

Holiday basketball

Tar Heels will find no presents for them during break



Mike O'Koren, being chased here by State's Art Jones during the Big Four Tournament, will be depended on for his board strength in tough games during the Christmas break. Staff photo by Allen Jernigan.

If Carolina's basketball team could ask Santa for one thing this Christmas, it probably would be for some easy wins during the holiday break.

The Tar Heels, before breaking a week for exams, face Rochester Saturday at 8 p.m. in Carmichael Auditorium. The Yellowjackets are coming off an 8-14 season and don't return a player over 6-foot-7½.

But, from there, the going gets rough.

Cincinnati, Greensboro Coliseum, Dec. 17, 8 p.m.

The Bearcats will come into Carolina's home-away-from-home ranked in the Top 10, unless they suffer a loss in the next week. This game will be Carolina's toughest non-conference test this season. Cincinnati has won the Metro 7 conference championship two years in a row and is led by center Bob Miller.

Tulane, Superdome, New Orleans, La., Dec. 23.

This seven-game series between Carolina and Tulane had its high point the last time the Heels traveled toward the home of the Green Wave, a game that went into four overtimes before Carolina won.

Rainbow Classic, Honolulu, Hawaii, Dec. 27-30.

Carolina won the Christmas tournament it was in last year, the Far West Classic, by playing some of the finest basketball it played all year. This season, the team travels to the warm climate of the islands and must play more good basketball. Carolina faces Brigham Young in the opening round, a team that nearly defeated UCLA last week (See pairings below).

Clemson, Littlejohn Coliseum, Jan. 4.

In the first of two conference road games before classes begin for the spring semester, the Tar Heels must meet the Tigers, which could have any number of surprises waiting. The Tigers always have a tough team and return several outstanding players from last year, including Stan Rome. The team also has recruited a big man to replace the graduated Tree Rollins.

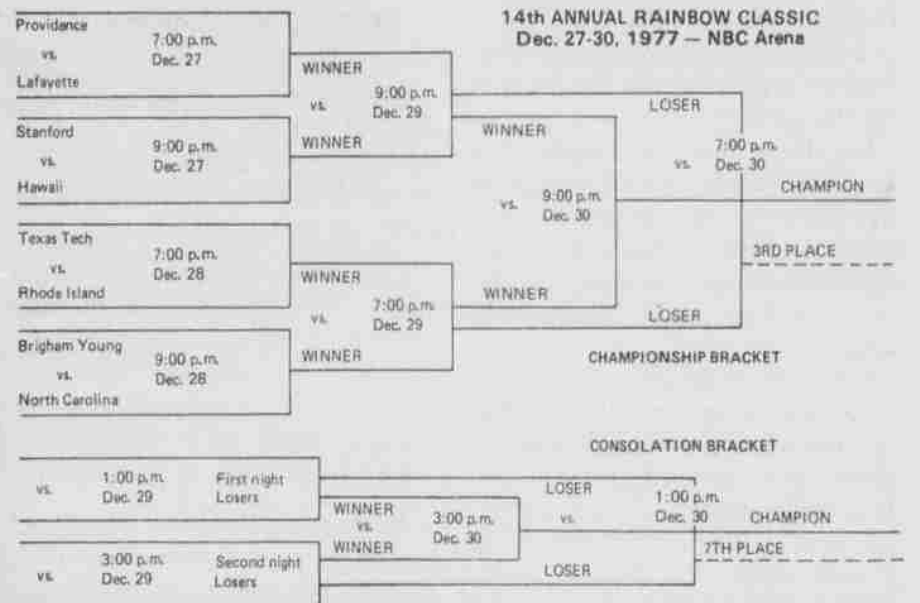
Virginia, University Hall, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.

The Wahos will not be an easy way to end a Christmas break, especially since they return four starters from last year. In addition, freshman Jeff Lamp has set Charlottesville on fire and it will take some doing by Carolina to put it out.

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