

Technician

Volume LVIII, Number 69

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

Friday, March 17, 1978

Spring sports gunning for top spot

Close encounters
of the Carmichael kind

by Denny Jacobs
Asst. Sports Editor

The spring of '78. It might well become a time that Wolfpack partisans will long remember and talk about. The proverbial stage is set for unparalleled action and excitement in the next few months and the many State teams appear set for the challenge.

The decisive blow could come when Roy Dixon lashes a two-out three run homer in the bottom of the ninth to erase a two run deficit. Or, maybe it will come when John Sadri crushes one of his devastating overhead smashes to successfully defend his singles crown and send his opponent crashing into the fence in a vain attempt to return the ball. Or perhaps it will come when Stan Cockerton eludes several North Carolina defenders in the closing seconds of the final game of the year to whistle the winning goal past a mesmerized netminder. Or, better still maybe it won't come down to that type of heroics which seemingly make one's heart come to an abrupt halt.

What's the reason for all this anticipation and speculation, you ask? Elementary, my dear Watson, or whoever you are. For the first time in Wolfpack history, State is in strong contention for the Carmichael Cup at this late state of the athletic year. And, with the high quality talent present on the various teams, the coveted cup is very much up for grabs.

After winning Atlantic Coast Conference titles in swimming and wrestling this winter the Pack moved from its fourth place spot at the end of the fall schedule into second place three and a half points behind league leading North Carolina. The cup is considered the conference's "power rating" for sports competition and, though State has never finished higher than third in the past, the weapons are present to shoot down the defending titleholding Tar Heels.

Baseball solid

Despite voids due to graduation, the baseball front figures to be solid, spearheaded by a strong pitching staff which head coach Sam Esposito thinks "may be the strongest pitching staff I've ever had at N.C. State. We've got a good blend of starters, long relievers and short relievers."

The Wolfpack, which has authored 20 or more wins in each of the last five seasons, returns 12 lettermen including pitching ace John Skinner, who as a freshman led the ACC last year on the mound. The righthanded Skinner hurled his way to a perfect 7-0 mark and a sparkling 1.23 earned run average.

"We have the potential to be a great ball club this year. We just have to put the right people in the right spots," said Esposito, who as of Wednesday had guided his team to a 7-3 start. State will initiate its conference schedule Sunday against defending champion Clemson at Doak Field at 2 p.m.

And the baseball team is not the lone squad on campus that promises to make a bonafide run at top honors. J. W. Isenhour's tennis team returns all six starters from a year ago and has added freshman Andy Andrews who is seeing action in the fifth singles slot.

Sadri leads

Leading the way for the Wolfpack racquetmen once again will be all-America John Sadri who last year became the Pack's first ever number one singles champ when he defeated Carolina's Earl Hassler in the finals of the ACC tournament. Sadri posted a 26-1 record in 1977, losing only to Hassler prior to the NCAA where he was a quarterfinalist. And, the strong singles and doubles player is dedicated to his finest season ever.

"Everything John does from the time he gets up until he gets finished lifting weights after supper is done with the idea that it will make him a better tennis player," praised Isenhour.

After finishing second to perennial champion Carolina last year, Isenhour is hopeful for a change at the top this year and he feels he has the talent with which to pull it off.

"We'll again have our best team ever," he said. "This team has more experience and talent than any we've had at State. Having played together for one more year should make us better, both in tournaments and regular season matches."

After finishing 17-3 last spring—second in the ACC with the school's highest point total ever—the Wolfpack faces a rugged schedule. No one ever said it would be easy.

Lacrosse talented

State's lacrosse team is another squad which faces a demanding schedule. Maybe awesome is a better word. Topping the list is Maryland, ten times the national champion and third in the country last year. And the Pack stickmen will also face five other teams that were ranked in the top 16 a year ago. But led by Stan Cockerton, the nation's leading goal scorer as a freshman, and Marc Besnick, 11th in total points last year, State will field its most talented team to date and will be seeking to improve on last year's 14th ranking.

The Wolfpack returns two premier netminders in senior Nick Whiteside, a national save leader two years ago, and sophomore Bob Flintoff, who was fourth in saves percentage, and three time co-captain Duke Whelan heads a much improved defensive unit.

Head coach Charlie Patch realizes the stiff calibre of competition his team faces but still he is able to say, "I don't think there's a team on our schedule that we can't beat. We'll have to play well but we have the talent. It's just a question of the new players adjusting to our style."

"We've got some awfully tough games early but this is the type of schedule we've been trying to get for a few years."

Other teams that will be counted on to score important conference points (seven points for first, six for second...) will be the track and golf teams. During the winter season the indoor track team captured second place over North Carolina and a duplicate effort will be needed this spring for the Pack to take first place in the Carmichael Cup race.

The golf team is young but head coach Richard Sykes is not yet ready to concede anything to anyone. The conference is well balanced as a whole and there should be little difference between the top teams.

But, whatever the outcome, the drama and pure enjoyment of collegiate competition at its best will be abundant across campus this spring. Nothing could be finer than sitting out in sunny Carolina with a beer in hand and cheering for the team or teams of your choice. State in '78? Only time will tell.



Big-play Dixon enjoys hitting spree to support solid State baseball team

by Robbie Roberts
Sports Writer

Behind every "good" pitching staff there has to be a strong defensive team and some timely offense.

State center fielder Roy Dixon has been a lot of both recently.

Though he's always been a sure-handed defensive player (he did not make an error in 38 games last year), Dixon's three-year batting mark has been a solid, but not spectacular, .367.

However, while the Wolfpack posted seven wins in its first 10 games, the High Point senior's bat was as steady as his glove.

During State's opening 10 games, Dixon's batting average remained about the elusive .400 figure. He also slugged a team-leading four home runs and drove 15 Wolfpack runners home—phenomenal marks when one realizes he hit three homers and had 21 RBIs all of last year.

Slow starter

Making Dixon's quick start at the plate even more impressive is the fact that he has always begun slowly, peaking at the end of the season.

"I'm not doing anything different," said Dixon when considering his recent offensive success. "I'm just trying to hit it hard. I feel a lot better than I ever have."

And Dixon is relaxed at the plate. For all it seems to demand, he could be an inspector on the assembly line, accepting and rejecting the product. This ball passes, this one doesn't.

"The big thing is my eye for the ball has improved a lot," Dixon explained. "I'm still going after some bad pitches, but not like I used to. I have a better idea of the strike zone. I'm being a lot more patient."

His lanky frame doesn't suggest of blasts over fences. You certainly don't expect him to be a slugger. Power hitters are supposed to be heavy set guys with bulging muscles



Versatile Roy Dixon lays down a bunt.

on which you could write the Constitution. At 6-2, 175 pounds, Dixon is an exception to the rule, a slim fellow who'll clout a homer as quickly as a pitcher throws a mistake.

Four year fixture

Dixon, who captains the Wolfpack, has been a four-year fixture in center field. He's as regular as the morning paper or the 11 o'clock news. Consistency is his daily bread.

"Dixon is a consistent player with all the skills to be a great one," praised veteran State coach Sam Esposito.

The vast canyon that is a closet. He knows it well even in his sleep. Dixon roams the open spaces in center field expertly, scurrying under fly balls and in front of base hits quickly—much faster than his loose-jointed lope appears to be getting him there.

Dixon also has a strong, accurate arm. Three times in the opening week of the season alone, he cut down runners, throwing two players out at home plate and another at third base.

"There's no doubt about it, Dixon has a major league arm," Esposito assessed. "He's an excellent college outfielder. He does everything well defensively. He gets a good jump on the ball, has good range and a very fine throwing arm. He has a lot of put outs from the outfield. He doesn't have burning speed—not a real fast type of player—but he runs balls down. He lopes but seems to get there all the time."

"Defense has always been my strong point," Dixon said. "Experience is what helps me. After playing for so many years, it sort of comes natural."

Comes naturally

Baseball has always come naturally for Dixon, who has played since he was eight.

"I played in all the little leagues—Pony all the way up," he stated. "Ever since I was a senior in high school I played summer ball. It helped me."

Although he starred in high school, Dixon wasn't seriously recruited by State until after his senior season.

"We got in there real late with Dixon," recalled Esposito. "We were looking at Legion games that summer and had trouble getting outfielders that year. We went to see a shortstop we were interested in who happened to be playing Roy's Legion team from High Point. He went back and made a play in left center that caught my eye. He didn't get a base hit that day, but I liked some of the things he was doing."

"The next game I saw him hit four shots," he continued. "Roy went after a couple of balls real easy in the outfield and caught them even though it was dusk. I could tell that he knew the game well."

Baptism a success

His baptism as a State player was a success. As a freshman, he played more than anybody else in 1975; he played in every



Staff photo by Chris Seward

Who's out?

game but one and was a picture of consistency. He started the entire season and climaxed his rookie campaign by socking a game-winning homer in the ACC title game against Clemson. His three-run blast lifted State to the league championship for the third straight year.

"We've got a lot of talent," said Dixon, comparing this year's team to teams he's played on in the past. "We've got a lot of potential. And the attitude on this year's team is the best I've ever been associated with. We like to play everyday and want to win bad."

"Our pitching has been sometimes good, sometimes bad," he continued. "We've given up a lot of walks."

Quick to credit his teammates, Dixon pointed out that shortstop Bill Maier, a switchhitting transfer from Butler, Pa., has been a valuable addition to the team.

"That's a big difference this year," he said. "We've got a good shortstop."

Infield stalwarts

Joining Maier in the infield are John Isley, a hard-hitting first baseman, Chuck Harmon, a .372 hitter last year at second, and Ray Tanner, who seems to have found a home at third. Rick Austin is a solid utility man around the keystone.

Flanking Dixon in the outfield are Tom Crocker, a .301 hitter in '77, and Rich White, a transfer from Columbia, Tenn. Pat Sheehy and John Meloy are the catchers.

"Most of all," he reiterated, "everybody on the team this year seems to have a better attitude than they've ever had."

A strong attitude will be an aid to the Pack when it opens its conference schedule this weekend.

"We play Clemson Sunday," Dixon said. "That's when it all starts. I'm glad we're opening with them. We haven't beaten them since I was a freshman and (a win) would really help us. The tournament is what really counts but I'm tired of losing to Clemson."

Teams to beat

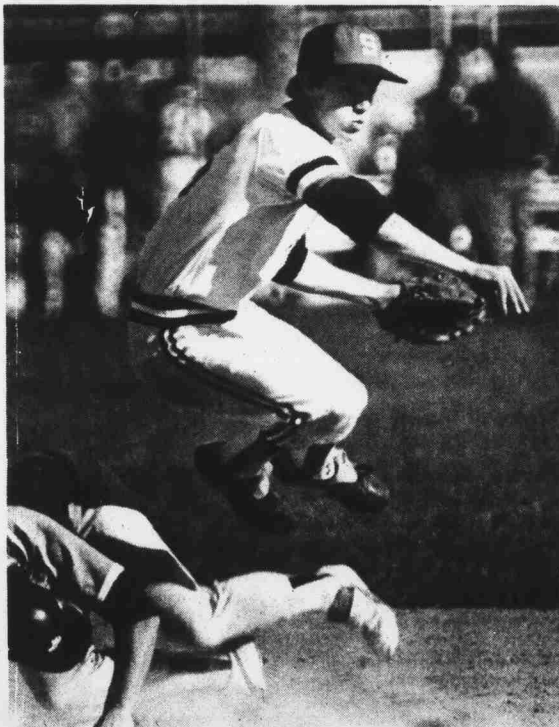
Dixon said that, besides Clemson, North Carolina and Wake Forest will be teams to beat in the ACC this season.

"Carolina . . . they've been playing real good. They're going to be tough because they've got some good players."

"And Wake Forest," he continued, "they've got good hitters. They've always got good hitters."

"It's hard to tell anything this early in the season though."

That may be so but, if any other season is any indication of things to come, Roy Dixon, a shored up Wolfpack infield, and five reliable starting pitchers could mean trouble for the rest of the ACC in 1978.



Chuck Harmon goes high in the air to complete a double play.

Wescott anticipates formidable State lineup

by Denny Jacobs
Asst. Sports Editor

After a second place finish in the indoor season, head track and field coach Jim Wescott is looking forward to a successful spring campaign. Since the outdoor campaign is geared more to the sprint and short distance events, which is State's strength, Wescott sees no reason why his squad cannot secure its second place hold over third place North Carolina. Once again, Maryland will be the cream of the crop but Wescott sees the other Atlantic Coast Conference teams closing the gap.

"Everyone's getting much better. The other schools are getting better athletes keeping Maryland from sweeping events which they used to do so easily. There is more emphasis being put into the other six schools and the good schools are attracting good kids," said Wescott. "In the past Maryland could have beaten the whole conference put together but it's got to be more of a challenge for them now."

And, the leading challenger is the Wolfpack. Wescott labels this year's team considerably more evenly balanced than last year's squad. The Pack opens its schedule in this weekend's East Carolina Invitational and, although it's somewhat of a warmup meet, Wescott hopes to get something positive out of it.

"We're not running any of our distance people and the teams that are coming tend to be sprint oriented. It will be a good chance for our sprint people to get some good competition."

"It's important in that it's our first outdoor meet," continued the ninth year coach. "It will be individual events (as opposed to the normal relay meets) and it will be a good chance for our kids to see where they are at this point."

"It's exciting getting into some new events for some of these kids and we look forward to it. There will be some good competition and it will be a good chance to test ourselves."

Wescott optimistic

Entering the spring campaign, Wescott is optimistic and he feels his team should again outdistance the Tar Heels to help the Wolfpack in its drive towards the Carmichael Cup.

"There's quite a bit of correlation between the indoor and outdoor seasons and the outdoor tends to be more sprint oriented which should help us. We felt good in beating them (Carolina) indoors where



Freshman Darryl Patterson.

UNC's strength is in their distance events. We should do just that much better and we will try to hold up our end (in the race for the coveted cup)," said Wescott. "I'm excited about what we can do going into the outdoor season."

Albert Lomotey, a world class sprinter in the 100 and 200 runs, should be a top contender in his events and Wescott sees freshman Darryl Patterson as a definite threat in the 440. As a senior at Bethel High School, Patterson was ranked sixth nationally and was the Virginia state champ in that event with a clocking of 47.2. Wescott also figures freshman Ron Foreman to be a strength for the Pack sprinters and hurdlers. Sophomores Ron Brown, a State record holder and ACC runnerup in the 800, and James Coleman, a State triple jump record holder, should add to the Wolfpack's sprint power.

In the longer events, Wescott foresees freshman Steve Francis as a bonafide threat to Carolina's Ralph King in the mile and Tony Bateman will again be counted on to score points in the two mile run.

"Last year in the outdoor tournament, we didn't place anybody in anything more than the half mile but this year we have the kids who will not only place but will be contenders," smiled Wescott.

In the field events, all-America shot putter Joe Hannah will lead the Wolfpack. Hannah was the top freshman in the NCAA with the shot in 1977.

"When we go to outdoors, this is probably as balanced a team as we've ever had," said Wescott, "and I'm excited in that respect."

"This weekend is an opener and we're just looking to get into new events and see where we are," he said. "Next week is our big meet."

State will host the ACC relays Saturday, March 25 at 10 a.m. and, the way Wescott is talking, 1978 could be a vintage year for the Pack track and field team.

Young golfers talent laden in spite of unpredictability

by David Chiles
Sports Writer

If you were wondering how the Wolfpack golf team will fare this season don't ask State golf coach Richard Sykes.

"With no one on our team having more than one year of college experience it's hard to know what to expect," commented Sykes.

Gone are the familiar faces from last year's team which included such standouts as Tom Reynolds, Bill Hamilton, and Lennie Barton. But Sykes sees much talent and potential in their replacements.

"I think overall we had a very good year recruiting, we signed some very good young players," replied Sykes.

Heading the list for the Wolfpack is Todd Smith who so far this year has been the low man for the Pack. "Todd is an excellent player and is showing this by the good year he is having," said Sykes. Smith's best performance this year was a third place finish in the Big Four Tournament in which he fired rounds of 77, 75 and 75.

Third in Big Four

State also finished third in the Big Four with a 1174 total, 38 strokes behind front running Wake Forest.

Lettermen returning for State include: Marlin Detweiler, Brooks Barwick, Tim Sughraue and Win Fisher. Rounding out the team of 12 are Thad Daber, Robert Berry, Ray Freeman, Joe Hull, Scott Baum, Butch Monteith and Jay Isenhour.

State's biggest problem is trying to fill the void left by the absence of Tom Reynolds, Bill Hamilton and Lennie Barton.

Young, talented

"The loss of those three hurt us very much, but we're young and getting better so we'll just have to wait and see," said Sykes. Reynolds, a junior who led the Pack with a 73.5 average last year, is spending this year studying but is expected to be back for State next year.

This year's schedule for the young



Tom Reynolds will sit out this year.

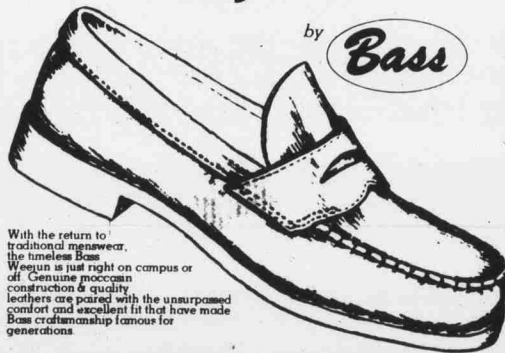
Wolfpack has been a hectic one. Starting in February they have not slowed down.

"With the tournaments being hunched up the way they are, we're not getting any practice in which is beginning to hurt us," stated Sykes. "I'm really looking forward to the ACC tournament when things will begin to slow down."

But, between now and the ACC tournament which will be held at the North Ridge Country Club in Raleigh, beginning April 10, there is plenty of action on tap for Sykes' young golfers. Tomorrow, State will begin three days of competition in The Iron Duke Tournament in Durham. And beginning on Wednesday, March 23, the Wolfpack will compete in the Furman Invitation.

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by Bass



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Five of top seven players

Isenhour reaps homegrown talent

by Tom Reimers
Sports Writer

"The Carolina Connection."
A drug smuggling ring that operates off the coast? No way.

The above description applies to none other than Pack tennis coach J.W. Isenhour. For, paralleling the sudden upsurge in State tennis over the past few years has been Isenhour's outstanding job of luring top in-state products into the program.

This year's squad furnishes proof positive that the state of North Carolina has given the Wolfpack an abundance of talent. Five of the top seven performers—John Sadri, Matt McDonald, Scott Dillon, Carl Bumgardner, and Andy Andrews—hail from the Tar Heel State (actually, they are all from either Raleigh or Charlotte.) Each of them came to Pack Country either as high school state champs or certainly as one of the best in the state.

These five have combined with Australian John Joyce and New Jerseyite Bill Cspikay to give State its strongest team ever. Currently undefeated, this group is looking more and more like the team most likely to take North Carolina's Atlantic Coast Conference crown.

It is not surprising that Isenhour has done so well recruiting inside the state. The Pack coach is a '64 graduate of Appalachian State, where he was a net standout, and he has been ranked among the state's best ever since.

Recruiting background

Isenhour explained the background behind his successful recruiting in Tar Heelia.

"For about six years before Sadri came, I was going around to all of the state tournaments," said Isenhour. "Most of the coaches, and the moms and dads of the kids and all, knew that I thought a lot about what I was doing. They knew I was interested in it, and that I had worked a long time at it."

"I've also been the Junior Davis Cup coach for North Carolina for the last six years," the veteran coach continued. "Through all of this I got to know the better kids at a pretty highly competitive level. I don't think I knit-pick too much—I'm more interested in the overall way they play, and how they get along with people...I got to know the ones I thought I'd like to have."

"The Merritts (former Pack stars Randy and Joe) from Lexington were the first highly ranked players we got... But Sadri was the first person who was totally



Charlotte native Scott Dillon keeps his eyes on the ball.

dedicated to the game and to improving himself."

And exactly how did Isenhour persuade Sadri to come to State, which had been the perennial ACC doormat, and then proceed to put together the present group?

'pressure right away'

"I convinced him that I thought I could help him with some phases of his game. I told him that I would do everything within my framework as coach to help him improve his game and to get more players, too... He wanted to be a part of something that grew. Also, I told him that he could play number one for us, and I think he liked the idea of stepping into the pressure right away rather than playing third or so for one of the top teams in the nation," Isenhour related.

"Then we got Scott (Dillon)," Isenhour remembered. "He and John played doubles together for three years (in high school)... Carl (Bumgardner) knew Scott and John (from tournaments)... and Matt's (McDonald) been good friends with Scott and John ever since he was ten or eleven (all three are from Charlotte)... I knew Andy from way back (Andrews was a pupil Isenhour at Raleigh's prestigious Carolina Country Club, where Isenhour was the pro for a four year stint ending about five years ago)—he's been playing national caliber tennis since he was twelve."

Building a highly ranked squad mainly from North Carolina recruits was no accident. In fact, Isenhour wouldn't have had it any other way.

"It's what I always set out to do," said Isenhour. "I always felt that a school from this area couldn't ever form the basis for a great team just by recruiting players from California or out of the country. You have to have someone who knows the traditions of the school involved."

"It's a lot different than basketball," admitted Isenhour. "Everyone from New York knows about ACC basketball, but not about tennis. It helps if somebody knows the rivalries and circumstances."

Pack loaded

As far as individual talent is concerned, the 1978 Pack is loaded. However, Isenhour noted that the road to improvement has been harder for Dillon and McDonald (who has jumped from number six last year to a steady third so far this season) than for the others.

"Sadri is a super athlete, he moves like a cat," Isenhour stated. "He's the best I've seen in college tennis in this area since I've been here, movement-wise. Carl's also a good natural athlete, and Andy's a pretty good athlete... But the ones whom I'm really pleased about are Scott and Matt. They don't have natural speed of

foot...they've had to work really hard running extra distances and all. I have a great deal of respect for people like this. It's very, very hard to do what they have done."

While the All-America Sadri is a definite threat to win the NCAA title (Isenhour says his star is, almost incredibly, about 50 percent better than he was last year), the entire team is looking for a spot in the national team championships. Since the field is limited to 16 teams, Isenhour said that his men will have to prove they are the best in the Maryland, Virginia, and North and South Carolina area to receive an invitation.

With the five native sons playing a major role, this squad will undoubtedly go far.

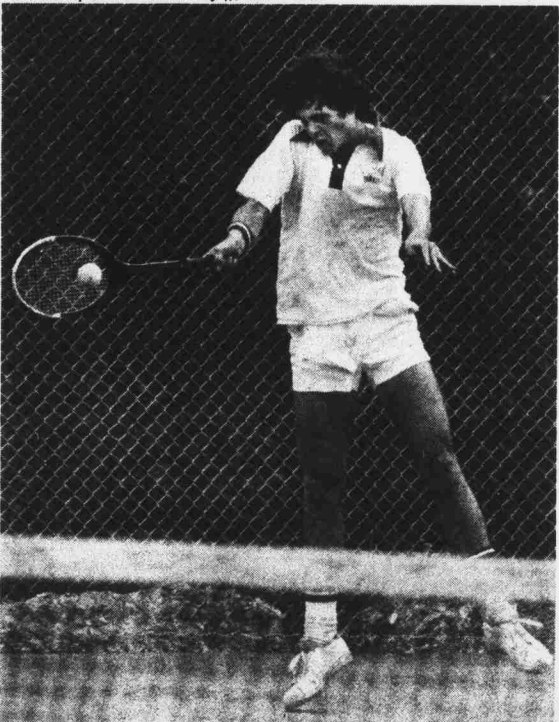


John Sadri smashes an overhead.

Far may turn out to be the ACC title, and NCAA team berth, or possibly other things.

Whatever the outcome of this season may be, J.W. Isenhour has proven that championship caliber teams can be built in a short period of time. Pack supporters should feel great pride that their team just happens to be comprised mostly of North Carolinians.

Compliments of "The Carolina Connection."



Freshman Andy Andrews crushes a return.



Staff photo by Larry Merrell

Matt McDonald concentrates.



Staff photo by Chris Seward

Wolfpack benefits from Manos' style

by Denny Jacobs
Asst. Sports Editor

In an age when the thrill of athletic competition is too often tarnished by endless pursuit of the almighty buck and nothing short of victory will suffice, Ted Manos stands apart. Sure, he wants to win like everyone else—maybe more. But to him sports are an unequalled pleasure whether he is watching a game on the television or playing for State's lacrosse team.

And watching is exactly how Manos got his first taste of this hard-hitting, fast-paced game. As a senior high school, he remembers seeing a game one Saturday afternoon on the TV and it looked interesting to him. After coming to State, Manos first became involved with the sport as a manager in his freshman year because as he put it, "I didn't have anything better to do with my spare time."

And now, after nearly three years of hard work, he has blossomed into what he most wants to be—a player, part of a team. Headlines and individual records mean little to the soft-spoken senior. What he cherishes more than anything else is the opportunity to compete—nothing more and nothing less.

"I knew a guy who was trying out for the team so I went out to watch practice. It was something to do. They said they needed a manager so I said what the heck," he said.

"When I was manager I decided to come out and practice. I'd pick up a loose stick that was lying around and I threw with anyone who would catch with me. I used to go back to my room and beat it off the wall and disturb everybody."

Constant work

After watching him improve steadily due to his constant work, a few of the players began to talk to Manos about going out for the team the next year. Being the enthusiast that he is it didn't call for much arm twisting.

"Once I saw I wasn't too bad at it I decided to give it a try. It was as close to hockey as you can get and I always was a hockey fan," he recalled.

And, when Manos returned for his sophomore year, he was ready to give it a whirl. Why not? His initiation in the sport is typical of his attitude about most anything. If you want something badly enough, why not go out and get it? And that's precisely what he did. He got a starting assignment at attack in a preseason scrimmage against Villanova and responded with the first goal of the game. That was the beginning and he was hooked.

"He had stick skills when he came back," remembered head coach Charlie Patch. "He surprised everybody. He worked hard in the summer and had an edge because he is an excellent athlete."

Manos' athletic training dates back as far as he can remember. Back to his childhood days in Rocky Mount when he would go down to Eastern Ave. Park and spend the entire day playing baseball or tennis. And when he tired of that he and his buddy Louis Lucas would move to a basketball court and play some hoop.

And there was no love lost between friends when it got down to the winning basket. "If he needed one more basket to win he knew better than to come in for a layup. Otherwise he'd get a taste of the pole," said the fierce competitor, who is better known to his teammates as Mayo, a nickname former teammate Larry Rice labelled him with.

Always competing

Manos played on the varsity tennis team at Rocky Mount Senior High and as long as he can remember he's always been playing something. Through all the little league organizations to his spot as Wolfpack midfielder. One thing stays the same though. He still loves to play against people that are better than him. And with the number of talented newcomers on State's squad this year, Manos need not look far for the competition he desires.

"It (the growth of lacrosse) has come pretty quick down here. We haven't had a losing team since I've been here.

"The big difference this year is the player's attitudes. At first people didn't care that much and there was a lot of tension. Now people listen to the coaches a lot more and we're a pretty close unit considering the number of people on the team," he continued.

"When you have good guys around you, you have to get better. You can't help but learn from guys like Stan (Cockerton) and Flint (Bob Plintoff). You just have to use your eyes. This year we have a lot of good players and when you get pressed it should help you play better."

But Manos is never satisfied with where he's at. He always wants to be somewhere further ahead. And Patch believes that's why he has been able to carve out his own niche in the sport in such a short period of time.



Staff photo by Larry Merrill

Claudia Dawson (right) looks for the open man.



Staff photo by Chris Seward

Senior Ted Manos (30) excels on fast breaks and defensive play.

"He's very dedicated to his own improvement and team success. He takes a lot of pride in the things he does and he has reason to be proud. Last year his improvement was incredible and this year he's picked up an even more stick skills," said Patch.

"He hasn't settled being an average ball player. He hasn't accepted just being able to get by. It means something to him personally and he's a good lesson for all of us. He's been a very positive influence. He's learning lessons that will be with him the rest of his life. In a nutshell that's what life here is all about for Ted Manos. That's one of the beauties of athletics."

One lesson that is indelibly inscribed in Manos' mind is that "you are as good as you think you can be." Along the way to success, there are sacrifices that have to be made but to him that is part of the challenge. And he sees that as a key to State's expectations this year. Losing its season opener to Syracuse will make things just that much tougher on the Pack stickmen but Manos doesn't why away from tough-going.

"Once we get that first win everything will fall into place. We have to bear down and concentrate. You have to dedicate yourself. If you're not willing to give up something you won't make it. That's what we have to do.

"The big thing that gets me about sports is that if you use your mind you've got a good chance to beat guys that might have better skills than you. You've just got to keep your head," he continued. "Sometimes things go crazy but you've got to keep thinking. If a man comes over to double team you, you have to look for the good pass. They just want you to get rattled for that one second and they'll take it away. You're going to get hit but if you make the good pass, it's worth it."

Tough Defensively

Passing is not the only thing Manos has learned to do well. Along with linemate Ted Odgers, he is considered one of the best defensive middles on the team. He is also noted for his quick fastbreaks, an important aspect of State's style of play.

But Manos confessed that it was not until the scrimmage with North Carolina this year that he felt truly comfortable on the field. There was always a trace of doubt in his mind about the basic philosophies of the game—but no more.

"The Carolina scrimmage was the first time I knew exactly what was going on mentally. Before I wasn't really sure. I felt confident out there.

"I don't think I've played as well as I can so far this spring," he said. "I'll just have to get better. I've always started slow. I hope it's the same pattern this year. I set goals for myself last year and didn't even come close. This year..."

But always the defense. Some people take a special pride in stopping someone else from scoring and Manos is one of that breed.

"I'd rather keep a guy from scoring than to score a lot of goals myself. We have to play a lot of one on one defense and I have to concentrate on that," he said. "Against Syracuse we were on the field for more goals than we should have been and, with Danny (Wilson) on our line—he can score as well as anybody—so I don't have to worry too much about goals."

Pack hosts Terps

State earned its first national ranking last year with a 7-4 record and this Saturday when Maryland comes to town, Manos and crew will get the chance to play one of the nation's finest teams. The Terrapins are a perennial powerhouse and this year aren't figure to be any different. Manos has watched the Terps play for the national crown on television and like he says, "to get better you have to play the best."

And Manos does not plan to be awe stricken when the two teams meet. "They are nothing but the best. Ever since I found out we were playing them I've had dreams about playing somebody that good. I'm not scared though," he said. "Once you play them for a couple of minutes and see what happens you get into the game."

"I've always been a firm believer that if you play as well as you can play, it's no crime to get beaten by somebody who's better. You've just got to give the effort."

He may not have the flashy moves or awesome talents of some of his teammates but that doesn't worry him. He's got something else. When it comes to effort Ted Manos is near the top of the class—if he's not already teaching it.

He's come a long way, baby.

Softball and tennis teams

Wolfpack women ready for exciting spring

by Shannon Crowson
Sports Writer

With first glimpses of spring come the folding up and putting away of sweaters, the enthusiastic thumping of mitts, and the resounding whack of tennis balls across the net. Also with the onset of warmer weather, the Wolfpack women prepare for two separate but popular spring sports.

The winter was severe, affecting both outdoor practices and players' health, but both teams are raring to go...

First-year coach Nora Lynn Finch, really has it made.

She inherits a softball team this season that ended the year with a 25-4 mark and a second place finish in the state. Besides that, the team has experience and talent to burn, and burn they most likely will.

The Pack will be led by seniors Sherry Pickard and Lulu Eure, both two-time starters.

Pickard a leader

Pickard, at second base, sports a batting average (.548) that would make even Rod Carew blanch. Finch said, "Sherry is a tremendous hitter, leader, fielder, and thrower. She's an experienced as any college player in the nation, and her poise on the field is a confidence factor for the players and coaches. And really, nobody can make a double play like Sherry."

With the combustible combination of Pickard and Eure, the Wolfpack has great strength up the middle. "Lulu's hustle and quickness overcome her lack of height on line drives," analyzed Finch.

Other ladies to watch in the infield will be Jan Moore on first and Joy Ussery on second. Though her last name isn't Hoover or Eureka, Finch remarked that "Joy is like a human vacuum cleaner. She has a powerful arm, and she stays in front of the ball."

Flash Gordon would have a rough time keeping up with the Pack's outfield. All-Staters Lorry Romano in center, Becky Appling in right, and Gloria Allen in left will be joined by short fielder Debbie Davis (.416) to make up the speedy unit.

Allen, who also played fall tennis, is a .533 hitter with experience and stability. "With her fundamentally sound moves, she looks like a picture-book player; her great amount of concentration makes Gloria outstanding," noted Finch.

Pitching questionable

The only weakness the ladies may have to contend with this year is in the ever-vital pitching department. Debbie



Staff photo by Chris Seward

A Wolfpack softballer prepares to hit the dirt to avoid the tag.

Bradford, who went 9-1 last season, will return, along with inexperienced catcher-turned-pitcher Mary Beth Quinn. A newcomer with summer league playing time, Ann Rea, may also be an added strength. Catching chores will most probably be shared with vet Trisha Ellis and newcomer Dale Smith.

Other contributors

Other expected to join in the effort may be Sissy Taylor (1B), Sara Wagner (OF), basketballer Beth Fielden (OF), Lynn Davidson (OF), Mendy Salmons (OF), Sue Rizzo (IF), and Judy Ausherman (IF).

With the best of the old and new, State just might have another set of state champs on its hands, starting with the season opener March 28 with Carolina on the Red Diamond.

A 5-4 mark, which constituted the first winning season ever for the Wolfpack lady

Incidentally, White has been with the team all during its metamorphosis from club team to school-supported sport.

Anderson number one

At this point Anderson will play the top seed, trying to improve on her 6-6 fall record. "Shannon is a hard hitter, and she has the strongest, smoothest strokes on the team," said Newman.

With the abundance of youth and the fact that it is still in the developing stages, much like a baby trying to walk, the team will have some trouble. "The program is still really young," said Newman, "and all our ACC neighbors (Duke, Wake Forest, Virginia, and Clemson) are well-established and experienced."

"Things have changed from that first season when the team ended up 1-8. Better players will be recruited because of the establishment of scholarships, and all-around play will get better," she reflected.

The team has concentrated heavily in workouts this spring with footwork agility drills and endurance, running one mile a day. This tended to be a weakness in the fall.

Folks, they're new at it, but as Newman put it, "They're ready to go."

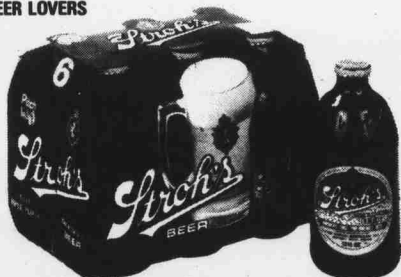


Staff photo by Chris Seward

Ginger Lancaster readies a backhand.

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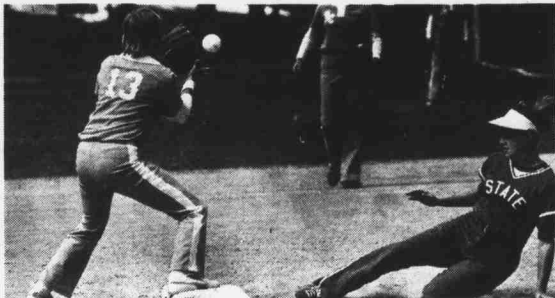
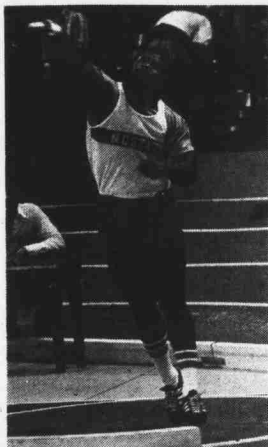
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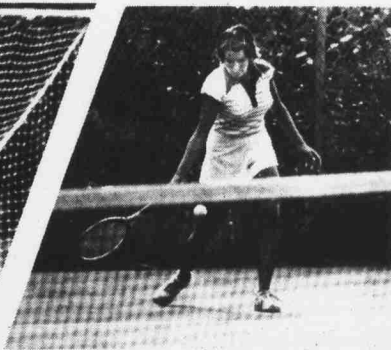
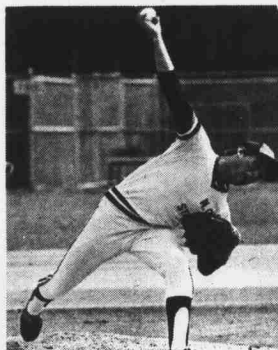


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Clockwise from the top left corner these Wolfpack athletes figure to play a major role in the fortunes of their respective teams. Shotputter Joe Hannah won All-American honors as a freshman. Left fielder Gloria Allen will return to the Pack's state runner up softball team. All-America John Sadri raises his arms in jubilation after becoming State's first ever ACC first flight singles champion. Peggy Green will be part of a much improved women's tennis team this spring. Stan Cockerton (15), the nation's leading goal scorer, hugs teammate Marc Resnick, who was 11th in the country in total points scored last year. Sophomore John Skinner recorded a sparkling 1.23 ERA and was the lone freshman to receive All-ACC honors last year.

...Spring Sports '78



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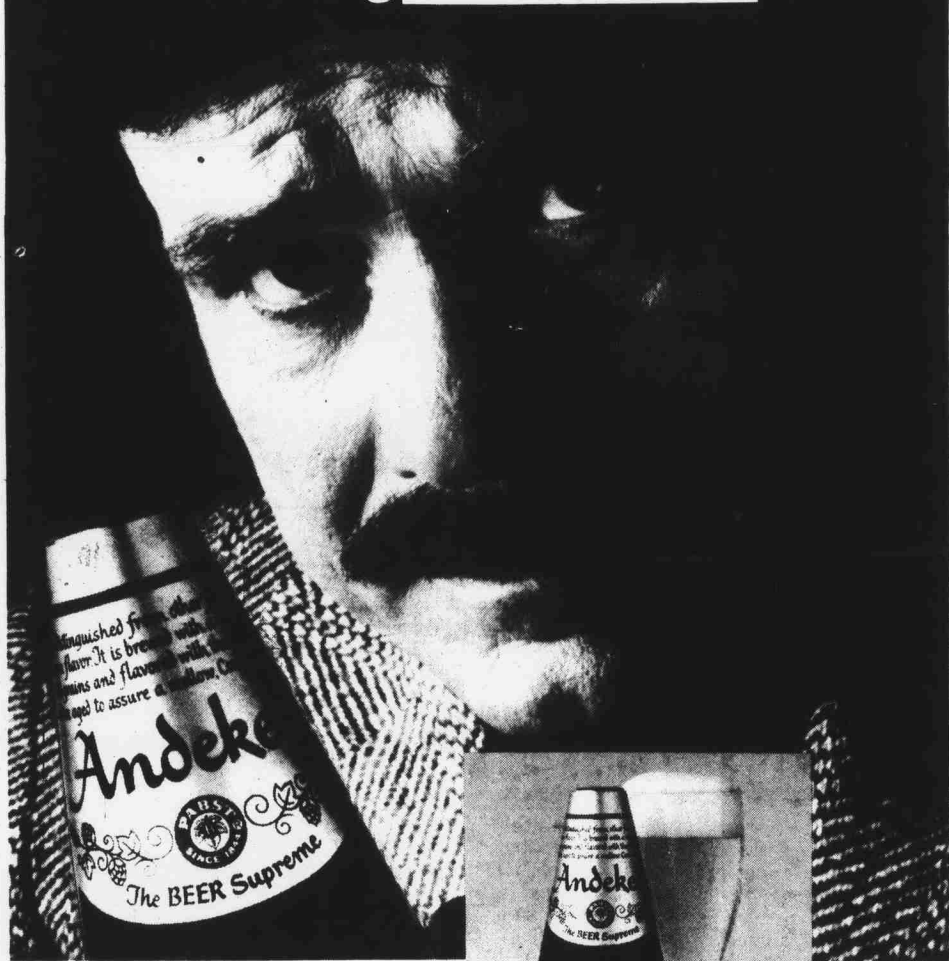
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