



**BILL CURRIE**  
**Mouth**  
**of the South**

**Basketball Ratings**

In the capricious world of basketball ratings there are more hurt feelings per square inch than perhaps anywhere else in the civilized world.

The clique of coaches who dominate so-called big time college play will to a man deny vigorously that they care a whoop in Hades about the ratings, but the truth is they watch the weekly releases with slavering concern.

National ranking, however ridiculously computed by inept sportswriters and coaches who have little or no opportunity to see the players and teams they evaluate, mean big gates, boosts in recruiting the blue chip player, and better salaries and larger coaching staffs. No wonder the publicity men work overtime to boost their teams into the national rankings.

**Polls Without Merit**

The polls are fun, but almost without merit. Defenders will point out that the teams which held the top rankings always finish the season tops in the NCAA and NIT post season events. That is true. But there is a weekly readjustment. Take the pre-season top 10 and see how well it compares with the final. There will be little similarity.

This year, with Lew Alcindor gone into the pro ranks where he has belonged ever since he was a junior in high school, all the pre-season experts ignored UCLA as possible repeat national champions and seized on Frank McGuire's well manned and heavily promoted Gamecocks. Kentucky also looked good.

Now, though, UCLA is on top of the polls again, and after the Bruins' convincing victory over Notre Dame, it is doubtful if an all-star team of the next five clubs in the ratings could whip Johnny Wooden and his new club.

The Bruins are probably better without Alcindor, and certainly they are happier. Lewis, as Coach Wooden calls him, is not exactly a purveyor of sunshine.

**Gambling Interests Present**

For years there have been rumblings that gambling interests were insinuating themselves into professional sports if not actually to fix games, at least to influence the point spread.

At the very least, gamblers have worked out devious systems of obtaining information about players and teams which is used ingeniously to determine odds. Most coaches who close their practice sessions do so, not keep secrets away from rival coaches, but to keep gamblers from getting close intelligence about the players.

It is generally known on every college campus that certain students make their way through school collecting information for organized gambling. To know, for instance, that one member of a team does not like another is valuable. It means one will not pass to the other in basketball, and that dissention lowers the probability of teamwork.

Federal attorneys who have been building the investigation which is swirling through the papers now have, however, gone off half-cocked with their scatter-gun assertions that scores of "prominent sports figures" will be interrogated.

Since no names have been used, every athlete is a suspect. Also, names of certain professional football players are being bandied about by the news media with no discernable connection to anything reprehensible.

This is libel and slander of the most vicious kind. If the authorities have anything on any athlete, let it come out to clear the names of all those who are clean and above reproach.

**Davie County Nips**  
**North Rowan, 48-41**

MOCKSVILLE — Forward Steve Zimmerman's fantastic fourth-quarter performance sparked Davie County's Rebels to a 48-41 victory over North Rowan's Cavaliers in an important North Piedmont Conference basketball game.

Zimmerman led the Rebel scoring with 15 points, but saved 11 for the final quarter. He also paced Davie's rebounding with 15.

The victory kept Coach Bob Henry's team undefeated in league play with a 3-0 record. The Rebels are 4-3 for all games.

It was the first conference loss for North Rowan's Cavaliers. Coach Walt Baker's club is now 3-1 in the league and 3-5 for all games.

Baker used a 1-2-2 zone defense most of the way. It was designed to keep 6-4½ center James "Jingles" Ijames away from the basket.

"We knew we had to keep Ijames away from the basket," Coach Baker said, "but we hadn't counted on Zimmerman."

North's defense sagged on Ijames, but he still leaped high to take passes from the Rebel guards. He scored 12 points and had 12 rebounds, but was not as effective as in recent games.

**ZIMMERMAN SHINES**

Zimmerman got most of his points on driving layups, rebounded shots and short jumpers. He hit seven of 16 shots for the night, including five of six in the last quarter.

"We expected the defense North used against us," exclaimed Coach Henry of the Rebels. "Zimmerman gave us a real good effort in that last quarter."

Henry's Rebels and South Iredell are now the only two undefeated teams in the league, and the Davie coach expects quite a match with the Vikings when the two teams tangle next Friday.

While Zimmerman and Ijames combined for 27 Davie points, North was led by 6-3 James Henderson, a sophomore who started his second game at guard after being moved from center.

Henderson hit seven of 15 shots, including several from

**Davie Teams**  
**Takes Victories**  
**Over Cavaliers**

Davie County's freshman and junior varsity basketball teams edged North Rowan in a pair of close games at the North gym on Friday.

Davie County's frosh won the first game, 43-40. Blackwood led the Rebels with 13 points, and Robert Trapp tallied 11 for North.

In the junior varsity contest, Davie County took a 58-56 overtime victory.

Davie's Poplin led his team with 20 points, scoring five in the overtime stanza. He hit two free throws with 27 seconds left to break a 56-56 tie.

Billy Washington paced North with 23 points.

**Freshman Game**  
DAVIE COUNTY (43) — Anderson 2, Johnson 10, McDaniel 4, Williams 6, Wall 7, Blackwood 13, Case 1, Andrews, Markland, Kizer, Seaso Seamon, Seaford, Dalton.

NORTH ROWAN (40) — Roberson 2, Trapp 11, Everhart 10, Dixon 7, Grubb 10, Jeter, Turner, Thomas, Neely.

Score by quarters:  
Davie Co. 10 7 14 12—43  
N Rowan 10 6 9 15—40

**Jayvee Game**  
DAVIE COUNTY (58) — Poplin 20, Beaver 4, Focite 13, Dulin 14, Talbert 2, Dwigings 5, Smoot, Redman, Wilson.

NORTH ROWAN (56) — Luther 11, Kirk 9, Washington 23, Nussman 5, Nelson 6, Camps 2, Gaston.

Score by quarters:  
D. County 21 10 12 8 7—58  
N Rowan 13 14 12 12 5—56



**Steve Zimmerman**

long range, and scored 18 points. He also led North's rebounding with 12, followed closely by center Arthur Jones and forward Kent Rabon with 11 and 10, respectively.

North had no other players in double figures in scoring. Forward Freddie Dunlap, who hit three in a row from outside in the second half, scored eight. Guard Kenny Stoner tallied seven.

Both teams had poor shooting nights in a slow-paced game. Davie hit 18 of 61 field-goal tries for 29.5 per cent, and the Cav-

aliers made good on only 15 of 62 for 24.2 per cent. Davie hit 12 of 22 free throws, and North canned 11 of 20 at the foul line.

The Cavaliers, getting numerous offensive rebounds, had a 51-38 edge in that department, but Davie's defense forced North into turnovers that helped decide the issue.

The Rebels carried a 30-21 lead into the fourth quarter, and the Cavaliers cut the advantage of 39-32 at one stage. The foul shots by forward Jerry Goodlett and two baskets by Zimmerman kept the North club from getting closer.

In the girls game, Davie took a 37-25 victory as Paula Barnhardt scored 17 points. Janice Markland followed with nine. Anita Reddick led North with 11.

Davie's girls are now 6-1 overall and 3-1 in league play. North is winless in six games, including four against conference foes.

**Girls Game**

NORTH ROWAN (25) — Hobson 4, Barnes, Hutchens 7, Gobble 1, Moore 1, A. Reddick 11, Clark, Harrison, Milton 1.

DAVIE COUNTY (37) — Markland 9, Frye 4, P. Barnhardt 17, V. Barnhardt, Chaffin 6, Whitaker, Mayfield, S. Shoaf 1, Cuthrell, Cox.

Score by quarters:  
North Rowan 3 9 7 6—25  
Davie County 10 12 5 10—37

**Boys Game**

NORTH ROWAN (41) — Dunlap 8, Rabon 1, Jones 4, Henderson 18, Stoner 7, Roberson, Neely, Blanton 3.

DAVIE COUNTY (48) — Zimmerman 15, Goodlett 8, Ijames 12, Seaford 4, Ward 9.

Score by quarters:  
North Rowan 10 5 6 20—41  
Davie County 13 9 8 18—48

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**Insurance**



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