

By PAT GAINEY

# Basketball Time In The Tar Heel State

WINSTON-SALEM — Whether the Pilgrims actually invented Thanksgiving is still a matter of hysterical debate but I suspect something is amiss in the celebration of the event in North Carolina. I suspect there's a secret potion in all that turkey and dressing that causes hysteria to surface within a matter of days. And it seems to manifest itself in Atlantic Coast Conference basketball.

It's that time, folks ... another couple of weeks. While the Wake Forest Demon Deacons close the current football season this weekend against Virginia Tech, Coach Carl Tacy will be adding finishing touches to his club prior to their season opener at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington on November 26, a mere two days after consumption of drumsticks and cranberry sauce. I think I'll settle for a double scotch and two Vallium.

The question around the Deacon camp is whether the Deacs can repeat their feat of last season when they posted a 22-8 mark before bowing to Marquette in the finals of the NCAA Midwest Regionals. National pollsters are picking the Deacs anywhere between 12th and ninth but last season the sages of the ACC sportswriters association picked the Deacs for sixth in the league in their preseason poll. So much for the credibility of preseason picks.

ACC Player-of-the-Year (by a landslide margin) Rod Griffin, Frank Johnson, and Larry Harrison return to the Wake starting unit. Also returning are Leroy McDonald, Mike Palma, John Hender, Mark Dald, and David Morris. Newcomers include Frank "White Magic" McCaffery, Ed Thurman, Will Singleton, and Justin Ellis. Gone are Skip Brown, Jerry Schellenberg, and Don Mulnix.

The Deacs relied heavily last season on team speed and the ability to win the close games. The team speed will be evident again this season but perhaps the most prevalent question is whether the younger Deacs can win the heartstoppers like they did last time out.

A quick tour of the league: Dean Smith's Tar Heels are getting most of the preseason nods to win the crown while most are picking the Deacs second. Smith lost some talent but with Phil Ford back as the floor general the Heels will be tough as usual.

Down at Duke, Coach Bill Foster has a wealth of talent returning to his squad and welcomes highly touted Gene Banks to the fold. The other Bill Foster, that good old boy from Clemson has lost his "Tree" to the pros but his club should be very deep, very quick, and tough to handle. Over at Raleigh you'll find no fewer than ten new names on the Wolfpack roster but with the return of "Hawkeye" Whitney and Clyde "The Glide" Austin, Norm Sloan should be okay, especially in the second half of the season.

Up at Maryland the biggest addition is Albert King and 15 academic tutors for four of Lefty's players reportedly suffering losses in the battle of the books. And over at Virginia that sweet old boy Terry Holland has Jeff Lamp as his top newcomer plus a number of veterans including Mark Ivaroni who canned the field goal that ousted the Deacs in the opening game of last season's ACC tourney.

Last season the campaign for four schools opened at Greensboro when the Deacs won the Big Four Tournament for the third straight season. This year each team will have a couple of games under their belts when that tourney tips-off December 2 and 3.

Questions. Questions. Questions. Speculation. Hopes, Dreams. And no answers until next March. But there's one sure thing: the explosive brand of basketball seen in the ACC the last few seasons was just a preview of what could happen in the league this year. There's an abundance of great new talent, top veterans, great coaches, and an addition that will, I predict, cause more headaches than ever before for coaches, three officials, on the floor. I wonder where the third referee will be during the four corners?

Eat well this Thanksgiving and say a prayer for sanity's sake. Squanto should have said, "No thanks."



LOOKING TO PASS — Eric Dixon, Coach John Blalock is drilling his with ball, looks for someone to pass to as Kings Mountain's Mountaineers go charges daily as they look to their Southwestern Conference opener against through three-men offensive drills. East Gaston on December 2.

## Newton Meets Brevard

The Southwestern Conference, regarded in pre-season as the toughest 3-A league in North Carolina, suddenly has found it may have been overrated.

The SWC's representative in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association playoffs, Shelby's Golden Lions, were eliminated from the playoffs in last week's opening round, 3-0 by the Western Piedmont champion Newton-Conover Red Devils.

Newton, coached by former Shelby player Don Patrick, now advances to second round play this Friday night against Brevard, the Parkway Conference champion and a 20-7 winner over Asheville Owen last week.

The winner of Friday's 7:30 game at Brevard will advance to the semi-finals next week against the winner of the South Rowan-South Caldwell game.



The yo-yo is depicted on ancient Greek vase paintings dating back as far as the eighth century B.C.

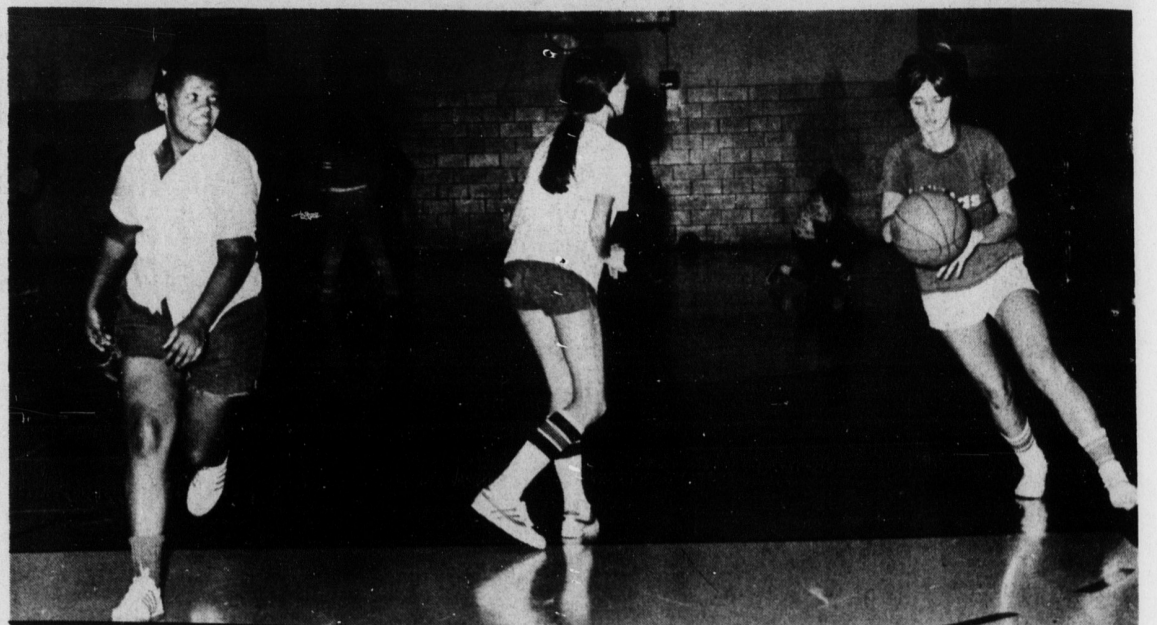
South Rowan, the South Piedmont champion, advanced with a 27-7 win over Lexington and South Caldwell, the Northwestern Conference king, advanced with a 22-6 win over North Surry. South Caldwell is a new consolidated school partially made up of players from Hudson, a former non-conference foe of Kings Mountain. Lenoir and Gamewell-Colletsville joined with Hudson to form the new school.

Other playoff action Friday in the 3-A ranks include Farmville at Clinton and East Wake at Western Guilford. There are no undefeated teams in the 3-A division.

In 4-A action this week, Richmond County is at Pine Forest, Rocky Mount at Jacksonville, East Mecklenburg at East Forsyth and Winston-Salem Parkland at Asheville.

In the 2-A division, Perquimans is at Clayton, Lejeune at Tabor City, Central Davidson at Charlotte Catholic and Maiden at Swain County.

In the semi-finals of the 1-A playoffs, North Duplin plays at Rock Ridge and Maxton at Robbinville. North Duplin's principal is Jake Atkinson, former principal at KMHS.



DRIVING FOR TWO — Faye Ramey, right, drives in for two points after taking pass from Libby Upchurch, center, as Kings Mountain's girls basketballers go through pre-season drills. Left is Shavon Edwards. The Mountaintettes open Southwestern Conference play on December 2 at East Gaston.

Photo By Gary Stewart

# We could all use some Good News!

You're Invited to a Celebration of the Best News you will ever hear!

Where?  
Your Church!

Your church may be one of the more than 10,000 churches throughout North Carolina that have been invited to join in a celebration of the Bible. Almost every major denomination will share in this statewide event.

When?  
November 20th!

On Sunday, November 20, each participating congregation will join all the other participating congregations in

having its own Celebration of the Good News!

What?  
The Bible!

The journey of the Bible through the ages is the common heritage that every Christian, regardless of denomination, shares with all other believers. What could be more worthy of celebration than our mutual dependence on God's Word?

Ask your Pastor!



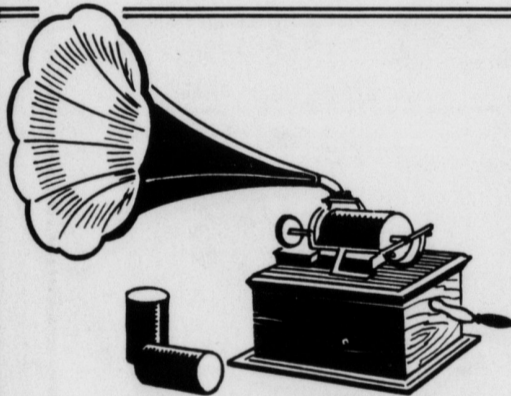
# JUST 55 REASONS TO DRIVE 55

When the 55 mph speed limit became law, the rationale was obvious. Once considered limitless, our supply of fuel was drastically reduced. Our mobility deeply endangered.

This threat to our mobile lifestyle, although less obvious now, still exists. And slowing down still conserves the fuel that is still running out. But as an added bonus, we are saving lives and reducing accidents. It would seem that something that helps to preserve our lifestyles and possibly our lives would be easy to sell. But it is necessary for the N.C. Highway Patrol to remind us that 55 mph is all the law allows.



A public service of this publication and the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Prepared by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center.



You are cordially invited to come in and look over the wide selection of:

- ★ Records
- ★ Tapes
- ★ Posters
- ★ Accessories
- ★ Jewelry

At THE  
**MUSIC BOX**

Joanne, Sandy And Bill Young

Dixie Village Shopping Center  
Gastonia, N. C.  
Phone 864-2076

STORE HOURS:  
Monday 10-8;  
Tuesday & Wednesday 11-8;  
Thursday through Saturday 10-8

## SINUS SUFFERERS

Here's good news for you! Exclusive new "hard core" SYN-A-CLEAR Decongestant tablets act instantly and continuously to drain and clear all nasal-sinus cavities. One "hard core" tablet gives you up to 8 hours relief from pain and pressure of congestion. Allows you to breathe easily—stops watery eyes and runny nose. You can buy SYN-A-CLEAR without need for a prescription. Satisfaction guaranteed by maker. Try it today!

Introductory Offer Worth ..... \$150

Cut out this ad—take to store listed. Purchase one pack of SYN-A-CLEAR 12's and receive one more SYN-A-CLEAR 12-Pack Free.

Now Available—Long Acting SYN-A-CLEAR Nasal Spray—2/3 fl. oz. (30%) more product at less cost than other brands.

**SMITH DRUGS**  
K. M. Plaza Shopping Center