



**RUNNER-UP** - Rick's Ole Country Store finished second to Optimist in the 11-12 year old City League basketball tournament. Players include, front row, Grant Holder. Second row, Eugene Morgan, Emmett McClain, Chad Leigh and Bruton Wilson. Back row, Chip Cash, Shawn Pressley, Steve Robbins and Coach Ernie Teague.



Sponsored By Wade Ford  
**ACC INSIDE STUFF**  
Dick DeVenzio

### Camp Slated

Dick DeVenzio, whose weekly column "Inside Stuff," appears in this paper, is holding his 14th annual basketball camp this summer. The camp, called "Morthanjusta," is held in two locations, Spartanburg, South Carolina and Raleigh, North Carolina.

Applications are still being accepted. If you want to go, write Dick DeVenzio at 5222 Farm Pond Lane, Charlotte, NC 28212, or call 704-537-7375.

## The Good, Bad, And The Italian

You're thinking I made up that line, but it was a movie several years ago, a takeoff of course on "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly."

Both titles apply to NC State basketball in more ways than I have room to enumerate. But let me start.

Some people love Jim Valvano—people like sports writers wanting good stories and candid comments, and people like stragglers at courtside who get their sense of importance from knowing a celebrity. Valvano will talk to them. He REALLY will. Not just "Hey, how's it going?" either. He'll talk, ask questions, and even listen carefully to the answers and respond to them.

Jim Valvano is about the nicest person I have ever seen—celebrity or no. But nevertheless, some players must hate playing for Valvano, one of the all time great coaches-of-whimsy. A guy plays 35 minutes one game and doesn't get in the next.

Did you notice Valvano putting in Ernie Myers for ONE SECOND in the St. Johns game? ONE SECOND—just long enough to go in to commit an intentional foul. Then right out.

Oh, that's all part of the game, right? No, it's not. That's the kind of thing that makes a player want to punch a coach in the face.

You have to understand how coaches WORK to tie a player's self image to his performance. "Have pride," they tell you. "Always give 100%—or more." And "be consistent."

These things don't jive. They aren't just 'part of the game.' Maybe they are IN THE PROS, where each guy is getting thousands of dollars to sit down and get up on command. But in college, where you're just getting a scholarship in return for your basketball skills, you're being sold on the total college experience. That's what recruiting is. They all, by rule, must offer the same. So they sell a player on the total experience. And it is one lousy, hate-filled experience getting excited to play a game and then NOT being given a chance even to fail.

Did you notice the TV camera pan the State bench at the end of the St. Johns game? So many times during the NCAA playoffs, the commentators would say, "The bench tells the story." The winning team would be up slapping high fives, shouting and raising fists, while the losing teams would be looking sullen, heads in hands, tears in eyes.

They didn't say, "the bench tells the story," as the camera scanned the State players. The commentator decided to be "discreet" and remain silent. Because EVERY FACE HAD A SMILE ON IT. Thompson, Bolton, Myers, Del Negro, Jackson. Don't kid yourself into thinking those guys have any idea why Valvano does what he does. They play a lot sometimes. Sometimes they don't play at all. It's called whimsy if you dislike Valvano's style, "instinct" if you like him.

With Lorenzo Charles, it's called LOAFING, pure and simple. Commentator Doug Collins said he thought Lorenzo looked tired after seeing him play for the first time, but then added that Lorenzo himself told him he wasn't tired at all. That's just the way Lorenzo still plays after four years! Incredible. Jogging down the court while the ball and people are flying by him—while high school All-Americans sit the bench watching. How does Valvano explain THAT to his kids on the bench?

Valvano is years ahead of many coaches, intelligently using the foul rules in his behalf, intentionally fouling a guy who had just shot an air ball, winning a national championship once on long jump shots, sheer adrenalin and pizzazz.

I don't know what to think of Jim Valvano. I don't mind how many commercials he makes, or even that he and State allow a kid in with SAT scores of 470 (if the kid can pass his courses, who cares what his scores were?) but I don't understand bringing in five forwards this year to go along with Bolton, Thompson, Pierre and McMillan. I don't understand them still recruiting some guards—which they are doing—on the assumption that some disgruntled players are likely to leave school. (They don't have any scholarships left to give unless someone leaves.)

Valvano is a better person than most of us, and he knows more basketball. And yet...

## Hillclimb Set April 26-28

From Page 9-B

Carolina region of the Sports Car Club of America, is being sponsored by Chimney Rock Park in conjunction with Coors Beer and Pirelli Tire Corporation with the cooperation of Hughes Tire Distributors.

Cars will be divided into seven (7) groups of S.C.C.A. competition as each man will pit himself against the mountain to compete for part of the

\$5,000 purse and a chance at the overall winner's "Coors/Pirelli Cup"! For years the event has been dominated by John Finger of Greenville, S.C., who has won the last eight hillclimbs. He holds the course record which is a blistering 1.48:22 set in 1982.

Finger will be back on hand to defend his title as "King of the Mountain" driving his powerful March Mazda. His

chief challengers Mike Green of Greenville, S.C., runner-up for the past four years and Gary Davis of Tampa, Fla., past record holder, can be counted on to give the boss a run for his title when the starting flag drops.

For further information on the event or area accommodations, write: P.O. Box 39HC, Chimney Rock, N.C. 28720, or call Chimney Rock Park (704) 625-9611.

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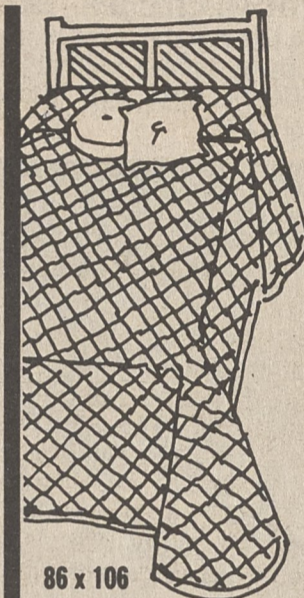
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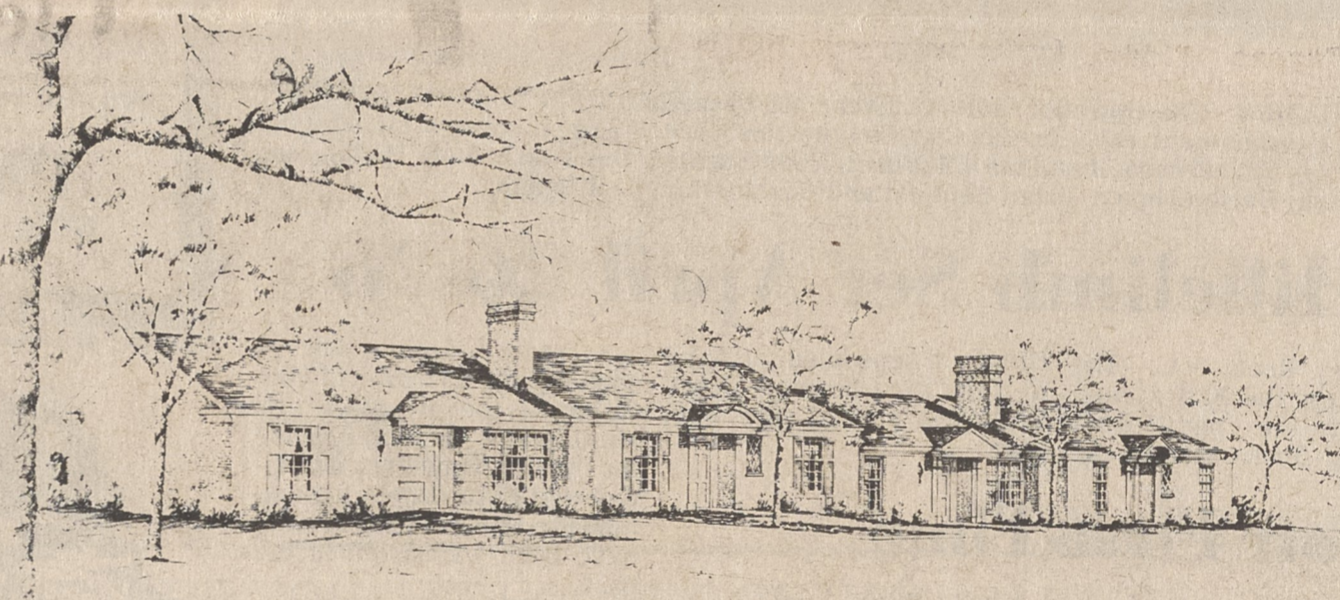
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