketball coach is hired. Before, all coaches of exclusively women's sports had been hired on a part-time basis.

"Basketball is the most competitive sport as far as recruiting and I think it takes the most time," Athletic Director Bill Cobey said. "We chose to emphasize basketball at this school. I believe this is what most people want to see, and it will probably be our next revenueproducing sport."

If the committee composed of faculty representatives from all the ACC schools approves, another change in women's athletics will occur not only for UNC, but for all the other ACC schools as well. At a meeting of the men's and women's athletic directors of each ACC school March 8, it was decided to hold conference championships in basketball and tennis next year.

"We chose these two sports because they are the two sports every school participates in." Cobey said. "I'd like to see it extended."

Much of the growth and expansion of UNC's women's athletic program might be attributed by many people to Title IX. But Cobey said the changes would have come about anyway.

"Title IX speeded things up," Cobey said. "My feeling is that we, being a progressive and responsible institution, would have done the same thing without Title IX. We gave our first women's athletic scholarship and had eight women's sports before we ever heard the words 'Title IX.'

With all the expansion of the women's athletic program, a large men's program and the rising costs of athletics, it would seem that the UNC Athletic Department's budget would be getting rather tight. According to Cobey, the financial situation faced by the athletic department in future years "will not be an easy one."

"We'll have to try to generate more money from ticket and concession sales," said Cobey. "We may experience bad financial times in future years."

Hogan said that as of yet, the women's coaches had experienced no trouble with their budget requests.

The growth and expansion that has occurred since 1974 apparently will not stop with the changes made this past year. The possibility of volleyball being played in Carmichael is being discussed. Women's soccer may be added if there is enough interest and the current women's program continues to improve, Hogan said.

"I think we have a good program, as good as any in the Southeast anyway," Hogan said. "One thing is that we can't sit back and say, 'we have a good program.' We have to keep on top of things."







Women in sports

Camey Timberlake (upper right) became the first woman athlete to receive an athletic scholarship to attend UNC in 1974, at the beginning of a period when the women's program

began to grow rapidly. Since then, the women's program at UNC has expanded and almost 50 scholarships now will be awarded to women next year.

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The coaches go hunting and return with nets full of kids

For the past month, it has been that time of the year when college basketball coaches, having finished directing their respective schools through post-season play, take their butterfly nets out of the closet and set out into the backwoods of America, into high school gyms and schoolyards in search of big-name game to make their teams winners. And invariably, there are the tragedies of the hunts-those that are hunted.

The hunted are impressionable 18-and 19year old kids who are expected to take in everything a bunch of crazy coaches tell them, separate the truths from the lies and

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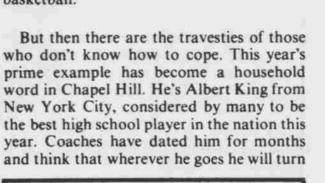
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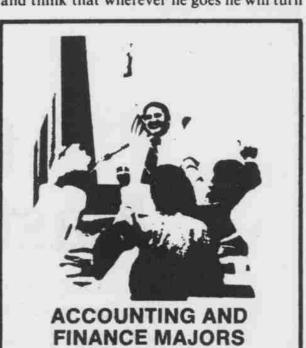
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decide where they will go to college. They are inundated with offers from around the country, and many of them don't know how to react. Some of them do. Carolina freshman Mike O'Koren told everybody early in his senior year that he was headed for Chapel Hill and was left alone for the rest of his high school career to concentrate on his basketball.

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But Albert's confused. He doesn't know how to cope with all this attention he is all of a sudden receiving. For once in his short life, a national spotlight is shining on him. Something like this probably only will happen to him twice in his life—now, as he's deciding where to go to college, and in the neighborhood of four years later, when the pros fight among themselves for his services.

Albert is playing games with everyone now. He won't tell anyone where he's going to school, and it's giving coaches around the country nervous stomachs just to think about all that talent being undecided. Chances are he really has decided where to go to school, but he likes the attention he's getting so much he just won't tell anyone. He says he's narrowed his choices down to a

handful-UCLA, Kansas State and Arizona State among many more. It's inconceivable that any high school senior in his right mind would have delayed such an important decision so long. He knows where he's going. He likes that spotlight too much to let it fade on him during his prima donna act.

Carolina basketball fans consider him such valuable property that they end their prayers at night with petitions for Albert's deliverance to Chapel Hill. Of course, he would be a welcome addition to any basketball program. But everybody knows that one player does not make a whole team. Of course, there are basketball trivia nuts out there who could name a handful of instances where single players have carried a team but it takes more than one player to win ball

Even on the longshot that Albert came to

Carolina, chances are that he would not fit into the program well. Anyone who was such a hotdog during high school, and particularly while being recruited, would not fit into a team-oriented concept of basketball. He is an offensively-oriented player, and as long as he has the ball and is stuffing it through the hoop, he's happy. But can he move around the floor without the ball and does he know what defense is? A player has to know or quickly develop these things if he's going to make it in big-time college basketball.

A case in point is Carolina freshman John Virgil. He was a potent scoring machine in high school, but had little defensive ability

If Albert did come to Carolina and happened to make some kind of contribution, it is entirely possible that he would pull a sneaky on everybody and go pro after one or two years of cultivating his skills. And then where would Carolina be? An investment of months of recruiting effort and planning for him to be around for four years would be wiped away like sweat from a

And so the hunt goes on. Some coaches will return from the hunt with their nets full to overflowing, and others with empty nets. For those with a big catch, it will be time to plan for their coming season. As for those with empty nets, well, there's always another hunt next year.

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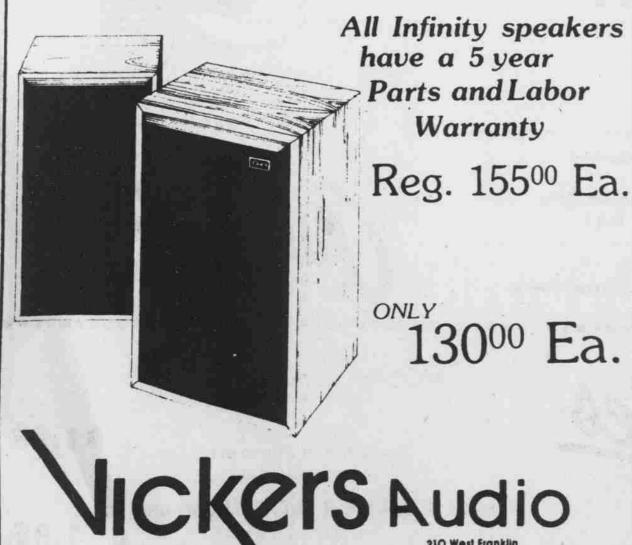
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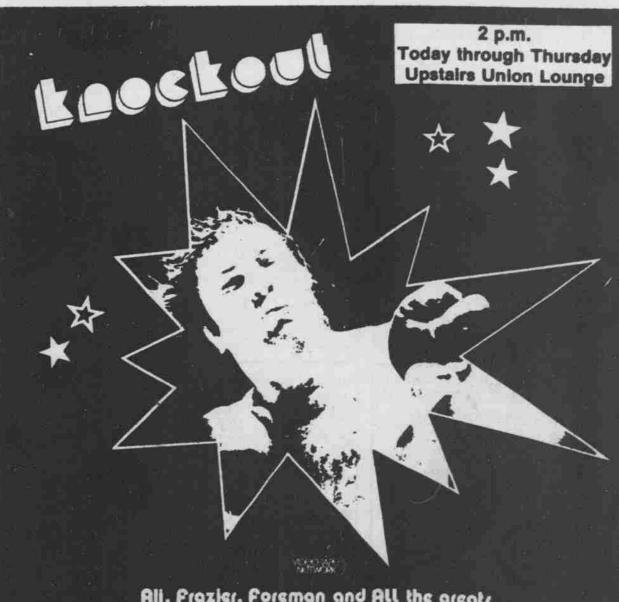


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