



**PAUL CAMERON**

**WBTV SPORTS DIRECTOR**

**SPECIAL FOR HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY**

## Secret For Athletic Longevity

I couldn't make the varsity tennis team at college with 50 years of practice, but Joe Sweeney did. Sweeney is 71 and believed to be the oldest college player of all time. He didn't have a particularly great tennis season at Salem State College in Salem, Massachusetts, but then Sweeney was busy juggling his tennis and schoolwork with swimming, diving, hockey, sailing, roller skating, wind surfing and piano practice. What's his secret for athletic longevity? "Don't stop," says Sweeney. "There's an old saying—if you don't slow down, nobody's going to catch you."

After the World Series, NBC sports announcer Vin Scully was besieged with Boston fans who thought he was pro-Mets and New York fans who thought he was pro-Boston. Malarky. Scully's been broadcasting baseball for 37 years. Why would he care which side wins? Just goes to prove the theory of selective judgement—that people hear only what they want to hear.

Update on a pair of former ACC centers: Yvon Joseph, who helped Bobby Cremins and Georgia Tech win their first-ever ACC title, was cut by the Detroit Pistons and will probably play in Italy. Ben Coleman, a burly strongman for Lefty Driesell at Maryland, has made the New Jersey Nets roster as a reserve.

When the Buffalo Bills recently fired coach Hank Ballough, wonder if they gave thought to hiring Don Coryell? Imagine, Air-Coryell and Jim Kelly making T.D.'s together. But the Bills played safe and hired former Kansas City coach Marv Levy.

And with Lefty out at Maryland, what will the Duke student body do with all those skullcaps?

(See Paul Cameron at 6 pm and 11 pm on Channel 3.)



**ACC INSIDE STUFF**

**Dick DeVenzio**

## UNC - Number One At-A-Time

Sports commentators around the nation have chosen the University of North Carolina Tar Heels number one in the nation for this year. Sound familiar?

One of the big reasons is Dean Smith. You can never look too stupid choosing one of his teams. You know they are going to be among the best every year. And after watching their November 15 Blue-White scrimmage, there can be no doubt.

Joe Wolf looks clearly like a high first round NBA draft choice. He is rebounding with authority, shooting well from outside, scoring from inside and passing the ball extremely well. He would be a good guess for ACC Player of the Year.

Kenny Smith and Jeff Lebo, of course, are widely considered two of the top guards in the nation. Both are smart, unselfish, excellent shooters and ball handlers and good on defense.

J.R. Reid, the freshman, has already established himself as a force inside who will have to start. He is very strong and very mobile, with a soft touch around the basket.

Who will be the fifth starter? It's hard to say, and probably doesn't matter. We'll see plenty of Steve Bucknall, but also Dave Popson on the nights he's hitting that jump hook. Ranzino Smith when his 3-pointer is dropping from outside, Kevin Madden if he gets off academic probation in January, Curtis Hunter who still seems to do a good thing and a bad thing and just hadn't developed consistency.

A big surprise for me was Pete Chilcott, who looks like a very fine player. He is tough around the basket, plays confidently despite being only a freshman, and he has a terrific outside shot.

Watching all that talent made me think the "same old thing" is going to happen again this year. The team will start out with a bang, looking almost invincible, then they'll drop a couple of games near the end, and people will accuse Smith of not getting his team to peak at the proper time.

The problem is, Smith is too good a coach and too well organized. Consequently, his teams can't help but reach their potential before most of the other teams. Through the course of a season, then, some players lose confidence, become tentative, and really aren't as good at the end of the season as they were at the beginning.

Peaking at the wrong time really isn't the issue. Some coaches just take longer to get their teams playing well. But at the end, when the NCAA tournament begins, the season starts over, luck plays a huge part, and so do injuries. Without Joe Wolf in the lineup, UNC will be only a Top Twenty team at the end. With him—and with Kenny Smith and just a swattering of luck — I'd look for the Heels to be in the Final Four. No use pretending it's necessary to take the games one at a time. NO ONE ever does, mentally. And physically, there is no choice.

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# Woods Inks Grant With ETSU

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East Rutherford and East Gaston high schools. "Summertime was when Mike caught the college coaches' eyes."

By signing during the NCAA's "early signing period", Woods said the pressure will be off of him and he can give a hundred percent toward helping the Mountaineers fare well in the Southwestern 3-A Conference race this winter.

"When the NCAA first began the early signing period, I had some negative feelings about it," Coach Sipe stated. "But it's proved to be a good thing. I think that when the college coaches can see a player in a relaxed atmosphere such as summer league ball, then they can really see what a kid can do. If they had come in during the season to watch us play, they would never see Mike out on the perimeter. He has to play inside for us because he's the tallest man we've got."

Woods, who hopes to go into some kind of engineering career, said he was impressed with the East Tennessee campus and the people there. He said he actually stopped people on the streets and asked them what they thought about the college.

"I like to run, and they play a run passing game just like we do here at Kings Mountain," Woods said. "It won't be a drastic change for me."

Woods will be playing for veteran coach Les Robinson, who is in just his second season at ETSU but coached for 17 years at The Citadel.

Woods was recruited by several NCAA schools, including James Madison, Winthrop, Western Carolina, UNC-Asheville and Furman. He says he's happy to be going into the Southern Conference, which is a balanced league with good basketball talent.

"He's real fortunate to be playing for Robinson," said Sipe. "He's well-known all over the country as a good coach who looks after his players. Mike's parents always wanted someone who

would look after their son and I feel confident he's in good hands."

Robinson turned out several good teams at The Citadel and compiled a career .500 record at the military school. Woods says he looks forward to playing

games close to Kings Mountain, such as at Davidson and Furman, and that he also looks forward to play televised games. The Southern Conference recently signed a contract with ESPN.

"But right now," he says, "I want to concentrate on

helping Kings Mountain High School win the conference. That's my first priority. I'll also be working on my own to develop a 19-to-21 foot jump shot, but I promise Coach Sipe that I won't be practicing that shot during our games."

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