SPORTS

Summer basketball

Players hold afternoon reunions

By STEPHANIE GRAHAM

Big league baseball may be missing for awhile this summer, but that does not mean sports fans in Chapel Hill will have to suffer. For those who wish basketball was a year-round sport anyway, there is plenty of action every afternoon in Carmichael Auditorium.

Attending one of the daily scrimmage sessions in Carmichael is a bit like leafing through a Carolina basketball yearbook. Past, present and future players gather in Chapel Hill during the summer and play every day.

Some are here to help out with the Carolina Basketball Camp, which runs three weeks in June. Others come back just for a game, while several current players are in town for summer school.

Eric Kenny, Al Wood, Pete Budko and Mike Pepper are working with the camp and scrimmaging in the afternoon. Since Wood, Budko and Pepper were drafted two weeks ago, playing against players with professional experience helps keep them in shape for pro tryouts which will be coming up soon.

Remember the shot Geff Crompton made in 1978 to tie Clemson in Death Valley and send the game into overtime? Though he will never wear a Tar Heel uniform again, Crompton is still shooting hoops in Chapel Hill.

After playing for the Denver Nuggest his first year out of college, Crompton played a year in Europe before returning to Portland and the NBA this season. An injury cut his season short, but he looked pretty healthy playing against Rich Yonakor and Pete Budko.

Playing on Geff's team was an old teammate - Randy Wiel. Wiel just finished a second successful year in Europe

playing for Amsterdam. In his first season, he was named Rookie of the Year, and this year he was the league's co-MVP winner. Why does Wiel, a native of the Netherlands Antilles and a professional in Holland, come back every summer? "Chapel Hill is home to me now," he said.

Besides Wiel, Crompton, Virgil and Yonakor, players like John Kuester and Mike O'Koren are also back. Kuester, an assistant college coach now, still flashes the same form he did when he won the Everett Case Award in the ACC Tournament in 1977

Though undergraduates are not allowed to work in the summer camp, many current players can be found playing every day in Carmichael.

One of those players is Matt Doherty. Doherty no longer has to wear the cast he had worn on his right hand since December which had served to protect a badly fractured thumb. In case anyone still doubts his return to health after an impressive performance in the NCAA Championships — doubt no more. Doherty is in top-form and so are his shooting and ballhandling abilities.

Perhaps even more fun to watch than the old players coming back are the new ones coming in.

Scrimmaging with the alumni and the upperclassmen are four members of a recruiting class said by many to be among the top recruits in the nation this year.

Michael Jordan, all-North Carolina, all-American and MVP in the prestigious McDonalds All-Star Classic, looks like he will live up to his press clippings. Though it is impossible to rate a player on the basis of a short scrimmage, it is easy to rate a shooter. Jordan can shoot.

Besides Jordan, point guard Lynwood Robinson, who is



Wood shows Jump shot to campers

also an all-state player and all-American center John Brownlee from Texas are also in Chapel Hill as is Virginia prep star Warren Martin.

To be truthful, these scrimmages can be a bit different from what Dean Smith's fans are used to seeing. There are no four corners here and no one needs a 24-second clock. Still, the flashiest moves usually come in the way of an outstanding assist rather than a one-on-one move to the basket. Old habits do die hard.

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