During a Christmas basketball trip to the Canary Islands in 1971, Woody Durham had his hands full getting equipment to work in time for the Carolina radio broadcast. Then things got worse, although at the time the offer of a ride back to the hotel on the team bus seemed like a good idea. “Some of the players mentioned they thought there was a nude beach near the hotel. I felt like I had to check things out. Here’s a lesson for you: before you visit a nude beach, find out if the main clientele is elderly people. I saw some things that day I’ll never be able to forget.”

That personal anecdote hints at Durham’s engaging style, which earned him the moniker of “The Voice of the Tar Heels” during the forty years he provided radio play-by-play coverage of Carolina football and basketball games. Born in Mebane and raised in Albemarle, Durham became involved with radio in high school. His work after college was in television sports broadcasting, where he hoped to have a long career with the ACC, but fate—and his alma mater—came calling. In 1971 Durham succeeded Bill Currie as the UNC-Chapel Hill radio network’s play-by-play man. By the time he retired in 2011, Durham was synonymous with Tar Heel football and basketball to the many fans who “turned down the sound” on their televisions to “listen to Woody.”

While most of the book will be familiar to many UNC fans, the insights Durham offers into specific moments in Tar Heel sports history make this book a must-read for Carolina partisans. One example is his take on how Georgetown’s Fred Brown came to throw the ball away to James Worthy in the closing seconds of the 1982 NCAA championship game. Durham’s memoir is one of the first books to be published since the onset of UNC’s NCAA problems beginning in the football program in 2010. His always-diplomatic perspective on how various coaches worked within the Carolina system is fascinating, particularly in the light of recent events (e.g., Dean Smith’s successful opposition to Michael Hooker’s choice of Matt Kupec as Carolina’s athletic director).

The book is nicely illustrated with black-and-white photos from Durham’s family life and important moments from his career. The chapters are separated by “Memorable Moments,” each providing a few lines of Durham’s play-by-play coverage in pivotal games followed by further elaboration from Durham. To find out, for example, where “Go to war, Miss Agnes” originated, check page 176.

The book contains a brief but useful index—not a given in sports memoirs—and all Carolina fans will appreciate that the first index entry is “8 points in 17 seconds.”

This book is suitable for any collection of North Caroliniana or sports writing at a high school level or above, and for collections on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.