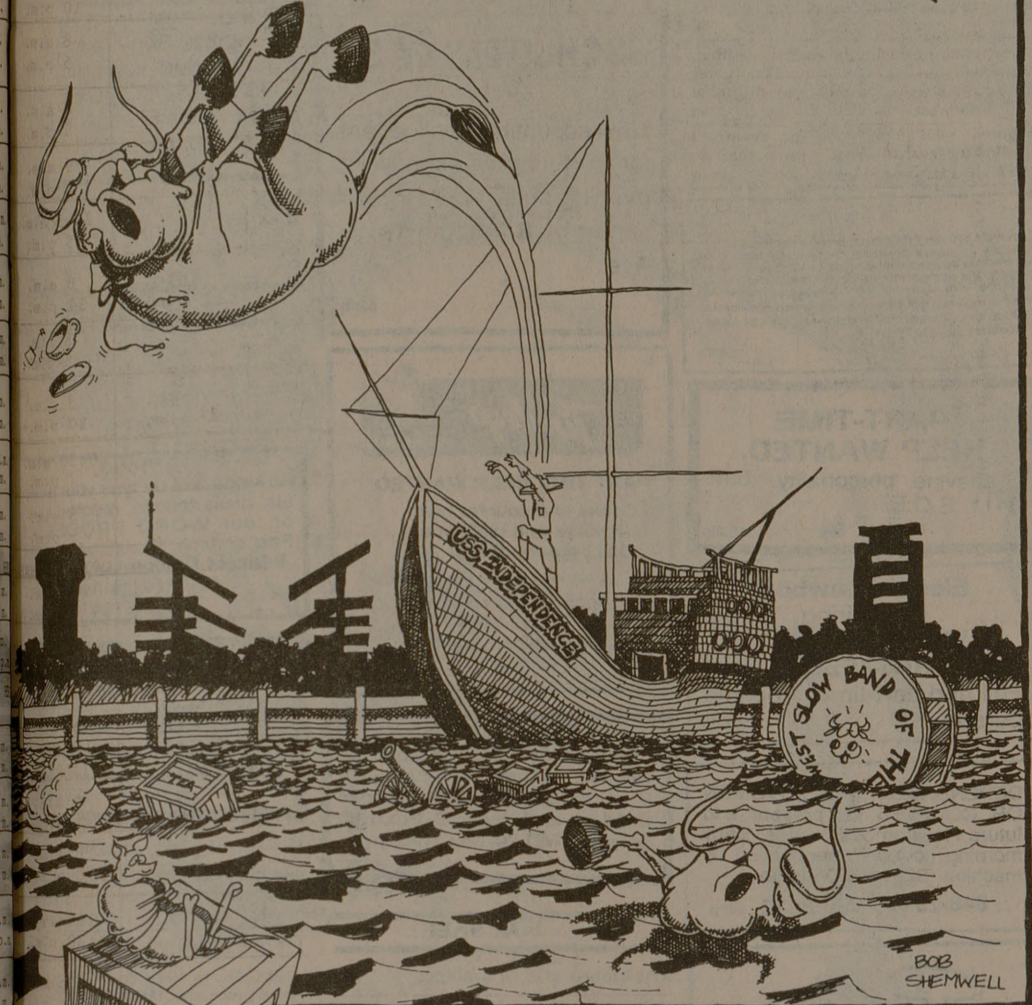


Sports

THE AUSTIN Tea PARTY



North Carolina picked to win 1982 NCAA basketball crown

United Press International
NEW YORK — The road to the NCAA championship may well begin along Tobacco Road.

North Carolina, one of the kingpins of college basketball, has been named the No. 1 team in preseason balloting by UPI's Board of Coaches.

The Tar Heels, who lost to Indiana 63-50 in last season's championship game, are in strong position to at long last provide Coach Dean Smith with that elusive NCAA title.

Anchored by an imposing front line and a gifted freshman class, North Carolina was awarded 20 first-place votes and 574 total points by the 42-member panel of coaches.

UCLA was a tight second with 11 first-place votes and 556 points followed by No. 3 Kentucky (four first-place, 521 points), No. 4 Louisville (three first-place votes, 409 points) and No. 5 Georgetown (three first-place votes, 399 points).

The rest of the Top 10 is: No. 6 Virginia (one first-place vote, 293 points), No. 7 Wichita State (285), No. 8 Iowa (255), No. 9 DePaul (247) and No. 10 Minnesota (191).

Smith enters his 20th season at North Carolina. One of the game's most innovative and respected coaches, he has won 20 or more games 11 straight years and been to the Final Four six times. But

the NCAA crown has never been his.

The Tar Heels, although losing forward Al Wood through graduation, come back with two tough big men in James Worthy and Sam Perkins and an able point guard in Jimmy Black. And Michael Jordan, one of the most ballyhooed freshmen in the country, will

strengthen an already outstanding team.

Completing the Top 20 is: No. 11 Indiana, No. 12 Tulsa, No. 13 Georgia, No. 14 Wake Forest, No. 15 Missouri, No. 16 San Francisco, No. 17 Alabama-Birmingham, No. 18 Louisiana State, No. 19 Arkansas and No. 20 Nevada-Las Vegas.

Balloting was based on 15 points for a first-place vote, 14 for second place, 13 for third, etc.

UCLA, under new coach Larry Farmer, has one the nation's best backcourts in Rod Foster and Michael Holton and extraordinary depth at forward. And there is now height in the middle with 7-foot recruit Stuart Gray.

Kubiak's status still unknown

Wilson says Ags ready

RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor
The Texas Longhorns are coming to town, and if that isn't enough to get the Aggies fired up for Thursday's game, nothing is. Head coach Tom Wilson said today in his press conference he wouldn't have any trouble finding his players motivated for the game. Injuries, however, played an important part in the meeting between the Longhorns and Aggies.

Wilson said the status of Aggie quarterback Gary Kubiak remains a day-to-day mystery. Kubiak injured his right shoulder against TCU and has not worked out with the team, and Wilson said he may know his quarterback's situation until game time Thursday. The status of Gary Kubiak will probably be questionable up until game time, Wilson said. "We are to have him throwing the ball a little bit today. His shoulder is bruised and very sore. We are just not going to know until we get him out there and see how he responds."

Asked if he thought Kubiak would be ready, Wilson replied: "I've always been a positive person. I am going to say that he will be ready. He needs to be and I am going very strongly that he will be ready."

"I feel one-hundred percent confident," Kubiak said Monday. "Yesterday I couldn't move much but today I can. I feel good about my chances."

In case Kubiak doesn't play Thursday, Wilson said he will utilize John Elkins and Marvin Wesley at quarterback throughout the game. "I don't know if we would alternate them every play, but we would alternate them quite a bit during the game."

Elkins was also hurt during the TCU game when he was tackled for a long gain in the fourth quarter. Wilson said Elkins suffered a concussion but is all right

"I think his strength is throwing the football," Wilson said of the sophomore quarterback. "He's got a strong arm. He's a strong runner, not nifty, though. He's similar to Kubiak in the type of runner he is."

"Of course, Marvin is classified as an option runner."

Elkins has seen little playing time. He's carried the ball five times for 22 yards, but has not completed a pass in five attempts.

Wesley saw his first action against TCU, carrying the ball five times for 13 yards.

However, the quarterback situation is not the only one bothering Wilson.

"We're still questionable in a lot of areas," he said. "We held Hector, Little and Cannon out of the TCU game. However, they've all worked out this week and we anticipate that they will be ready to play this week."

"We probably received more injuries in the TCU game, overall, than we had in our nine previous games combined."

Wide receiver Burnis Simon and safety Chris Brown will miss the game Thursday. Simon suffered a fractured ankle and will be operated on this week, Wilson said. Brown suffered a cracked vertebrae which ended his career.

"We are very saddened about Chris with the fractured neck. Doctors say that he will not have any permanent paralysis and that pleases us a great deal," Wilson said. "He will not be able to play football anymore, but that is not the important thing. The important thing is that he is going to be OK."

Wilson complimented his team on Saturday's performance against TCU, saying the Aggies finally had some breaks go their way.

"It was a good win for us," he said. "I thought it was a good, solid game by the whole team - the offense, defense and the kicking game. We got some breaks in the game that we took advantage of."

"I was very pleased to see our offensive team control the ball on the ground. TCU ran more offensive plays than we did but, at the same time, we had the ball quite a bit longer than they did."

Wilson said that the defense played one of its better games against TCU, especially considering the Frogs' passing ability.

"Defensively, I thought we played one of our sounder football games, particularly against a passing football team. It was one of TCU's lowest productive games of the year."

Wilson said that the coaching staff challenged the team at half-time.

"They have been a very big comeback team in the fourth quarter. So, we allowed TCU to have the wind and the ball in the third quarter. We felt that we had to keep the point spread at least 13 and stay even with them in the third quarter to win, which we were able to do."

The coaches chose junior full-back Earnest Jackson as the offensive player of the game. He rushed for 219 yards on 19 carries and three touchdowns. He also caught one pass for 40 yards.

Junior linebacker Bobby Strogon was named defensive player of the game. Strogon intercepted a Reuben Jones pass in the endzone to kill a TCU drive. He also had five tackles.

Junior placekicker David Hardy

was voted special teams player of the game. Hardy tied Tony Franklin's record of three field goals in one game. The three field goals against TCU were the second time in his career he's done that.

TCU is out of the way and now is the time to think of Texas, Wilson said.

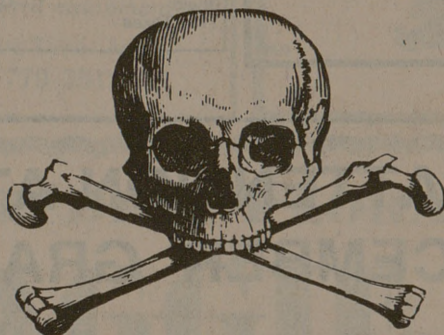
"I don't think our football team has to worry a great deal about looking at last week's TCU performance, or looking ahead to the bowl game," he said. "The only thing that is on our mind is Texas."

"It's been said many times that anyone that comes to Texas A&M, either as a football player or as a student, knows the importance of the A&M - Texas game."

"Our players are excited about it, very much looking forward to it. I feel that we are to the point now where we are a very competitive team and we look forward to the challenge that lies ahead of us."

Wilson talked to his players last week about the rumors of his removal, and he told them not to get involved in it.

"I told them that I didn't think they should be concerned about it," he said. "I know that they are concerned about it, though. They wouldn't be human if they didn't think about it some. But, at the same time, we as coaches and we as a football team have said that we are not going to talk a great deal about it."



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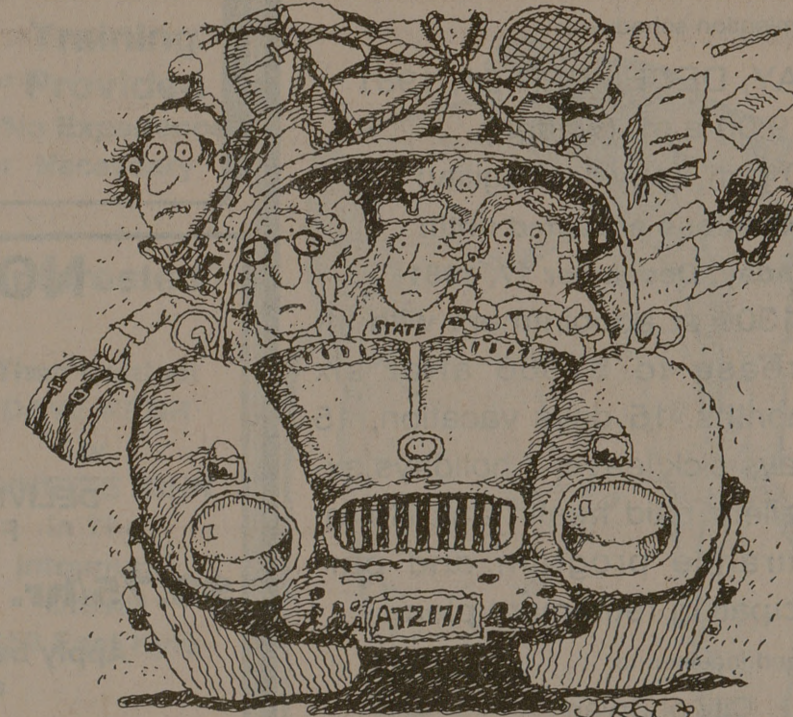
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