

# Latta makes good

Continued from page 1C with the media after drafting Felton and May. Some "experts" had been saying that Illinois' Deron Williams (chosen third overall) and Wake Forest's Chris Paul (fourth overall) were better than Felton, whom the Bobcats chose with the fifth pick in the draft. But the smile on Bickerstaff's face told a different story.

"In our opinion, there was never the (major) disparity

between the (point guards)," Bickerstaff said. "We couldn't come up with any negatives." And neither could Felton.

"I think I'm the only professional athlete to ever come out of Latta," Felton said. "I mean, I think there was a guy who played baseball a long time ago, but that was two or three centuries ago."

Felton probably meant two or three decades ago. But what do you expect? This was the happiest day in the kid's

life.

"Now that I've made it," Felton said. "I think they're going to give guys in small towns a harder look now. I feel really good about that."

And if you just have to keep score, then, yeah, that, and the fact that the team got its coveted point guard, means the Bobcats made a good decision by drafting Felton.

E-mail columnist C. Jemal Horton at seejemalwrite@aol.com.

# Bobcats turn to pair of Heels

Continued from page 1C North Carolina as the only Tar Heel to amass 1,000 points, 600 assists, 300 rebounds, 150 steals and 100 three-pointers.

Felton "puts as much pressure on the basketball as any player in this draft," ESPN college analyst Jay Bilas said. "He's shown the ability to improve. He's one year removed from being an absolute non-shooter to a guy that you can't back off of and that you have to watch for high screens."

"He shot the ball 44, 45 percent from three this season,

vastly improved to be at that level. He'll be a really good player in this league."

May was voted MVP of the Final Four after scoring 26 points and grabbing 10 rebounds against Illinois in the championship game.

The 6-9, 266-pound forward led North Carolina with 17.2 points and 12.3 rebounds as a junior and was named second team all-America and first team all-ACC. He set a school record with 397 rebounds.

"Sean May is a fine young man who led his team to the national championship," said

Bickerstaff. "He has great hands, he has good shooting range and he can be a factor on the defensive end."

"Charlotte made out like bandits with the 13th pick with Sean May," said Bilas. "I think, along with (No. 1 overall pick) Andrew Bogut, he has the best hands of any big guy in the draft. He's long with a reach of about seven feet. He made a real commitment this year to get in shape and run the floor. I think he can be a very productive rebounder in this league, and Charlotte is very fortunate to get him at 13."

# Lacy, Sting deal with poor start

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Sutton-Brown said. "The playoffs are still in our future and we needed to get this one, we need to get Washington twice and we're right back in the running for playoff position."

"You want to see everyone be successful," Sutton-Brown said. "Right now as a group, we lose together, we win together. She's doing a great job right now."

Staley said the big picture is that the players have to help themselves - and Lacey - by playing their way into contention.

"Any time you start the season 1-9, there's a lot of tension in the locker room, there's a lot of

tension in the coaches' room and it's hard, but I think it builds character," Staley said. "But I don't think anybody in this room didn't believe throughout we were going to turn it around, and we are going to turn it around."

"Honestly, we're not looking that far ahead," Lacey said. "We're taking it one game at a time and we're breaking it down to one possession at a time. When we need a stop, we're focusing on getting a stop. When we need a basket, we're focusing on getting the best shot we can. That's how we look at it. We can't look too far forward."

But it's far better than looking back.

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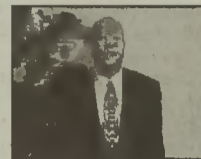
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