

Prep stars

Coaches drool, fans wonder — the best just play

CHARLOTTE—While 10-year-old Sean Miller performed an exhibition of basketball wizardry during halftime of the McDonald's East-West High School All-American game Friday night, a middle-aged fan approached a sportswriter on press row. He had a question.

"What's the inside word on Carolina's recruiting of a center for next year?" the man asked.

In all honesty the writer answered that he had no inside scoop and only knew that an early rumor had it that the Heels were courting Steve Stipanovich of St. Louis. But then so were countless other teams.

The fan was frustrated. "Are you sure? Don't you have anything warm—any poop at all?"

The writer insisted he did not know. That's all right, I'll still read your paper," replied the basketball aficionado as he turned and walked back to his seat. The fan was disappointed that he couldn't obtain the "inside word."

After watching their teams—Carolina and Duke—succumb in the NCAA East Regional, hoop fans in the state began searching for another fix for their interrupted basketball habit. If having 11,666 in attendance for the East-West game is any indication, a portion of North Carolina's basketball-crazy inhabitants found a way to beat cold turkey. It was the largest crowd to ever see a prep game in the state.

The stands were packed—with fans.

Bill Fields

incessantly interested in where the 22 prep stars are going to plant themselves for four years of college ball; with college coaches, looking for that elusive star and program builder; and with the media, trying to get information to feed to the public.

The fans—young and old—intently watched players such as Gastonia Ashbrook's James Worthy, who has verbally committed to attend Carolina. They "oohed" and "ahhed," cheering the smooth jumpers, strong rebounds and tough defensive plays. If these guys are this talented now, some of the fans must have said, what will they be like in four years at places like Chapel Hill, Raleigh, Lexington, Ky., South Bend, Ind., College Park, Md., or wherever a stroke of a pen and a grant-in-aid takes them.

Anticipation and curiosity drew fans to this game. The coaches had more in mind. For those players not yet committed to a university—and that's enough of the 22—the game offers the coaches one more look at the prep stars.

Lefty Driesell, Terry Holland and Carl Tacy were three of many coaches watching each and every move. Asked which of the all-stars not yet committed he would like to sign, Driesell

mused: "All of them. They are all good. I'd like to have 'em all."

There is a hint—and in some cases a big dose—of greed in the world of college basketball recruiting. The 22 players at the All-American game, in addition to being among the best talent in the country, share another common denominator. Each of them has endured the rigors of recruiting.

Phone calls, visits from coaches and aides, talks with alumni, letter after letter, brochure after brochure proclaiming a school's worth all are a part of the senior year of a top prep player.

Some of the players in the game had made verbal commitments already to attend a school; others had not. The ones who had already made decisions seemed more at ease than the others—and why not?

"It's nice not having recruiters outside your door or outside the locker room after a game," said Derrick Hord, who is committed to Kentucky after seriously considering UNC.

"I had one of those gut feelings, Hord said in justifying his decision to attend Kentucky. "The Kentucky coaches started writing me and seeing me earlier than the others. I thought that meant something."

Worthy, who hopes to thrill Carmichael Auditorium fans for four years, denied feeling much pressure during the season but said "it is something off my mind."

Ralph Sampson, considered by many to be the best big man in the country, has not made a decision yet. The 7-foot-3 center said he has

narrowed his list of schools to 16. "My coach has handled all the recruiting," Sampson said. "It's him all the way."

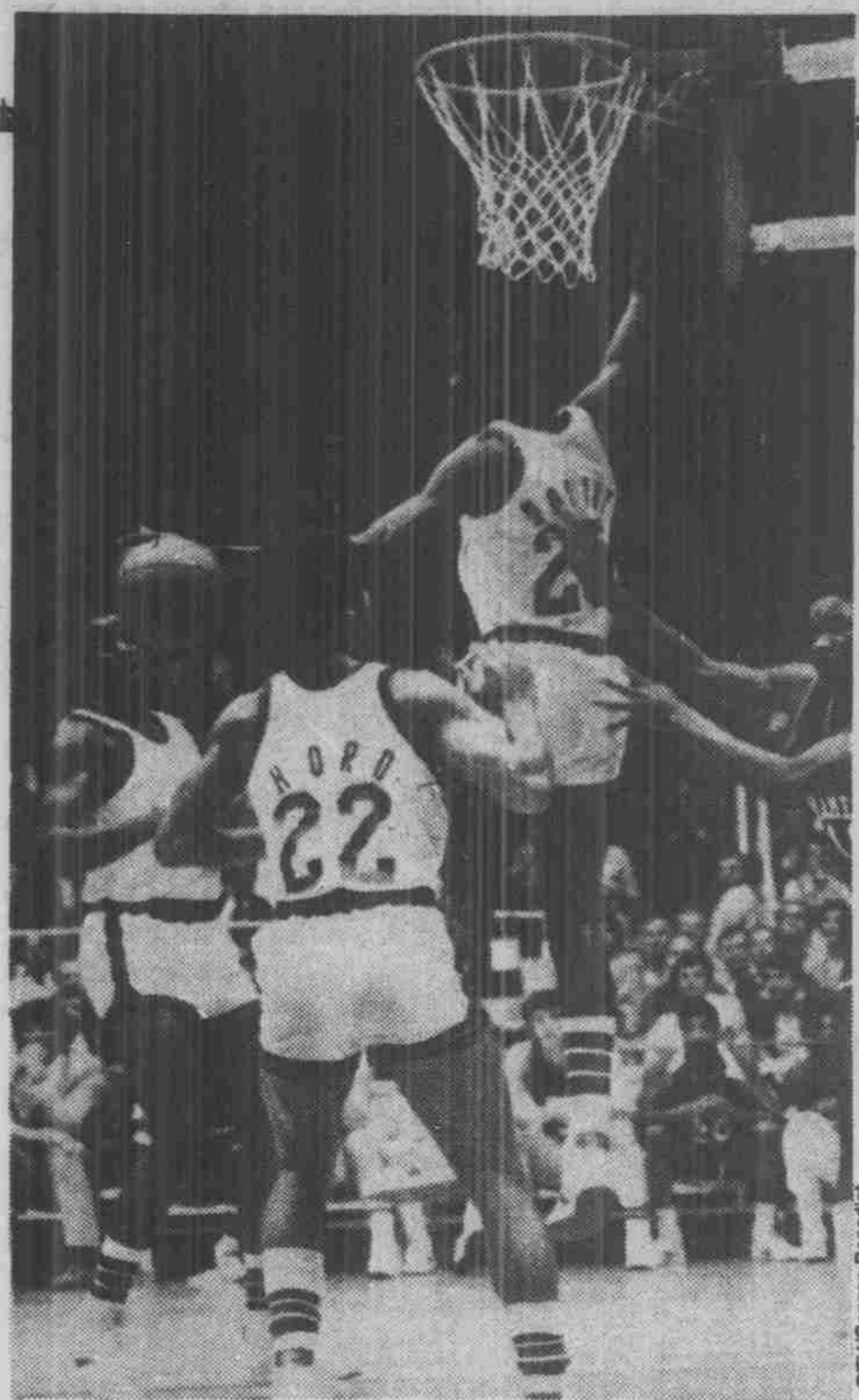
And there was Dominique Wilkins, the 6-foot-7 star from Washington High. Earlier he had verbally committed to attend Georgia, but a wire service story surfaced before the all-star game saying Wilkins had not decided what college to attend. Though the national signing date is April 11, players generally stick to their verbal intentions.

Wilkins denied being indecisive and said the story was wrong and that he was "100 percent committed" to Georgia.

In the game Sampson showed why he might be the country's best center as he had 11 rebounds and 10 blocked shots, including two in a row underneath the basket. Wilkins scored 16, and Hord, still nursing a sore ankle, hit for only two points but had four assists. For the record, the East won 106-105 in overtime.

On the court there's not much question about the inside word on Hord Wilkins, Worthy, Sampson, Antoine Carr, Ricky Ross, John Paxson, Darren Daye, Sidney Lowe and company. They can flat play.

Will they become great college players? That's not certain, but it's much more answerable question than where the undecided will go—or just how much of a hassle recruiting really is.



Carolina-bound James Worthy (25) blocks baseline ...in McDonald's All-American game



Carolina's freshman pitcher Bill Gallagher ...picked up third win Sunday

Tar Heels take two from East Tennessee

By BILL FIELDS
Assistant Sports Editor

The Carolina baseball team completed a busy week of action against non-conference opponents over the weekend, and the Heels finished the week as they began it—by winning.

Carolina took a 7-3 win over East Tennessee State on Saturday and added another 5-0 win from the Buccaneers Sunday afternoon to make it 6-0 over non-league opponents after losing to N.C. State March 18.

And, said Tar Heel coach Mike Roberts, winning all the games was important, because UNC travels to Death Valley for two games Tuesday and Wednesday against defending ACC champion Clemson.

"We had a goal to win all those games this week," Roberts said. "We knew we really needed to get things going after the State game, and plus we were going to Clemson."

The wins over East Tennessee came with no cooperation from the weatherman, as rain delayed the start of Saturday's game by more than three

hours, and low temperatures with brisk winds invaded Boshamer Stadium for Sunday's game.

"It was kind of hard to get loosened up out there," said Bill Gallagher, a freshman left-handed pitcher who threw 11 strikeouts in gaining the Sunday win.

Gallagher, now 3-1 on the year, was challenged only in the fourth inning when East Tennessee loaded the bases on three hits, but the hard-throwing pitcher fanned Curt Kolwalski and Joe Cox to end the inning.

"I was lucky to get out of that jam," Gallagher said. "I got the fastball up high and got behind. After the three hits I decided to challenge them with the fastball."

Gallagher gave up four hits in six innings to pick up the win. Sophomore James Parks came on in the seventh in relief. Parks walked two Bucs and allowed one hit in the last inning, but a double-play grounder back to the mound ended an East Tennessee rally.

Carolina began its scoring in the first on three straight singles up the middle off pitcher Jeff Andrews. Jim Atkinson started the string, followed by Roy Clark,

then Scott Bradley.

Bradley knocked in Atkinson, and Clark scored when shortstop Davey Caldwell booted a grounder by centerfielder Jim Rouse.

Andrews kept the Tar Heels in check until the seventh, when Clark singled, stole second and was brought home on an RBI triple by catcher Bradley to deep right-center. Bradley scored on an RBI single by left-fielder Brad Lloyd.

Clark got his third hit in five trips to the plate in the eighth with a double to the wall that scored Atkinson, who had reached first with a walk.

"I was ready for this game for some

reason even though it was real cold," Clark said. "We were psyched up. We knew we needed to win these two games because Clemson was coming up. The Clemson game is our most important of the year. I think we're ready."

UNC's win Saturday went to pitcher Greg Norris, who evened his mark at 3-3 with help from reliever Monte DeRatt, who gave up just four hits in five innings of relief.

The Tar Heels, 14-8 overall and 1-1 in the ACC, play two against Clemson, travel to Campbell on Friday and return to Boshamer Saturday for a game with UNC-Wilmington.

ODU takes women's title

GREENSBORO (AP)—Inge Nissen and Nancy Lieberman ignited a rally by top-ranked Old Dominion early in the second half Sunday to spark the Lady Monarchs to a 75-65 victory over Louisiana Tech for the national women's collegiate basketball crown.

The Lady Monarchs, trailing 32-27 at the intermission of the AIAW championship game, outscored Louisiana Tech 12-2 in the first 6½ minutes of the second half as they applied a full-court press.

Nissen, a lithe 6-foot-5 center, scored 22 points and Lieberman added 20 as the Lady Monarchs finished the season with a 34-1 record. Their only loss came at the hands of South Carolina, winner of the National Women's Invitational Tournament.

Louisiana Tech, led by Angela Turner's 18 points, finished the season at 34-4.

The game had been expected to hinge on a matchup between Nissen and Elinore Griffin, also a 6-foot-5 junior, but Nissen was too much for the Louisiana Tech center. Lieberman provided the shots that kept Old Dominion on top after the Lady Monarchs grabbed the lead at 35-34 on two free throws by Nissen at 16:12 of the second half.

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STRIKE THE

3-24

GEER, I CAN'T BELIEVE ERIC'S GOTTEN A SUMMER JOB ALREADY... OF COURSE WASHING TEST TUBES FOR THE HOSPITAL LAB ISN'T THE PICK OF THE LITTER....

HE TOLD ME TO COME SEE HIM AT WORK BUT IT'LL TAKE THE LORD'S HELP FOR ME TO FIND HIM IN THE MAZE OF ALL THESE ROOMS!...

OOPS!!!
CRASH

THANKS!

DOONESBURY

3-24

HERE'S THE WORLD WAR I FLYING ACE DOWN BEHIND ENEMY LINES...

I CAN ALWAYS TELL WHEN I'M NEAR THE ENEMY...

GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU STUPID BEAGLE!

THEY'RE NOT AS POLITE...

DOONESBURY

3-24

NO! WHO COULD THAT BE AT THIS HOUR?

I DUNNO. PROBABLY THE PRESSES. GO BACK TO SLEEP.

THE PRESSES? STEVE ANNOUNCED MY RETIREMENT LAST NIGHT.

BOY, ANDO SPREADS FAST.

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TO GO AWAY, JIM. WE BETTER GET UP.

NO, JENNY! I'M NOT TALKING TO T.V. REPORTERS AT SIX IN THE MORNING!

HI, FOLKS. ACTION NEWS HERE. GOT A MINUTE?

I'LL PUT ON THE COFFEE..

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