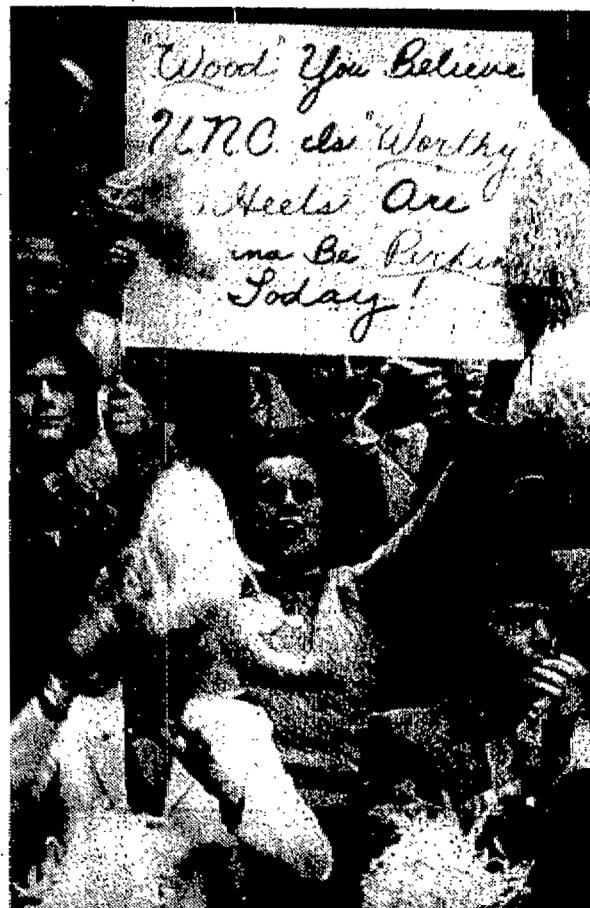




'Isiah: Lead us to the Promised Land' is message from Indiana, while North Carolina sings praises of Perkins, Worthy and Wood



Philadelphia Inquirer / CHUCK ISAACS and GERALD S. WILLIAMS

## City brimming with NCAA crowd

The good hotels are full, the good restaurants are full, the Society Hill clubs are full. Philadelphia is spilling over with the thousands of college basketball followers here for the Final Four tournament, the showcase event of the NCAA, going on at the Spectrum. They began gathering Wednesday and swelled to a peak by yesterday afternoon's opening semifinal game.

It is not a show-business celebrity crowd. It is mostly a young, enthusiastic college crowd, and its celebrities are named Isiah Thomas and Ralph Sampson, Bobby Knight and Dean Smith, Al McGuire and John Wooden. Perhaps 1,000 coaches are here, pro scouts, college bands, proud university presidents and faculty members.

And the elite of the nation's sports-writers are here, the Dave Andersons and John Schullans and Curry Kirkpatrick.

They came to a city in the midst of a public transportation strike, but few seem to mind. They are out on the town, joking, laughing, betting and sweating it out. The mood is a merry one, and everywhere there is talk of the tournament.

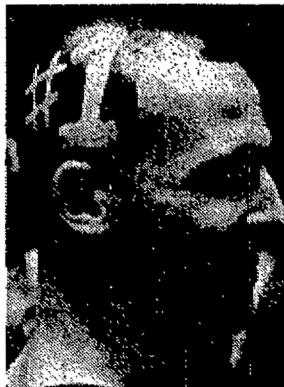
The St. Joseph's basketball players, who shocked the nation when they eliminated top-seeded DePaul from the NCAA tournament but later fell to Indiana, watched yesterday's games together at a party in South Jersey. They were guests of James Dearborn, the uncle of St. Joseph's forward Mark Dearborn, at a game-watching party with three TV sets. St. Joseph's was granted 20 Final Four tickets, along with the other Big 5 schools. But at \$34 a set, and in view of their party invitation, most players declined. Coach Jimmy Lynam was at the Spectrum, however.

They didn't make it to the Final Four as players, they didn't even make it past the second round of the National Invitation Tournament, but freshmen Terence Stansbury and ranger Holt, Temple basketball players, were at courtside at the Spectrum yesterday.

"I guess going from a player to a ball boy is sort of a comedown," Stansbury said. "But at least we're in."

The arrival of the Louisiana State University team at the Warwick Hotel left the building 100 percent occupied. After the 45 guests designated "team" arrived, 60 others designated "band" arrived. There was a moment of panic when a truck pulled up with the band instruments. The instruments ended up as floor-to-cell-

### Final Four notebook



Philadelphia Inquirer / CHUCK ISAACS

A SHAVED HEAD accented with paint expresses LSU cheerleader Johnny Brewerton's sentiment about what team is No. 1, but there is a convincing argument to the contrary by Indiana rooters.

ing occupants of Meeting Room B on the second floor.

The bars at the Franklin Plaza Hotel, NCAA and press headquarters, opened early Friday and the bartenders reported a lively business.

One woman bartender was asked if that would indicate that those involved with college sports are heavy drinkers.

"Of course not," she said. "The drinkers are all reporters."

Among the media celebrities staying at the Franklin Plaza is Al McGuire, the NBC-TV commentator who coached an NCAA champion at Marquette. His arrival was eagerly awaited by the hotel manager, Thomas O'Connor Muldoon.

Muldoon has been in the hotel business for some time, and is not easily dazzled by celebrities. But he wanted to meet McGuire, he says, because "I used to hang out at his parents' bar in Rockaway."

The Virginia team is staying at the Marriott on City Line Avenue, and the management there offered to put 7-foot, 4-inch Ralph Sampson (Associated Press Player of the Year) in a special room with an oversize bed. Sampson, however, declined. He would prefer, he said, sharing a regu-

lar room with a teammate just like everybody else.

Tom Toohey, owner of the New Shippens at 4th and Bainbridge Streets, created a drink in honor of the NCAA, using substances beginning with those four letters. In a goblet, he mixes New York champagne, cointreau, akvavit and anisette.

Old Original Bookbinders, which can seat 1,000 people, was completely booked for the weekend. It was the scene of the city's welcoming party for NCAA officials and coaches Thursday night.

Outside the place, an autograph hunter pointed to Richard Doran, the city representative, and asked who he was.

"Dick Doran," he was told.

"Wow," he said. "The fighter!"

And he hurried away in pursuit of Doran, thinking he was Roberto Duran.

At some of the restaurants and nightspots in town, a favorite customer sport is speculating about the team affiliation of any young man over 6 feet tall.

Julius Erving, the famous Dr. J of the 70s, was eating at Bogart's, 17th and Walnut Streets, and a number of people asked Sidney, the maitre d', which college he played for.

"He's one of the great players in the game," Sidney said, "but when I said he wasn't on an NCAA team, people lost interest."

Among the loyal Indiana fans at the Spectrum was Carl Wilson, 33, an insurance broker from Gary, Ind. "I drove 11 hours to see this Indiana win, and tomorrow I've got to drive back," he said. "And believe it or not, I'll be back in my Vega Monday morning driving back. Yeah, I know. You say: 'What about the gas crunch?' Well, I say this is the Final Four, gas crunch or no gas crunch."

Bryant Gumbel of NBC-TV was the early floor attraction yesterday. First the Indiana cheerleaders introduced themselves, followed by the LSU cheerleaders. Gumbel seemed uneasy with the attention but said graciously: "Excuse me, girls. I'd rather stay with you, but there's a nationwide audience waiting."

There were four basic colors in the Spectrum: Indiana red, LSU yellow, Virginia orange and Carolina blue. Signs ranged from "This is Ralph's House" to "Isiah, Indiana and No. 1." The object was to get the signs on TV.

So whenever NBC-TV analyst Billy Packer walked the floor during first-game warmups, the sign bearers shouted after him: "Billy! Billy! Billy!"

"I'll get 'em all," Packer answered. "Every one of 'em."

"Celebrities? I hear there are four governors here," said Samuel Taylor, who works with Spectrum security. "I also ran into this fellow named Ed Suiter."

"What does he do?" someone asked.

"Anything he wants," he replied. "He owns the Spectrum."

"Great going, Isiah! Great going!" Indiana fan Allen Wallace shouted when Indiana all-American Isiah Thomas left the Indiana-LSU game with 1 minute, 50 seconds remaining. "Sally," he said, turning to his wife. "Let's name our next son Isiah, what do you think?"

"Our cheerleaders are lacking," said Kevin Wilson, a sophomore at Virginia. "We just need some better-looking women at Virginia."

"Yeah," said Carolina's aren't any better," said Rick Johnson, a Virginia friend. "Does it really matter, anyway?"

"Heck, we're on national television," said Wilson. "You bet it matters."

A Tennessee legislator is among the officials working the tournament. Rep. Dale Kelley (R., Huntingdon) a referee for the Southeastern, Metro and Ohio Valley Conferences, is part of the two, three-man officiating teams. The officials aren't told which game they will work until the night before or the day of the game. Tennessee lawmakers hope to see Kelley in the title game Monday night, and will start the House session an hour early and discuss only 10 bills before the 8:15 p.m. tipoff.

It was fun and games with the North Carolina and Virginia fans. Once, when a North Carolina player's shot missed rim, backboard and all, a chorus echoed from the Virginia section: "Air ball! Air ball!" And the North Carolina section responded: "Air heads! Air heads!"

"Al Green, I love you! Al Green, I love you!" a Carolina woman shouted during the second game.

"It's Al Wood," a friend turned to inform her.

Contributing to this article were staff writers John Corr and George Shirk.