

Many differences mark '71-'72 Biddies from past Walsh teams

By DOUG WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

Four talented freshmen highlight Donnie Walsh's 1971-72 version of USC's Biddies, as the frosh mentor is faced with a reversal of the situation that he met last year.

"It's hard to compare this team with any of my teams in the past, especially last year's Walsh stated. "There is no one individual as there have been in other years. Last year it was Peterson, then Winters.

"We're not big," he continued, "and last year's team was offensive while this year we are going to have to be defensive. Our scoring should be more balanced, and the high scorer will probably depend on who is open for the shot."

The player counted on to run the freshmen will be Jimmy Walsh, the coach's younger brother. The 5-11 guard is an excellent passer who can score well from the outside. A three time All-Division selection at Fordham Prep in New York, he sparked the team to a 17-5 record as a junior and the division title, scoring 18 points per contest.

Walsh's probable backcourt

George Felton



mate will be 6-3, 170 pound George Felton. Described by the Biddie mentor as "a Bobby Cremins type of player," Felton led his team to a 16-2 mark and a second straight division championship. Averaging 22 points a game, he was a first team All-New York City selection by the New York Daily News and was a second team All-City pick by the New York Post.

Strongly counted upon to shoulder the rebounding responsibilities will be 6-6 Tom Cox and 6-7 Clyde Agnew. Cox, a sharp-shooting cornerman who averaged 24 points in tough Washington, D.C. competition, spurred his team to 43 wins and two conference titles during his junior and senior years at St. John's College high school.

A first team All-Metropolitan Washington pick, Cox also added

11 rebounds per game, as his team rolled up a 21-5 record during his final season. A good all-round athlete, Cox played two years of football as well as captaining the basketball team.

Agnew, a strong rebounding forward from Greenville, was an honorable mention choice for All-America, All-Southern and All-State as a senior. Averaging 20.8 points and 17 rebounds a game while leading Greenville high to the Region 2-AAAA title, he was a standout in the North-South All-Star game last year, canning 18 points and clearing 11 stray shots.

As a junior, he averaged 22.1 points and 15.1 rebounds a game, playing both inside and outside. In addition to his strength, Agnew has a fine shooting touch to complement his other abilities.



Clyde Agnew

Walsh also cited two walkons that have impressed him very much. John Kelley, 6-4 from Syracuse has looked impressive in pre-season work, but injured himself and his status is unknown. The other, Greg Wood, came to Carolina on a baseball scholarship. At 6-3, he can be counted upon to aid in the backcourt duties.

Fully aware that the road ahead will not be an easy one, Walsh feels that this year's schedule is rather difficult. "Our first three games on the road will be tough," he admits. "Anderson Junior College and Gaston College are supposed to have their best teams in years. The old teams like Clemson have done really well recruiting wise. Then with teams like Fort Jackson, you never know who will play against you. They've got guys 28 or 29 years old. Anyone could walk onto the court.

"The big thing this year will be to get the ball to the big man and try to get a fast break going. Cox is pretty good with the fast break. So far, their defense has impressed me. We'll just have to wait and see."

Sophomore talent gives Nichols hope for Toledo

By JIM HERSH
Sports Writer

Robert Nichols, head basketball coach at the University of Toledo, is relying on new personnel to guide his team into contention for the Mid-American Conference title this year.

Last year the Rockets were 13-11 and Nichols is hoping to improve on that record this time around. "We certainly expect to improve on that mark," Nichols commented.

The current sophomore crop at Toledo gives Nichols high hopes for a successful campaign. "It's not so much that they are so good," he said, "but they're what we need right now. We needed speed and guards and the sophomores give us this."

Several positions are still up for grabs on the Rocket starting line-up. Nichols expects to go into the season with veterans in the starting spots and then to work the younger players into the line-up gradually.

He listed Mac Otten and Bill Chapman as the probable starters at the two forward positions, at least for the first few games. Otten

is a 6-4 junior who averaged 8.8 points and 5.4 rebounds a game last year. Chapman, a senior with two letters in basketball, is 6-5 and he had averages of 8.7 points and 4.9 rebounds per game.

"Otten and Chapman will be the starters for the first games," Nichols said. "But two sophomores, Bob Repp and Mike Parker will push them pretty hard." Repp is 6-5 while Parker is 6-4.

"Tim Harman who has two years of experience will be one of our guards," Nichols said previewing his backcourt. "The other spot is wide open at this time." Harman, a 6-3 senior, scored 10.7 points a game for the Rockets last year.

At the other guard spot Nichols will choose from between four sophomores, Bob Conroy, 6-0, Rick Davie, 6-3, John Hodack, 6-1, and Don Mitchell, 6-0.

Center is probably the most solid position for Toledo. Tom Kozelko, a 6-8 junior, is slated to move to center this year, after starting at forward for the Rockets last year.

Kozelko tossed in 16.4 points a game and averaged just under 10

rebounds in his sophomore campaign.

"It is not that we want Kozelko at center," Nichols commented, "but we must move him to center. We just don't have enough height for him to play forward." Last year Nichols had the luxury of a big man, 7-0 Doug Hess. However, Hess was lost in graduation and the burden of the rebounding lies on Kozelko's shoulders.

"He is very quick and mobile for a center," Nichols said of his new pivot man. "He was not quick for a forward. He can go both left and right well. He is a little bigger than last year, too. He went from about 205 to 215 since last year. He's got a ways to go as a center though."

"We hope to have a balanced attack, Nichols said of his offense. "But it always ends up that somebody scores more than anyone else." We anticipate to run a lot because we do not have too much height."

In the MAC Nichols expects Miami (Ohio) to be the team to beat. "They have four of their top six men back and they had the best freshman team in the league last year. They were last year's champions and they will stay champions until somebody beats them."

"Anything can happen in basketball," Nichols said when asked if he thought his team could beat Miami. "We'll just go game by game and see what happens."

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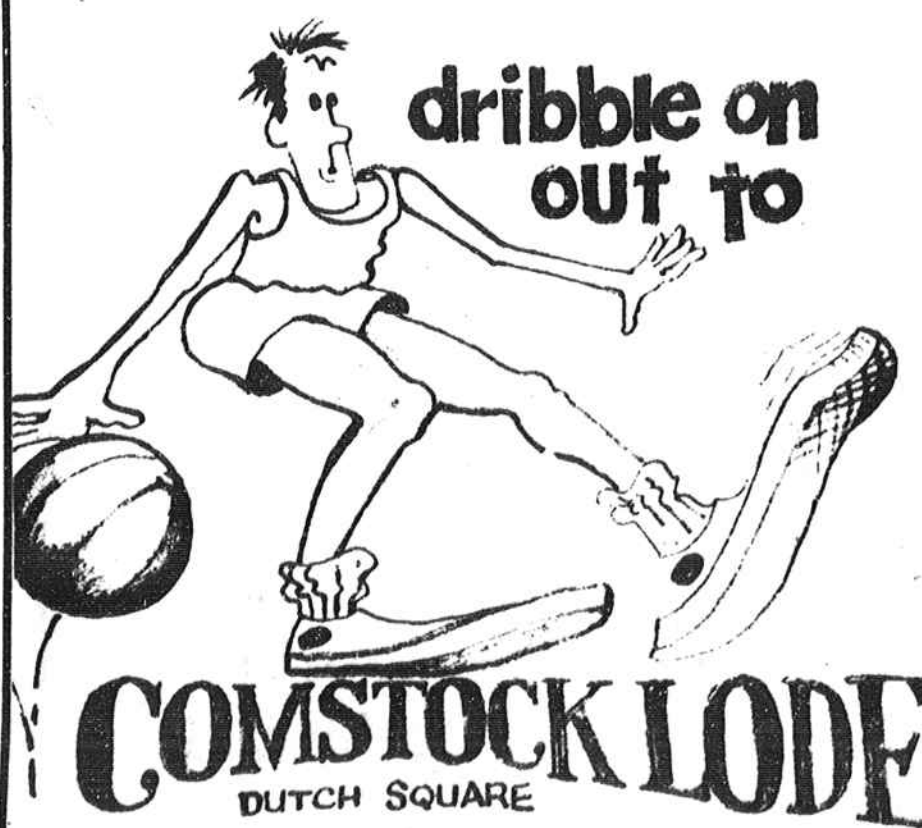
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