



Tar Heels wait in wings as annual ACC madness begins

By GENE UPCHURCH
Staff Writer

As if the Atlantic Coast Conference needed one this year, the Great Equalizer begins today.

The much-feared and highly demanding ACC basketball tournament involves a skirmish between seven teams for the right to be called the ACC champion. On Thursday, only four will be left to battle it out for the distinction of being No. 1.

Carolina will be one of the remaining teams because of the bye it received for winning the regular season title. Clemson and Duke face off in the first game today at 3 p.m., N.C. State and Maryland play at 7 p.m. and Wake Forest and Virginia play at 9. The Tar Heels will play the winner of the Wake-Virginia game Thursday at 7

p.m. followed at 9 p.m. by a game between the winners of the Duke-Clemson and State-Maryland games. All the games will be regionally televised. The finals Saturday at 4:40 p.m. will be televised nationally on ABC's Wide World of Sports.

Conference teams point toward tournament time every year. It is something which allows coaches to tell their teams "That's all right guys, we'll get 'em in the tournament." The tournament takes all the teams away from the partisan home-court crowds, and throws them into the supposedly neutral Greensboro Coliseum madness for the battles.

Unlike the past, the tournament champion this year could be any team. Even though Carolina won the regular season and has the bye to avoid action today, the

Tar Heels cannot be considered an overwhelming favorite to win the tourney.

Each team in the conference had its share of upsets and close games this season and whichever one hits its peak at tourney time could walk away with the trophies. The most memorable example of this was the 1976 Virginia Cavaliers, when Wally Walker sparked them from a sixth-place regular season finish to surprise Carolina in the finals of the tournament in Landover, Md.

"The extra day's rest should be a help to a team that has already played twice," UNC coach Dean Smith said this week. "Of course, that won't come into play unless we reach the finals. That will be a difficult task. The conference has been so balanced all year that I really

think the tournament is wide open. Any team can win it. That's why I think our regular season championship was such a great accomplishment. This was the toughest regular season I can remember.

Carolina and Duke should be considered slight favorites over the rest of the field to make it to the finals since they are the only teams in the conference with 20 or more wins this season. Duke has the talent in its starters to make it to the finals but lacks great depth. However, Duke has four important players that are new to the ACC tournament and their reactions to this test will be the key to watch during the tournament. John Harrell, Bob Bender, Kenny Dennard and rookie of the year candidate Gene Banks will be counted on to contribute heavily to Duke's success.

Brand new ballgame in Boshamer

Roberts pledges thrills as home slate unwinds

By ELLIOTT POTTER
Staff Writer

Former UNC baseball coach Walter Rabb produced teams that performed steadily for 32 years, winning a few championships here and there but never setting the world or the campus ablaze.

The former coach built a solid program with conservative tactics, but — let's face it — his "Old League" brand of baseball rarely worked fans into a frenzy. The prospects of a nice spring suntan, not exciting sport, kept the spectators in Cary Boshamer Stadium.

When Rabb stepped down as head coach at the end of the 1977 season, assistant coach Mike Roberts, a former Tar Heel baseball coach, was given the job. Roberts had met with notable success as head coach of the UNC entry in the North Carolina Summer League. Roberts' teams bunted, stole and squeezed their way to two straight championships in summer play.

Roberts, the youngest major college baseball coach in America, now promises to bring some excitement into spring. And with the excitement, the new coach hopes to add some success. He predicts the 1978 squad will improve on the 18-17 record posted last year.

"I feel our kids are excited about playing," Roberts says. "They realize we're going to play an exciting brand of ball."

Roberts says the squad will improve offensively and defensively over its performance last year. Speed and depth, he says, will be the Tar Heels' main assets.

The squad especially will need depth to survive its grueling 52-game schedule, including an 11-game trip to Texas during spring break. The Tar Heels won their first two regular season games against Frances Marion and will open the 28-game home schedule at 3 p.m. today against Atlantic Christian.

Roberts expects strong competition from N.C. State, Clemson, Wake Forest and Maryland in the ACC title race.

Roberts says he hopes the extensive schedule will attract recruits to



Phil Griffith should start at shortstop.

UNC: "To be able to recruit the best kids in the eastern United States, you have to play as good a schedule as anyone around. Baseball is a game you can play every day."

His proposals to recruit fans are more closely related to show business than athletics. The schedule includes seven night games to give the working people of the Triangle area an opportunity to attend a college baseball game, Roberts says.

Also planned are promotional nights when youngsters at the games can receive free bats, T-shirts and caps. Spectators at five weekend games will be treated to organ music, just like the big leagues. "I'm trying to generate more interest in the game of baseball," Roberts says.

Among the players returning from last year is third baseman Jim Atkinson, who led the Tar Heels in batting last year with a .341 average, five home runs and 23 runs-batted-in. Jim Rouse, who also plays football, hit .310 last spring and will see action this season as a designated hitter and first baseman.

Dwight Lowry, considered an outstanding defensive player, will return at catcher but he has been sidelined indefinitely by illness. Roberts says Lowry's replacement, Lloyd Brewer, played well against Frances Marion. Phil Griffith is the likely starter at shortstop and either Mike Fox or Roy Clark, a former Junior College All-America, will start at second.

Among the outfield corps is Mark McKinney, a freshman from Bristol, Tenn., and a fourth-round selection in the June major-league baseball draft. McKinney will join Brad Lloyd, Greg Robinson or David Barnett in the outfield.

The pitching staff will consist of eight righthanders. Greg Norris, Monty DeRatt, Blaine Smith, Charlie Beverly, Bill Musser and James Parks will get starting calls and sore-armed Matt Wilson and Clay Johnson will be in the bullpen. Wilson did not make the trip to Frances Marion but is expected to return to action soon. Beverly will get the call against Atlantic Christian.

UNC hockey skates toward title

Intramurals and Clubs

By BILL FIELDS

The mention of Bobby Orr's name to an average UNC student will at best bring a blasé response. But talk about the former Boston Bruin ice hockey star around Tom Morss or Matt Judson and get ready to talk about the man who is a legend in New England. Morss and Judson are typical ice hockey fans from the Northeast.

They are members of UNC's Club Hockey team which faces Wake Forest this Friday at 8:15 p.m. in Greensboro's Triad Sports Arena in the finals of the ACC Club Hockey competition. Both students talked recently about the nature of ice hockey in their native Massachusetts, which grabs appeal there like the ACC basketball finals do in the Tar Heel state.

In a state where ice hockey is as understood as Einstein's Theory of Relativity, club hockey affords Morss, Judson, Rob Glen and around 20 other UNC students the opportunity to play a game they learned early on in their hometowns.

New Englanders crave hockey from an early age, often beginning at four or five years old. Pee-wee competition in the early grades gives youngsters a chance to learn the fundamentals and rules of hockey. Play in junior high adds to this hockey knowledge. By the time high school rolls around, the kids are veterans of the ice. High school ice hockey programs in New England compare to basketball or football programs in North Carolina, Morss said.

"I started skating when I was five," said Morss, a native of Beverly Farms, Mass. "When summer came I played the summer sports, and when winter came I played the winter sport: ice hockey. Morss said there is a kind of "hockey mania" in Massachusetts, as young kids today often rise early in the morning to practice before school.

Judson, from North Hampton, Mass., skated on ponds that were frozen during the hard winters, but he didn't play competitive hockey until the 10th grade when he went away to a prep school. Judson said his hometown was one of few cities in Massachusetts that didn't have an ice hockey rink.

Both Morss and Judson said that some of their former teammates from prep school earned hockey scholarships to Eastern hockey powers such as Harvard. Competition in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Association (ECAC) and in the Ivy League is of a high caliber and attracts tremendous interest, according to both Carolina students.

Nothing, though, draws spectators like Boston Bruins' ice hockey, Morss said. The legendary Bobby Orr, who starred for the Bruins during the late 1960s and early 1970s is Morss' and Judson's hero on skates. Orr is hockey's equivalent to baseball's Willie Mays or football's Joe Namath.

How, then, do Morss and Judson survive in North Carolina, a state where professional hockey isn't on TV, where colleges don't stress hockey and where the nearest ice hockey rink is an hour's drive away?

"We're not your typical hockey jocks," Morss said. "We're just your mental hockey players who went south." Both are merely happy to be at a school which at least has a club hockey program that gives them a chance to have some fun and stay in touch with the sport.

Rob Glen, a senior from Syosset, N.Y., plays goalie for the UNC Club team, and is another northerner who has adjusted to the status that hockey holds in North Carolina. Glen helped form the Ice Hockey Club in 1974, and has watched the club grow since then.

"People are interested in hockey, but they really don't know what the game is all about," he said. "I think our team could compete in Division III of the NCAA now, because the caliber of play has improved since the club was formed."

"Our standard of play is low," Morss said, comparing the ACC Club League to competition in Northeastern collegiate circles. "It really showed up when the ACC All Stars went up against a team made up of ex-Greensboro Generals in a game last month." The group of ex-pros whipped the ACC team 14-0, Morss said.

ACC Club Hockey can get rough, Morss added. He said that some players make up for their lack of skating skill by wielding their sticks against their foes. This is not only a dirty tactic, he said, but also is something that makes a hockey game more dangerous than usual.

But Morss, Judson and Glen all agreed that hitting was inherent in the nature of hockey, and all know what to expect when they hit the ice. "Hitting is part of the game," Morss said.

UNC brings its skill into the Triad Sports Arena Friday night as it battles Wake Forest in the ACC finals. The Tar Heels whipped N.C. State in the semifinals Sunday 4-1 as Brian Goray scored two goals with Ted Sanders and John Chew scoring one each.

Wake Forest entered the tournament with the worst record but used the addition of two players to beat favored Duke in the semis, 7-2. Wake's win over the Blue Devils was so much a surprise that the UNC team had posters printed before the tournament that said Duke will face the Heels in the finals.

UNC hockey coach Harvard Turnbull said Monday that "UNC should win" over the Demon Deacons, but he added that Wake would be psyched up after its convincing victory over Duke in the semifinals. "I'm pleased to be in the finals and I see no reason why we shouldn't win, but we haven't scouted Wake much," he said.

Intramural softball entries may be turned in to the IM office at 215 Woolen Gym by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 3.

IM basketball teams that did not win any games in the regular season can enter the "Blue Heaven Classic," Marty Pomerantz said Monday. Teams that lose will advance, those that win are out of the tourney. Entries must be turned in by Friday.

Ford, Shoemaker All-Stars

Carolina's Phil Ford and Cathy Shoemaker were recently named to all-star basketball teams.

Ford was tabbed first team All-America by *Basketball Weekly* and became the fourth player to make the magazine's honor roll three times. The others are Lew Alcindor (now Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), Bill Walton of UCLA and David Thompson of N.C. State.

Shoemaker, a 5-foot-10 junior from Charleston, S.C., was named to the North Carolina AIAW All-State team. Also named to the first team were two N.C. State players, Genia Beasley and Trudi Lacey and two East Carolina players, Debbie Freeman and Rosie Thompson.

Grid practice starts

Carolina's defending ACC football champions open spring practice today under new coach Dick Crum.

The team also will work out Thursday and Friday before breaking for spring vacation. Practice will resume March 1 and will end with the annual Blue-White game on Saturday, April 8.

"The spring practice will give the new staff a chance to simply see how skilled the returning players are," said Crum, who replaced Bill Dooley Jan. 20. "We want to see how adaptable they are. Then we will fit what we want to do to what they do best."

Carolina returns 14 starters, seven on offense and seven on defense, from last year's 9-2 Liberty Bowl team. Heading the list of returning players are four All-ACC performers: junior guard Mike Salzano, freshman tailback Amos Lawrence, junior defensive end Ken Sheets and sophomore linebacker Buddy Curry.



Amos Lawrence

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Carolina Track Club

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For further information, contact Tom Stein's office, 205 Pettigrew Hall.

DOWNTOWN YMCA SPRING ACTIVITIES

Classes run March 20-May 26 (No classes March 27)

ART: Oil Painting for Beginners — Once a week for 9 weeks. Tues.: 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 21-May 16 (Memb.) \$21, (non) \$31.

BALLET: Beg. & Int. — Once a week for 9 weeks. Mon. 7:00-8:00 p.m. March 20-May 15 (m) \$12, (non) \$22.

BELLY DANCE: Beg. — Once a week for 9 weeks. Mon. 7:00-8:00 p.m., March 20-May 15 (m) \$12, (non) \$22.

CANOEING: Meets 6 times — Lake Clearwater. Sun. 1:30-2:30 p.m. April 9, 16, 23, May 14, 21, 28 (m) \$8, (non) \$18.

FIRST AID: March 6-9, 7:00-10:00 p.m. \$3.

GYMNASTICS: Meets once a week for 10 weeks. Mon. 5:35-7:00 p.m. March 20-May 22. (m) \$17, (non) \$27.

MODERN DANCE: Beg. & Int. Once a week for 10 weeks. Mon. 8:00-9:00 p.m. March 20-May 22 (m) \$13, (non) \$23.

SAILING: Meets 6 times. Sun. 3:00-4:00 p.m. April 9, 16, 23, May 14, 21, 28 (m) \$9 (non) \$19.

YOGA: Beg., Int., Adv. Meets once a week for 10 weeks. Mon. 7:00-8:30 p.m., Wed., 11:00 a.m., Wed. 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Chapel Hill, Carrboro YMCA is located in the University Presbyterian Church
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