



LeRoy Neiman, famous sports artist, sketches some drawings of Carolina's basketball team during the 94-63 win over Oregon State in Charlotte Saturday. He sat on the floor under one of the baskets with a friend during the game and

sketched the Tar Heels, since they're ranked so high, he said. His work has appeared in *Sports Illustrated* and *Playboy*. Staff photo by Sam Fulwood III.

Tar Heels art objects as season opens; UNC defeats OSU in Charlotte, 94-63

By PETE MITCHELL
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Gazing over the shoulder of famous sports artist LeRoy Neiman as he sketched his impressions of Saturday's UNC-Oregon State game, you get an interesting view of the Tar Heels in their season opener.

Neiman, whose sports art has appeared in such publications as *Sports Illustrated* and *Playboy*, pulled out his pad and pencils, borrowed a Carolina cheerleader's jacket for his high-heeled, fur-clad escort to kneel on and sat underneath the Tar Heel basket.

He had to remember the extraordinary Phil Ford from last year and the slashing, driving Mike O'Koren, but for most of the country, this year's Tar Heels are a bunch of no-names.

Neiman pulled out a long, pencil-thin cigar from his jeans jacket, lit it but got back to his etchings in a hurry as the hulking Geoff Crompton lumbered down the court in his direction. Neiman and his lady friend exchanged incredulous glances. They hadn't remembered him from the NCAA finals in Atlanta last April, but then, a whole lot of things are different about the squad this year.

The obvious is the absence of Walter Davis, John Kuester and Tommy LaGarde from Coach Dean Smith's top five. Not so obvious are some subtle, but significant, stylistic differences which give the 1977-78 Heels a different complexion from the start.

"I guess the biggest difference this year is that we know we're in for a battle every game," O'Koren said, after leading all scorers with 21 points Saturday night. "We still think we can beat anybody, but last year we felt we could just walk out on the court and win."

Indeed, the Tar Heels played every second against Oregon State like it was their last. They're a ballhawking, diving, gambling bunch of swashbucklers on both offense and defense. Most agree Carolina will rely on speed and a pressing, scrambling defense without the steadying force Davis provided and lack of bulk inside.

"With Walter and Tommy last year, every time we threw it

to them it was an automatic two," said Rich Yonakor, UNC's sophomore center. "We don't have that this year; we've gotta work harder for our points."

Mainly because of the contagious antics of O'Koren and Yonakor, Carolina should be more outwardly enthusiastic this season.

Neiman was feverishly reproducing the scene at the end of the first half when the Tar Heels had rattled off 18 straight points.

They gathered at the foul line before Ford would complete a three-point play. Yonakor and O'Koren were characteristically jumping up and down, slapping hands, freshman Al Wood and John Virgil had wide-eyed smiles on their faces and the whole bench was up clapping and waving white towels.

"Yeah, I think we'll show our emotions more this year," said Yonakor. "The guys that left weren't like that on the court or off. It seems like everybody's jumping around and showing enthusiasm this year."

"I just get into the game," O'Koren commented. "I don't know about the other guys, but it helps me to go wild out there."

Talent-wise, and in terms of potential, this year's Tar Heels are frighteningly gifted. For once, Smith can look past the seventh man with confidence. Virgil seems to have lost his timidity. Wood can soar, Jeff Wolf is making fewer mistakes and Dave Colescott and Ged Doughton appear to have learned a lot from John Kuester at guard.

"I think Coach Smith feels he can go right down the bench and not lose anything," Tom Zaliagiris said. "Our depth might not be why it looks like we're scramblers; everybody can go all out all the time."

When it was all over and Carolina had secured a 31-point season-opening win over the Beavers, Neiman took a final puff on his cigar and strolled out of the Charlotte Coliseum, leaving his drawings behind for the swarming kids. His impressions meant little to him, but for those sizing up UNC's new look in 1977, his art work was invaluable.

ACC teams unbeaten as season opens

By United Press International

While North Carolina was opening its season with a 94-63 win over Oregon State Saturday in Charlotte, the other teams in the Atlantic Coast Conference also were opening play against non-league opponents.

Sophomore forward "Hawkeye" Whitney scored a career-high 35 points Saturday in N.C. State's win over Appalachian State. Coach Norm Sloan had a chance to use many of his newly recruited freshmen and said he especially was pleased with the play of guard Kenny Matthews and center Craig Watts.

Johns Hopkins didn't have a player over 6-4 and had no answer for Duke's swarming, hanging defense. Duke

forward Jim Spanarkel scored 18 points and much-heralded freshman Eugene Banks added 14 in his first college game.

Rod Griffin poured in 22 points to lead Wake Forest to an 83-79 win over UNC-Wilmington. The teams played to a standoff during the second half, but Griffin hit two free throws with 2:33 left to put the Deacons ahead for good at 75-72. The Deacons hit eight free throws, four of them by Griffin.

Stan Rome led Clemson with 18 points in the championship match at the IPTAY Tournament. Neither Clemson nor Rhode Island could manage more than a six-point lead until with nine minutes to go, the Tigers hit a 20-6 spurt to go in front 71-63 to stay.

Virginia won the VMI Tipoff Tournament by whipping the host team.

Center Steve Castellani scored 20 points and guard Jeff Lamp added 18 in the easy win.

On Monday, Oregon State will be at Wake Forest and Georgia Southern will be at N.C. State. Duke hosts Washington Tuesday night. On Wednesday, Clemson visits Furman, Carolina plays host to Oregon State and Randolph-Macon goes to Virginia. Maryland visits Penn State Thursday.

The Big Four Tournament gets underway Friday at Greensboro with Carolina against Duke and Wake Forest playing State. The championship match will be played Saturday.

Also Saturday, Clemson hosts the Citadel, Virginia welcomes Old Dominion and Maryland plays in the AIA at Anaheim, Calif.

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