

SPORTS

Valvano still silent on job options

The Associated Press

North Carolina State basketball coach Jim Valvano is apparently keeping his options open on a possible job offer from the New Jersey Nets of the National Basketball Association.

State Athletic Director Willis Casey said Wednesday any discussion about the Nets' job and Valvano is speculation. "All I know is what I've read in the newspapers," Casey said. "But from what I know about Jim Valvano, I wouldn't expect him to comment publicly on anything he's not absolutely sure about."

Valvano, whose Wolfpack captured the NCAA championship last week, said

Monday he would not comment on rumors linking him to the NBA job. He said he would "have something to say later."

Casey said he was not aware of any contact between Valvano and the Nets but thought the coach would entertain an offer from the NBA club if the offer was an attractive one.

"Jim has told me, in the past, that he has every intention of staying at N.C. State indefinitely and that he is very happy here," Casey said. Valvano this spring signed a 10-year contract with State.

"But it is just human nature for someone to change his mind, and I'd be foolish to say that Jim Valvano or anyone else couldn't change his opinion," Casey said.

Monday he would not comment on rumors linking him to the NBA job. He said he would "have something to say later."

Casey said there were no negotiations in progress on Valvano's contract, which calls for a base salary of about \$45,000 a year.

"There were no negotiations with the original agreement," Casey said. "We made an offer and he accepted. That agreement was good when it was written, and we see no reason why it shouldn't be good now," Casey said.

Casey said the agreement is not a contract in the usual sense.

"It is a letter of appointment from the chancellor of the university, and there is nothing to prevent him from going elsewhere should he decide to do so," Casey said.

Tennis tourney opens Friday

Grigg's improving on the court

By ROBYN NORWOOD
Staff Writer

Sitting off to the side on aluminum bleachers down at Hinton James Courts, John Grigg has just finished disposing of his opponent at No. 4 singles in straight sets, and now he's saying something about not really having set any goals.

But don't believe him for a second, because Grigg is, above all, a competitor. Ask his coach, Allen Morris, what the strengths of Grigg's game are.

His serve? "He's a real fighter," Morris said. Oh. But what about his forehand? "A great competitor." Must be his baseline game. "He's a coach's dream."

OK, so maybe he didn't set any goals like winning almost 20 singles matches or going undefeated in the ACC — though he did both anyway. But you can bet he set a bigger goal than any of those, and that's to find his potential and to reach it.

Grigg came to the North Carolina tennis program as a freshman in 1979 but didn't start off well that fall. "I think I was good enough to compete but I didn't believe that I was," Grigg said. "Once I started losing confidence I stopped hitting the ball as well." And that loss of confidence became a self-perpetuating situation. Less confidence, worse tennis, less confidence

But Coach Morris, supporting and patient, stuck with him. As a junior, Grigg went to the finals of the ACC in the sixth flight. This year he's 22-6 and 6-1 in the ACC at No. 4.

On the court, Grigg is tough. By his own admission he's not going to blast anybody off the court with sheer power, but he relies a good bit on running down balls and playing intelligently. Grigg, a

history major, is pulling a hefty QPA and his play shows why.

One opponent, after being caught going the other way on a Grigg return, came away mumbling something about "the most intense mind ever to play the game." Maybe a bit strong, but he made his point.

Grigg's athletic ability and good all-around tennis game, coupled with his easy oncourt/offcourt demeanor, make him a natural leader for a team with astonishingly little difference between the first and last positions. UNC lost its No. 1 seed from last year's lineup and brought in freshman Eddie Stewart to fill the vacated sixth position.

Theoretically, the Tar Heels should have had basically the same team and same record, but something clicked and they finished the regular season Tuesday with a 5-4 upset of 16th-ranked Duke to chart a 22-6 mark, the best since 1978 when North Carolina split the ACC title with N.C. State.

Much of the praise for this season's success goes to Coach Morris and his assistant, Ron Pharr. The top-to-bottom balance may have something to do with it, too.

"We don't have a great player that everybody looks to and says 'I'd like to be as good as him,'" Grigg said. But the even talent makes for a lot of match wins.

North Carolina finished second in the conference to undefeated Clemson, losing 5-4 to the Tigers in regular-season play after dropping all three doubles matches.

Morris takes his UNC team into this weekend's ACC tournament in Atlanta with three of his players still unscathed in conference play. Ron Erskine at No. 2, Ken Ludwig at No. 5 and Stewart at No.



Tar Heel senior John Grigg
...No. 4 man ready for ACCs

6 all went 7-0 in the ACC.

Ludwig has had to bear the brunt of UNC's well-balanced team by playing in the first slot against the ACC's finest. His record is 1-6. Josh Sarnier at No. 3 is 4-3.

In doubles play, Erskine and Ludwig are 6-1 while both Grigg-Whitaker and Bach-Sarnier are 5-2.

The teams posing the biggest obstacles for North Carolina are Clemson and Duke.

By virtue of its 22-6 record, the 1983 men's tennis team gave Morris his first 20-win season at UNC.

"We've had a great year," said Grigg. "But we've been within a fraction of having an unbelievable year."

Racquetball club to host Invitational

By LEE ROBERTS
Staff Writer

This will be a big weekend for UNC racquetball club president Howard Gross. After months of hard work scraping up sponsors and finding willing competitors, Gross and his fellow clubmates will be hosting the second annual Eastern Seaboard Conference Racquetball Invitational in Fetzer Gym. Beginning Friday at 4 p.m., the tournament will span the weekend, climaxing with the championship rounds on Sunday afternoon.

The tournament, which debuted last year, boasts teams from eight schools that range in location from Atlanta to College Park, Md. A field of 80 will be matching up at five different competitive levels, three for men and two for women.

Clubs

Gross and clubmate Jeff Shulman have made certain this year that each and every tournament competitor is treated like a winner: For their \$10 entry fee, entrants will be eligible for door prizes and trophies, receive a T-shirt commemorating the tourney and attend a party at Mr. Gatti's, complete with kegs of beer.

Teams to look out for during the tourney are those representing

Maryland, which won the championship last year, South Carolina, Appalachian State and N.C. State. Schools bringing smaller clubs are Emory University, UNC-Wilmington and Virginia Tech.

"I'm a little disappointed with the field," Gross said last week, "because we were supposed to have 14 teams, and six dropped out over the past few days."

"But this is still a big tourney. The NCAAs in Memphis drew a field of 200, and we've got 80 with just these eight teams."

Considering that Gross took over the reins of the UNC racquetball club last February, a tournament of this size is quite an accomplishment. And what will next year bring?

"Hopefully, we'll be able to get a larger tourney, because I'll have a lot more time to organize it," Gross said.

Admission to the tournament is free to the public and Gross urged all interested persons to come by and see some quality racquetball.

Those interested in joining the UNC racquetball club should contact Gross or attend a club meeting on any Tuesday or Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Fetzer Gym courts. Dues are \$10 per semester. The club is open to all levels of play; players of all levels are welcome. "The main thing," Gross said, "is to have a good time."

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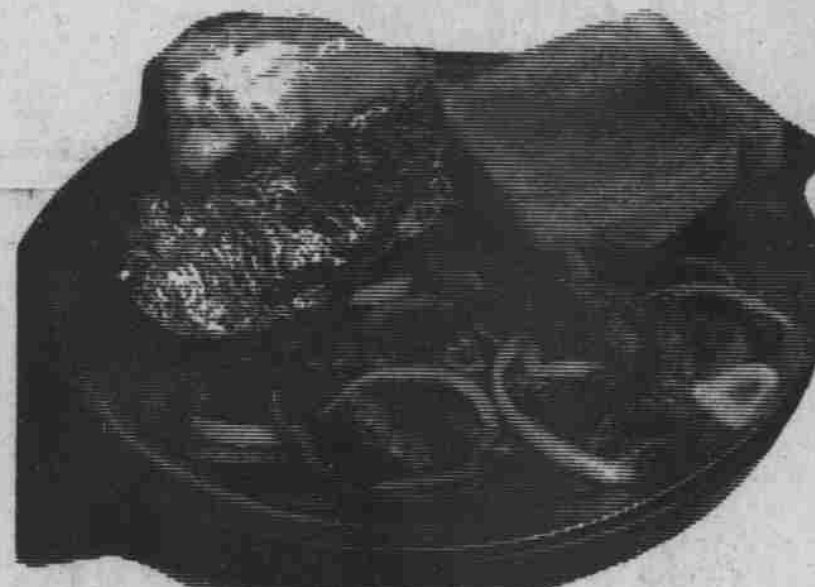


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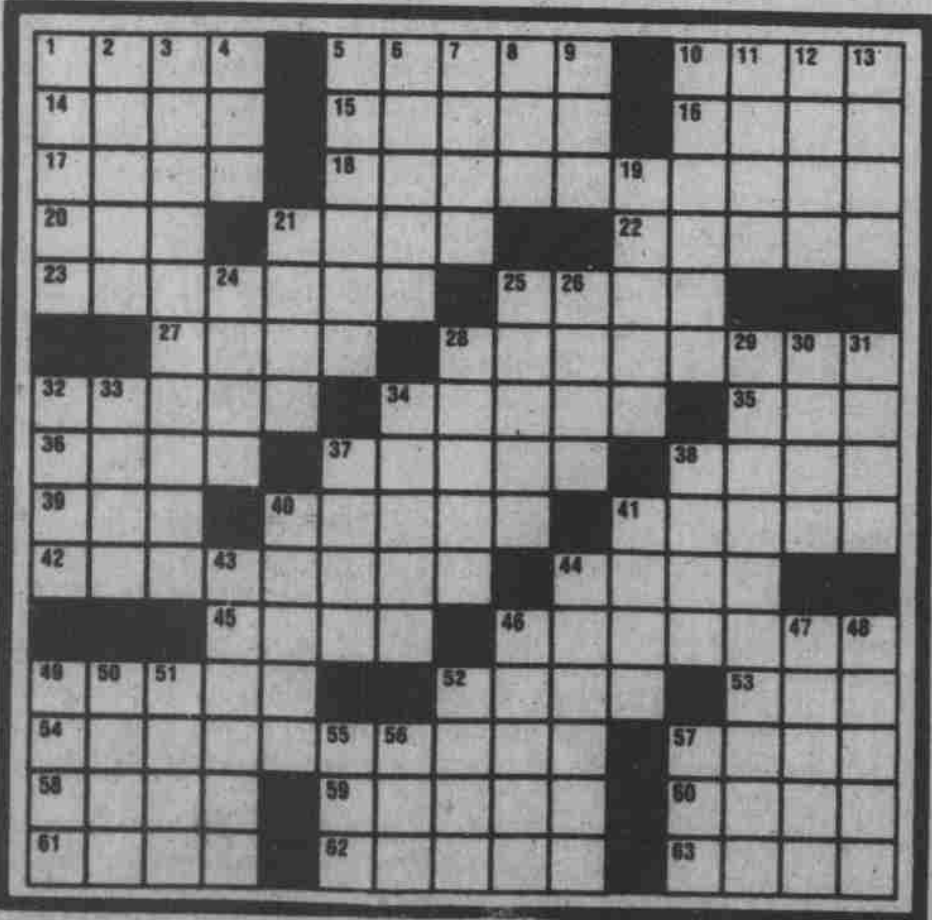
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Slugs at the Pines

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Ragus

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| ACROSS | 27 Leona | 48 Therefore, | 25 Debra of |
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3:20 • 7:30 DOLBY STEREO 8 Acad. Awards incl. BEST PICTURE Gandhi (PG)	3:15 • 5:15 • 7:20 • 9:20 Written by Neil Simon Max Dugan Returns (PG)	LAST DAY! 2:45 • 5:00 • 7:15 • 9:30 Mel Gibson The Year of Living (PG) Dangerously
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