# Andrews has the best seat in Carmichael

Staff Writer

Thirty-five-year-old Kearney Andrews has what most Carolina fans can only dream of...a front-row, center-court seat in Carmichael Auditorium for every junior varsity and varsity men's home basketball

And the former UNC student and Chapel Hill native doesn't have to donate a penny to Carolina's Educational Foundation for the chance to purchase a seat as do his fellow

But, while most of the limited seats in Carmichael are considered a privilege for their occupants, Andrews' location is more of a necessity. From his seat behind the scorers' table, it is his main responsibility as the announcer for the men's varsity and junior varsity basketball games to keep the fans informed of what is taking place on the

Andrews' voice, coming over the public address system with announcements such as "Time out, Carolina" and "Al Wood replaces Dudley Bradley for the Tar Heels," is as much a part of the Carolina basketball games as the dancing cheerleaders, the UNC pep band and the mad dash for the concession stands and bathrooms at

Andrews' vocal cords have provided a familiar sound for Tar Heel fans in Carmichael for over 17 years.

"I was very fortunate to get the job," Andrews said prior to beginning his stint at the microphone for the junior varsity game last Saturday against Southeastern and the varsity game with Clemson.

"I noticed that no one was doing the P.A. system at the junior varsity games. Pat Earey

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(former UNC swim coach and announcer for the varsity games) would come in during the second half and announce some. So, in the fall of 1960, I asked Dean Smith if I could announce the J.V. games."

For the first year. Andrews, who was attending UNC at the time, announced only junior varsity contests. But when Earcy couldn't make some of the games because of swim meets in 1961. Andrews ran the PA system for several varsity games.

When Earey gave up his announcing job in 1967. Andrews was chosen as his successor. Andrews' announcements range from

telling who fouled whom, to various announcements handed him by Assistant Athletic Director for Promotions Bob Savod about upcoming summer sports camps and athletic events at UNC.

There are several standard announcements that Andrews carries with him in a small black folder to every basketball game. One is a form which he fills out for the non-televised varsity basketball games to aid him in introducing the players. Another is the announcement prohibiting smoking and refreshments in the stands.

There are also prepared emergency announcements which Andrews can announce only when told to do so by UNC athletic officials.

"It may not sound like I have a whole lot of latitude while announcing, but I do," Andrews said. "When there are 10,000 people in the auditorium, you had better know what to say."

"You have certain patterns for announcements in you, and you follow the pattern to get the maximum amount of information. Sometimes I feel like I'm talking to myself."

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time and say something like "Hey, let's hear it for the cloggers!" But as a rule, he "keeps it simple" and doesn't "showboat."

While Andrews has a good view of the game from his front row seat, he must depend on the officials to tell him their calls. Andrews said a good official comes toward the scorer's table, speaks audibly and gives hand signals that are clear.

The statisticians and the official scorers Dick Tyndall and Bill Huffines, help Andrews keep up with various odds and ends including the number of team and personal

Andrews usually has no trouble remembering Carolina players and those on other ACC teams, but just in case, he keeps the rosters of both teams handy. He said most of the time his job is not too difficult except in a few situations.

"Sometimes it's hard to keep up with what's happening when the clock is stopped for a foul," said Andrews. "You have to keep up with who fouled, the number of personal fouls, the team fouls, who's shooting, how many shots he has and who's going in and out. In the midst of all that, sometimes someone calls a time out, and you have to figure out which team it is."

Another difficult but necessary part of Andrews' job is remaining impartial, even during the most exciting and controversial situations. While everyone else is screaming in excitement or disgust. Andrews' voice

maintains the same tone and pitch. "I'm not going to blow a game for anybody, regardless of how I feel inside," said Andrews. "I don't want anyone to ever question my conscious or unconscious effect on the game.

With all the things Andrews has to keep up with and announce, it is almost inevitable that he will make mistakes. One, which took place at a Carolina-Wake Forest varsity game in Woollen Gym back in the 1960s, especially stands out in his mind.

When one of the Wake Forest players drew his third personal foul. Andrews mistakenly announced it as his fourth. When the player fouled again, Andrews said it was his fifth. Upon this announcment, Wake coach Bones McKinney took the player out of the game.

Wake Forest went on to lose the game. "I don't know whether Bones knew the difference, but my mistake hit me, and it bothered me for a long time," said Andrews,

a Winston-Salem resident. While announcing UNC basketball games is the longest job Andrews has ever held, he does not depend on the pay to earn his living. After various jobs, including chief announcer at WCHL and public relations director for the Durham Chamber of Commerce, Andrews is currently assistant treasurer for the Central Carolina Bank, in Clemmons, N.C.

Despite all his hectic duties at basketball games. Andrews still has time to enjoy the game and players.

"There was nothing greater than watching Darrell Elston blossom from a good, solid player into a better-than-average player," Andrews said. "Billy Cunningham got it going in the early 1960s and the age of selflessness and exuberance started with George Karl."

"I love to watch "Chick" Yonakor play; I think he puts everything he has into it," Andrews added.

Despite the fact that his front row seat at center court aids him in his job as announcer. Andrews has found one drawback to sitting there: players who come crashing into the stands while pursuing loose balls.

"You know what's scary? It's when Phil Ford comes flying at you. What's even worse is the possibility that Geff Crompton will."



Kearney Andrews

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