

Lamp, Cavs reaching toward 20-win plateau

Carolina vs. UVa. Saturday

By IEE PACE
Assistant Sports Editor

Jeff Lamp was in the seventh grade the last time Virginia's basketball team won 20 games.

Barry Parkhill was a junior, and Wally Walker was still a high school senior in 1972, the year the Cavaliers went 21-7 and earned a berth in Madison Square Garden's National Invitation Tournament.

Virginia is coming close to hitting the magic 20-game mark again this year, as the Cavs had collected 17 wins against four losses entering their Wednesday night game against Clemson. And their success is largely because of Lamp, a 6-foot-5 guard who gives Virginia a scoring replacement for Walker, who left Charlottesville two years ago.

But the UVa. freshman isn't entirely happy with the Cavs' record.

"I'm not really satisfied," he said from Charlottesville Tuesday night. "We could have done better. We didn't play too well in one stretch; we had some problems. But I think we'll be right in there before it's over."

A freshman scoring 17.8 points a game would have little trouble securing all-conference rookie honors in most conferences, or even in the ACC in most years.

But not this year.

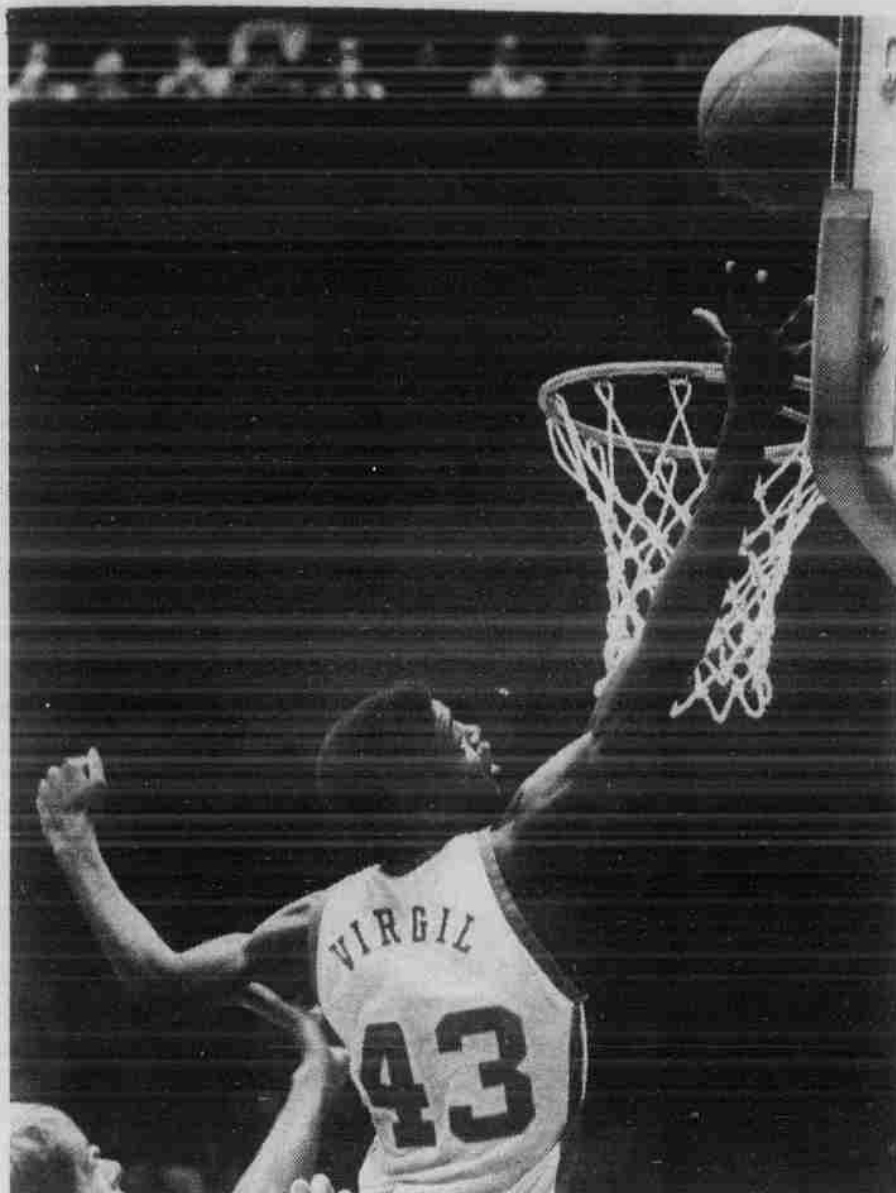
With freshman competition like Maryland's Al King and Duke's Gene Banks, Lamp rates as merely one of three leading candidates for this year's honor.

"I'm not worried about it," Lamp said. "I'll let the writers worry about it. There are a lot of great rookies in the league. I'd love to have it, but I'm just going to go out and do my best. I don't think I've done that well my last few games."

Lamp is slowed by tendinitis in one ankle and an Achilles tendon problem in the other.

Virginia was 5-4 in the ACC before its game Wednesday with Clemson, with three of its losses coming on the road. The Cavs have won only once away from home, that being a narrow 74-68 win at State. In their last conference outing on the road, the Cavs were demolished by Duke 100-75.

"Teamwise we were a little tired," Lamp said. "We kinda went stale. The season was dragging on, and we lost our concentration a little. It all came to a head in that game. But you can't be like that and win in the ACC. I think it was good for us. It woke us up. We've played better since then."



John Virgil will be counted on for more scoring punch when Carolina takes on Virginia at 2 p.m. Saturday in Carmichael Auditorium. He will have to help take up the scoring slack left when Mike O'Koren was forced out of the Tar Heel lineup with an ankle injury. Staff photo by Allen Jernigan.



Phil Ford moves against Virginia in action last year. David Koesters (left), Mike Owens (partially hidden), Marc Iavaroni and Steve Castellani should see plenty of action against Ford and the Tar Heels Saturday. Photo by David Dalton.

Joining Lamp in the starting lineup at 8 p.m. Saturday in Carmichael Auditorium will be forwards Mike Iavaroni (10.6 points, 6.4 rebounds) and Mike Owens (11.8, 5.8); center Steve Castellani (8.4, 8.5); and either Bobby Stokes (5.6 points) or Tommy Hicks at guard. Freshman Lee Raker, a high school teammate of Lamp, and guard Dave Koesters, an excellent outside shooter, will supply bench strength.

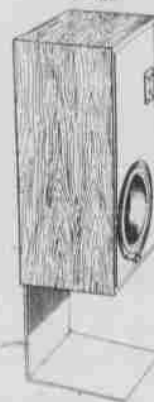
The Tar Heels defeated Virginia 76-61 in Charlottesville in early January as they hit 16 of 17 second-half field goal attempts.

"They were amazing that game," Lamp said. "They played very well. I've got a lot of respect for them. They've had a few problems lately, I feel for them. We lost a couple in a row early this year. They've had two weekends in a row now with two games each weekend. That's really hard to do."

The Tar Heels were 20-5 overall prior to the home game Wednesday with Kent State and 7-2 in the ACC.

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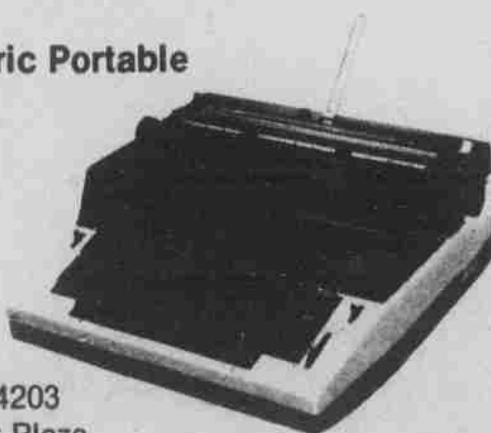
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