

Repeat Of The Kurland Tragedy?

A Dream Battle: North Carolina Vs. Gifted 'Freak'

By Bob Quincy

Charlotte News Sports Editor

Can Team Play Beat Kansas' One-Man Gang?

KANSAS CITY — It is utter folly to talk of a match between North Carolina and Kansas until the two have at least capsized their foes, Michigan State and San Francisco, on Friday night — but if the fates deem it so, one of the dream battles of the century would be on hand.

Not in my recollection of basketball playoffs have the No. 1 and No. 2 teams of the country met in an NCAA showdown. This would be it — going for broke, the Dempsey vs. Louis match everyone constructs in their minds.

Is North Carolina really the No. 1 team? I'll buy the Tar Heels — for seldom have five men been put together on a court who can do the things Frank McGuire's lads can offer.

Yet, the Chapel Hillians will be playing not a team, rather a gifted "freak" should they tangle with Kansas and Wilt the Stilt. They will be in Stilt's home territory and the city. Reason? Why if Wilt were playing in the same town, nobody would watch the pros. They'd be buying tickets to see the phenom.

On the campus at nearby Lawrence, reporters aren't shooed his way, rather turned off unless they are persistent. It's in fairness to this seven-foot giant from Philadelphia. He's been manhandled to the point of a mental breakdown. He's been called a former pro. He's been chided for picking a "home town" school like Kansas.

In fact, no athlete in the history of sport has been put into the public's face like the Stilt. In high school, he rated stories on all wire services and in some magazines.

Too Much Competition For Pros

"I'll tell you one reason the Stilt is at Kansas," one coach told me. "The Philadelphia Warriors, the pro boys, applied every known trick to get him away from the city. Reason? Why if Wilt were playing in the same town, nobody would watch the pros. They'd be buying tickets to see the phenom."

Jerry Tax, a member of the Sports Illustrated staff, talked with me in Philadelphia. He had covered the Iowa State-Kansas game and concentrated his reporting on Chamberlain.

"Honest," said Tax, "you almost feel sorry for the guy. He's been hounded and pursued so much, he seems as if he wants to shoot and hide on the court. He goes out of his way not to be conspicuous."

"He's a ball player, a real giant of the court. He doesn't move much. He's a so-so foul shooter. But he tears an opponent apart on the boards. Once the ball goes up, Stilt's there — arms sweeping across like a giant squid."

Chamberlain is a sophomore and has played in nothing but full houses since he entered school. He is the nation's fourth best scorer with a 29.8 average. He is the third best rebounder in the country, a tough in itself since figures don't tell the story. Nobody can touch him once he gets positioned.

During a 23 game regular season, Wilt deflected 157 enemy shots, a potential saving of 314 points.

He can reach nine feet, half foot from the rim of the basket, jumping, he soars to 13 feet, six inches. On a fast break, he takes 13-14 feet in one stride.

Dons May Ignore Chamberlain

LAD of 19 years and carrying 214 pounds, Chamberlain is the chief topic of the NCAA championships here. How to defend him? A means of keeping him away from the basket?

Coach Dick Harp takes no chances on man-for-man play luring Wilt from the boards. He utilizes a modified zone with the hulking Chamberlain as middle man. Balls dropping off right, left or center come within the big man's reach. Kansas foes averaged only 58 points.

First chance to show against Kansas and their one-man gang is San Francisco. Phil Woolpert, whose team took the crown here last year, says he has no special plans. Well, that's his story for the moment.

"We may use five men against Wilt or we may ignore him," said Woolpert, whose teams stress defense. "We have learned from films we've seen that Chamberlain is practically unstopable."

But back to that glorious possibility — a showdown between the Tar Heels and Kansas. North Carolina would be the biggest team Kansas has played this season. No doubt, they'd try to keep the ball away from him — use a man front and rear and hope the rebounds bounce their way.

All this is reminiscent of 1946, when another North Carolina team reached the finals of the NCAA. A giant was blocking their path to a national crown — fellow by the name of Bob Kurland whose seven feet represented Oklahoma A.M. The giant won, 49-40. Maybe fate will be kinder to the Tar Heels if second try is granted.

Hower Goes Shopping

FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla. — Hornets General Manager Phil Hower thinks he has an excellent chance of bringing second baseman Dave Drapp back to Charlotte this season.

Drapp, now on the Chattanooga roster, is a holdout.

Hower is left for Orlando today to try to buy Drapp.

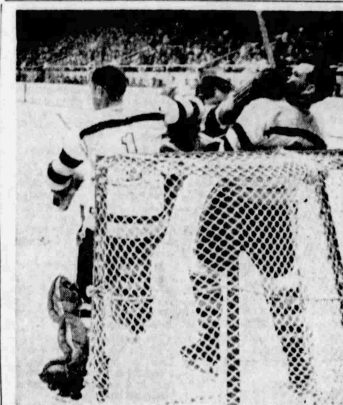
"He'll play for us. All this is reminiscent of 1946, when another North Carolina team reached the finals of the NCAA. A giant was blocking their path to a national crown — fellow by the name of Bob Kurland whose seven feet represented Oklahoma A.M. The giant won, 49-40. Maybe fate will be kinder to the Tar Heels if second try is granted."

The Hornets DRAPP GM said he hopes to "bring back a catload" of talent from "Nooga but admits that chances

are good that the club won't get any of the Southern Association team's players for another couple of weeks.

The Hornets stepped up their training pace a little yesterday, throwing a little more and a little harder. Looking sharp in the workout was Orlando Gonzalez, a third baseman who is ahead of the others in conditioning because he has been playing winter ball. He's fast, quick, has a good arm, fields well and spanked a couple of long drives in batting practice.

The team was honored at a dinner party last night at a local club by Fernandina civic groups. Manager Gene Verbeke says he will probably start the first intra-squad game on Sunday—GREEN.



A SHOT IN THE SNOOT

Clipper's Russ Hann is clipped by George Bougie in a scramble during last night's Coliseum action. Charlotte goalie Les Binkley (No. 1) ignored the action. He was watching the puck. Both Hann and Bougie got two minutes in the penalty box to cool off.



ONE TO GO . . . say Clip scorers (l to r) Herve Lalonde, Jim McNulty, Ray Lacroix, Bill Sennett, Bibber O'Hearn and Stan Warecki.



"Just because I've got the binoculars doesn't mean I'm going to the races. If you must know, I've joined a bird-watcher's club!"

Blades Face Elimination—Clips Clipping Along: No. 22 Friday Night?

LIKE North Carolina's Tar Heels, the Charlotte Clippers have a streak to protect when they crash into New Haven on Friday night at the Coliseum. And Coach Andy Brown says, "We'll be going all out to wind up the playoffs. Then we'll relax and see how Philadelphia and Johnston suffer."

Here last night before a disappointing turnout of 2,200 fans the sharp-skating Clips bombarded the visiting Blades, 6-3, to take a 3-1 advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

It was the Charlotte team's 21st consecutive home win and pushed their record at the Coliseum to 34 victories against a mere two defeats. It is a wondrous bit of legendry that isn't likely to be equaled.

60 ALL THAT can be said about the last game two nights away is that New Haven will be at a distinct disadvantage. Pressure is right for the Clips and it without a Sunday try, which is tentatively booked if needed.

It was all over as early as the first period last night. The Clippers got hard, fast ice in comparison to the sluggish surface of their previous test. They skated the Blades off their feet.

The game had few penalties but checking continued to be vicious.

PREXY CHARLIE Rock of the Clippers showed concern that the basketball action at Kansas City may be telecast locally, realizing the free screen would attract many of the home team's fans on Friday.

"But that's one of the hazards of any sports promotion," Philadelphia's Rock said. "You have to take the bitter with the sweet. We've had some sweet crowds."

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Can Spartans Snap Record Streak?

ANDERSON: 'MIGHT AS WELL BE US'

By BOB QUINCY

KANSAS CITY — "Somebody's going to snap that winning streak. It might as well be us."

That bit of philosophy came from Fordy Anderson, a young man of high talent whose Michigan State Spartans face unbeaten and top-ranked North Carolina here Friday night in the first game of the NCAA championships.

The scene will be set at 7:30 p.m. (CST), which is an hour later by steady Charlotte timepieces. At 9:30 o'clock, the big boys of Kansas take on defending champion San Francisco.

AS FOR the Saturday night rounds, the first game will open at 8 o'clock (Charlotte time) and the championship is at 10 p.m.

Win or lose, all teams play two games. The Tar Heels of North Carolina, who made headquarters here this afternoon at the Hotel Continental, hope to be in the limelight all the way.

"No one has to tell us what a great team Frank McGuire has," comments the Michigan State tutor. "That record speaks for itself. But we think we're as good as the next team in a showdown such as this one."

Anderson makes a good point. You have to be hot in a tournament, else you're dead.

Michigan State is a club without an outstanding star. John Green, a 6.5 sophomore, has earned the most acclaim. He can jump so high he can hang from the top of the backboard.

"WE DON'T have a Rosenbluth or a Chamberlain," Anderson, "but we do have some good boys. Most significant, I think, is the fact we've had five players come through in double figures in some games."

Tar Heel Coach McGuire isn't one to understate the state. He points to their playoff game with Kentucky, in which they had to come from behind to win on the Wildcats' own court.

The Road To Ruin?

EAST LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan State basketball record to date (19-16, last 8):

Michigan	MSU OPP.
Michigan	79
Ohio State	61
Northwestern	60
Illinois	59
Indiana	58
Wisconsin	57
Nebraska	56
Minnesota	55
North Carolina	54
San Francisco	53
Stanford	52
Arizona	51
Utah	50
Washington	49
Colorado	48
California	47
Purdue	46
Michigan	45
Nebraska	44
Ohio State	43
Northwestern	42
Illinois	41
Indiana	40
Wisconsin	39
Nebraska	38
Michigan	37
Ohio State	36
Northwestern	35
Illinois	34
Indiana	33
Wisconsin	32
Nebraska	31
Michigan	30
Ohio State	29
Northwestern	28
Illinois	27
Indiana	26
Wisconsin	25
Nebraska	24
Michigan	23
Ohio State	22
Northwestern	21
Illinois	20
Indiana	19
Wisconsin	18
Nebraska	17
Michigan	16
Ohio State	15
Northwestern	14
Illinois	13
Indiana	12
Wisconsin	11
Nebraska	10
Michigan	9
Ohio State	8
Northwestern	7
Illinois	6
Indiana	5
Wisconsin	4
Nebraska	3
Michigan	2
Ohio State	1

"Any team that can beat Adolph Rupp at home," said McGuire, "has my admiration."

single game in 30 this season, a record of much distinction. "It doesn't mean anything now." That's his opinion, of course.

They do get a break in opening the show on Friday night. That means they can relax and watch the second game and make what notes they can. They'll also get a better share of rest.

The auditorium here, which seats some 10,000 fans, was sold out for both performances two weeks ago. Negotiations are still underway for a nationwide telecast.

Michigan State's defense was the Big Ten's best and the Spartans count heavily on their rebounding strength. North Carolina hopes to get back in good graces on that count. They were beaten on the boards in their last game by Syracuse — although winning by nine points.

McGuire once again stresses his team won't be affected by pressure of not having lost a

Intercity Golden Gloves Bouts On TV Card Tonite

CHICAGO — Golden Gloves boxing teams of New York and Chicago, each boasting exceptionally fine talent, will aim their haymakers at each other tonight in the colorful intercity bouts at the Chicago Stadium.

It's the 30th annual East-West showdown with the New York squad — representing the best amateur boxers of the Atlantic Seaboard — trying for an unprecedented second straight win.

Chicago's champions represent the top amateur fighters west of the Appalachians.

The scheduled three-round bouts in each of the eight weight divisions will be nationally televised and broadcast (ABC, 10 p.m. EST).

Perhaps the TV audience will be able to see all eight intercity winners crowned in the hour-long show. The time element depends on the number of bout-shortening knockouts registered.

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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

8-B — THE CHARLOTTE (N. C.) NEWS — WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1957

Phenoms And Failures THIS IS SPRING TRAINING

By RONALD GREEN

Charlotte News Sports Writer

FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla. — Spring training with the Hornets, as with any other club, is a month in the Florida sunshine in which young, nameless faces battle for positions that will be filled in two or three weeks by tested veterans sitting down from the higher classification teams.

It is a time for phenoms like Angel Oliva, a Cuban pitcher with a flowing motion, who may or may not make the team when the exhibition start and the real accounting begins.

It is Johnny Grice, a regular last year, noting that there are more seasoned men in camp this year than in recent seasons and promising "We'll finish in the first division." . . . Addie Hintze, a capable young blond, miffing a ground ball at third and cursing the glove that dropped it . . .



HORNET HURLERS . . . Doug Clark (l) and Angel Oliva. (Special News photo by Florida Films)

GENERAL MANAGER Phil Hower sitting in the sunshine, chewing an unlighted cigar, and wondering about his sure-handed first baseman, Harry Warner. ("He wrote that he was satisfied with his contract. I don't know why he hasn't shown up. I'm going to call him on the phone.")

Spring training is a terminal thing for a club which players pass some of them on paper without ever putting on Hornet flannels . . . It is big Joe Montalvo, the regular catcher last year, shouting encouragement to young pitchers in his husky Brooklynese . . . Hower watching Orlando Gonzales move cut-line around third and remarking, "Wonder who taught him to play like that? He looks good."

It is Pinewilt native Herman Brown, who must heat out Montalvo for the catching job, hoping aloud that he might play at home this year but philosophizing, "If they send me out, well, that's baseball." . . . Cooper Wilhelm, Hoyt's brother making his first pro effort, limping slightly in a pair of tight new spikes . . . Washington vice president Joe Haynes, with many years of Major League experience to draw on, advising a young pitcher how to throw with his body instead of with his arm.

IT IS FARM director Sherry Robertson teaching an infielder how to pivot quicker . . . Velcan reliever Spec Padgett vowing he feels frisky in spite of his 34 years . . . Raised eyebrows at learning that outfielder John Kropf, a newcomer, has played five years of AAA ball.

And spring training is lobby-sitting and porch-sitting, where the Major League exhibition box scores are checked closely with resulting remarks ("Well, looks like Jerry Shoemaker won't come to us after all. I see he hit a pinch homer yesterday") . . . Where Manager Gene Verbeke sits and watches the lights of Fernandina blink down the street and says, "I hope we get Shiftlett and Sadowski back. We need pitchers" . . . Where scout Bill Harris tells and retells stories or bygone days.

This is spring training with the Hornets.