

# Roche's 56 points was just a matter of time

It was bound to happen, sooner or later.

On several occasions, throughout his three-year varsity career, Carolina basketball All-America John Roche has scored a passel of points in the first half to stake the Gamecocks to a sizeable lead, and then turned playmaker in the second half without attempting to pad his point total.

I've always said that John could score 50 or more points in quite a few games if he weren't so unselfish," Coach Frank McGuire commented recently when discussing his back court star.

Well, Thursday night in Carolina Coliseum it happened, and it couldn't have come at a better time. Roche had been in something of a slump, for him, that saw his average dip below the 20 point per game mark for the first time since early in his sophomore year.

Roche began to show signs of an offensive renaissance Monday night when the Gamecocks met Atlantic Coast Conference foe Duke at Durham. Although South Carolina lost the game, Roche scored 28 points.

Thursday night, Coach Joe Williams brought his Furman Paladins to Columbia. Williams, who guided Jacksonville to a 27-2 record and an NCAA runnerup spot last year before switching to Furman, likes a last paced, running type game, and this was just what the hungry Gamecocks had been waiting for.

Roche hit his first three shots, two layups and a jumper, in the

first three minutes of play and the Gamecocks led 10-3. He had 21 points at halftime and the score was 58-33, the most first half points ever run up by the Gamecocks in Carolina Coliseum.

In the second half, Roche continued his barrage on the basket and hit his 40th point with 9:36 remaining in the game to break the Coliseum scoring record of 38 points earlier this season by Maryland's Howard White. Coach Frank McGuire, when informed that Roche had surpassed the Coliseum record, started to take his star out, but thought better of it.

A three point play with 3:45 to go raised the Roche total to 52

points and he was only two away from the South Carolina school record of 54 set by Grady Wallace against Georgia Dec. 21, 1956, and three points away from the Atlantic Coast Conference mark of 55 set by N.C. State's Ronnie Shavlik against William and Mary.

A long jump shot with 3:27 showing on the clock tied the Wallace mark, and another jumper with 2:24 remaining erased Shavlik from the record book. Roche then left the game, won by the Gamecocks 118-83, to a thundering ovation from the crowd. He hit 21 of 34 shots from the floor, 14 of 15 from the foul line.

It was bound to happen!

## Gamecock baseballers tackle 32 game slate

Coach Bobby Richardson and his Carolina baseballers tackle a 32 game schedule in 1971, including 14 against Atlantic Coast Conference competition, and in addition, will make a six day spring vacation road trip to Florida.

University Director of Athletics Paul Dietzel announced the attractive slate that features 21 home games. Richardson, the former N.Y. Yankee all-star, now starting his second year at the Gamecock helm, is expected to field an improved nine over last year's 14-20 outfit, with a talented group of incoming freshmen available to augment his returning veterans. Each ACC team will be played

twice, as opposed to three game series between conference teams in the past. Besides ACC opponents, the Gamecock schedule shows single games against East Tennessee, Furman, Cincinnati, Newberry, Erskine, and The Citadel and two more games against Tennessee, Western Carolina, Georgia Southern, Taylor University of Indiana and Atlanta Baptist.

The Gamecocks' Florida trip is scheduled for the University's spring break from classes and will feature doubleheaders against the Yankee farm clubs on April 10 and 12 and possibly competition against other college teams in the area.



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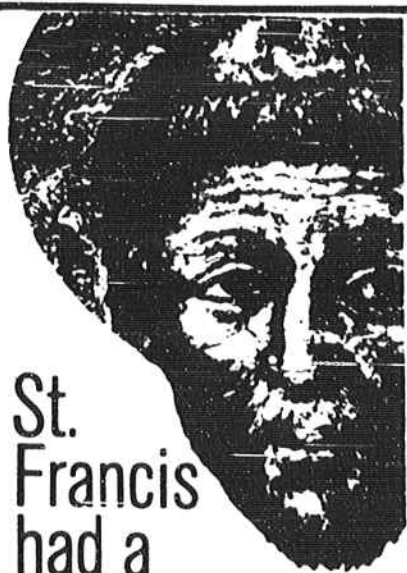
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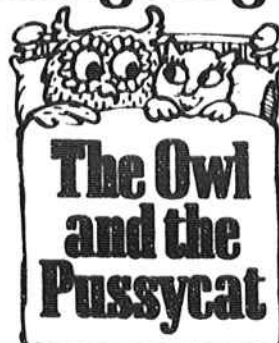
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