



Wake 98	Duke 86	Louisville 90	UNLV 86
Florida St. 87	Maryland 84	Arizona 81	Washington 72
Virginia 83	Clemson 78	Kansas 67	Missouri 63
N.C. State 74	Tennessee 72	Purdue 90	Wisconsin 87

SPORTS MONDAY

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UNC swats Yellow Jackets, posts another 20-win season

Tar Heels tied for first, Tech on NCAA bubble

By Steve Politi
Sports Editor

UNC	77
GEORGIA TECH	66

ATLANTA — For the 23rd straight season, North Carolina has won at least 20 games.

Not many of those wins have brought these words to head coach Dean Smith's lips:

"It's the best we've played all year." Not the best defensive effort. Not the best offensive effort. Certainly not the best effort as far as stats go.

But the Tar Heels put in their best effort in the trouble-shooting category, handling whatever Georgia Tech threw at them to post a 77-66 win in front of 9,922 Bobby Cremins look-alikes at Alexander Memorial Coliseum Sunday.

Leading big man Eric Montross had two shots in the first 20 minutes. Leading scorer George Lynch had two points in the second 20 minutes and fouled out. Starting point guard Derrick Phelps fought off nagging injuries. No. 6 UNC and unranked Georgia Tech played hot potato with the lead for 35 minutes of brutal, foul-plagued basketball.

But the Tar Heels, led by Donald Williams' 21 points, exploded with a 13-0 run in the game's closing minutes to push the Yellow Jackets further down the ACC's list of also-rans.

The loss slides Tech (12-8, 5-6 in the ACC) further out on the NCAA tournament bubble with three ranked ACC opponents still to come.

"I don't think we're out of it, but obviously we've got to do something to catch the NCAA's eye," Cremins said.

The victory ties UNC (20-3, 9-2) with Florida State for first place in the

ACC — at least until the Seminoles get through with N.C. State and Clemson next week.

The win also answers UNC's dreaded outside shooting question — at least until the team takes to the Smith Center floor Wednesday against Clemson.

The Tar Heels shot 64.3 percent in the second half, with Williams shooting 8-for-13 from the field and 3-for-7 from 3-point land. He scored 14 of his game-high 21 points in the final 10:38.

Phelps scored 13, shooting 5-for-8 and connecting on his one 3-point shot. He also contributed seven assists and four steals.

"I think a lot of people have been focusing on the lack of shooting," Montross said. "The guards played very consistently and did a tremendous job."

Guard-play was particularly important with the Jackets doing everything they could to stop Montross. In the first half, the 7-foot center got his hands on the ball only three times inside the paint, scoring two points off foul shots.

And UNC, without its inside threats scoring, trailed at the end of the half, 36-31.

"At the start of the second half, we just said, 'Let's just get it to Eric once,'" Smith said.

With only 14 seconds gone by in the second half, Montross had his first basket — a three-point play to spark a 10-2 run in the half's first 3:12.

"Montross — he's too big. He's a monster," Cremins said. "We did a su-

per job on him in the first half. But he's so so tall. He's tough to deal with. I thought we played well enough, but we just couldn't deal with Montross."

Tech forward Malcolm Mackey used his own tactic to deal with Montross: a hard elbow to his chin with a minute left in the first half that prompted referee Lenny Wirtz to call an intentional foul.

"It's not a smart play, but Malcolm is known to do that at the wrong time," Cremins said. "If he did it, why'd Wirtz have to call it intentional?"

Cremins, Wirtz and Smith met at halfcourt at the end of the half to "discuss" the foul.

"Bobby was wondering why it was intentional, I was thinking flagrant," Smith said.

Montross connected on both foul shots as UNC scored the final four points of the half.

The Tar Heels carried the momentum into the second half opening a 51-45 lead when Phelps hit his 3-pointer with 12:52 left.

But Travis Best, who scored 17 for Tech, hit a 3-pointer and a lay-up and Drew Barry added 2 of his 13 points to give Tech a 52-51 lead 1 1/2 minutes later.

The score stood at 64-63 UNC with 4:51 left when the Tar Heels started their 13-0 run.

"We just had some breakdowns defensively, and they got some easy baskets," Best said.

But the Yellow Jackets didn't get a good look at the basket from that point on. James Forrest, who led Tech with 18 points and 13 rebounds, failed to score in the game's final 10 minutes.



DTH/Debbie Stengel

UNC point guard Derrick Phelps handles the ball against Georgia Tech's Travis Best

Backcourt duo takes control in second half

By John Manuel
Assistant Sports Editor

ATLANTA — Derrick Phelps was one of the last Tar Heels to enter the locker room after North Carolina's 77-66 win against Georgia Tech Sunday.

The 6-foot-4 junior sat shirtless, slowly peeling off his soaked-through uniform. His body had taken yet another pounding, but he had helped his club pull out a crucial ACC victory.

So what was on Phelps' mind? Looking over to fellow guard Donald Williams, Phelps queried, "Who's winning the Knicks game?"

That could not have been all the UNC backcourt was thinking after this contest. While pundits and coaches fawn over Tar Heel bigmen Eric Montross and George Lynch, the backcourt usually gets mentioned when part of its game breaks down, like hitting the 3-point shot.

But Sunday at Alexander Memorial Coliseum, it was the Phelps-Williams duo out-playing the youthful Yellow Jacket tandem of sophomore Travis Best and freshman Drew Barry, and leading UNC to its 20th victory.

It's the 23rd-consecutive 20-win season under North Carolina head coach Dean Smith.

Williams was quick to give credit to the entire team for the win, which left No. 6 UNC 20-3 overall, 9-2 in ACC

See BACKCOURT, page 7

Wrestlers edge Raleigh rivals again

By Zachary Albert
Staff Writer

UNC	22
N.C. STATE	19

UNC wrestler T.J. Jaworski maintains that some hearts were meant to be broken, especially those of his Raleigh rivals on Valentine's weekend.

"You let them up and take them down and it breaks them in their mind — it breaks their heart," Jaworski said.

Showing no mercy, the Tar Heels ousted the N.C. State Wolfpack 22-19 Saturday night in Carmichael Auditorium. UNC improved to 10-6 overall, 4-1 in the ACC, while the Wolfpack fell to 10-7, 2-3 in the conference.

North Carolina's strategy was to build a lead in the early weight classes,

knowing that the nation's top-ranked heavyweight, Sylvester Terkay, waited for the finale on the Wolfpack bench.

But Terkay never made a difference. After jumping out to a 4-3 lead, UNC's margin grew to seven when Jaworski pinned State's Ryan Nunamaker.

Nunamaker, a freshman, proved easy prey for the NCAA's No. 1 134-pounder. But UNC head coach Bill Lam wouldn't let Jaworski take the match lightly.

"T.J. knows to be a national champion, you have to wrestle everybody the same," Lam said. "Whether he's wrestling an excellent person or one not as

good, he always goes out and wrestles all seven minutes as hard as he can."

UNC's lead shrunk to 10-6 when Wolfpack co-captain Mark Cesari took down Mike Leonardis to win the 142 class in sudden death overtime. But the momentum swung UNC's way in a pivotal match between the Tar Heels' Mike Chase and State's Clayton Grice.

The two struggled to a 2-2 tie, until Chase carried Grice off the mat, hammering the Wolfpack senior to the hardwood with 1:29 left. While Grice writhed on the floor, holding his knee, his 90 seconds of injury time expired.

Chase was declared the winner by disqualification, but Grice, having risen, argued that he was counted out prematurely. As a result, Chase earned the

same amount of meet points as a pin, giving the Tar Heels a 16-6 spread.

Chase, a sophomore transfer from State, didn't expect any preferential treatment from his former teammates.

"I knew he was going to antagonize me the whole match," Chase said. "Eventually, I found out the match was over. I wasn't happy, because I wanted to beat him, but I got the team six points and it got us the win."

The Tar Heels possessed an insurmountable lead of 22-15 when the gargantuan Terkay finally surfaced for his match with UNC's Rick Hall. Although the match had no effect on the meet's outcome, the smaller Hall refused to be pinned by State's marquee player in a losing effort.

Future of 24-hour Daytona tradition uncertain

By Zachary Albert
Staff Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — One doesn't often pack shorts and suntan lotion for a weekend vacation on the last weekend of January, but I did.

As is a nearly annual tradition, my father and I once again made a mad dash to the World Center of Speed — Daytona International Speedway, to attend the spectacle that is the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona.

While the sentiment was there, we decided against attaching a large banner proclaiming, "It's Racing Season Again!!!" to the bumper of the Taurus for fear of attracting "smokeys."

Although I longed for the sunny warmth of Florida and the smell of carbon monoxide, my visit met with some trepidation, as I feared that this might be the final running of this country's premier sports car endurance race.

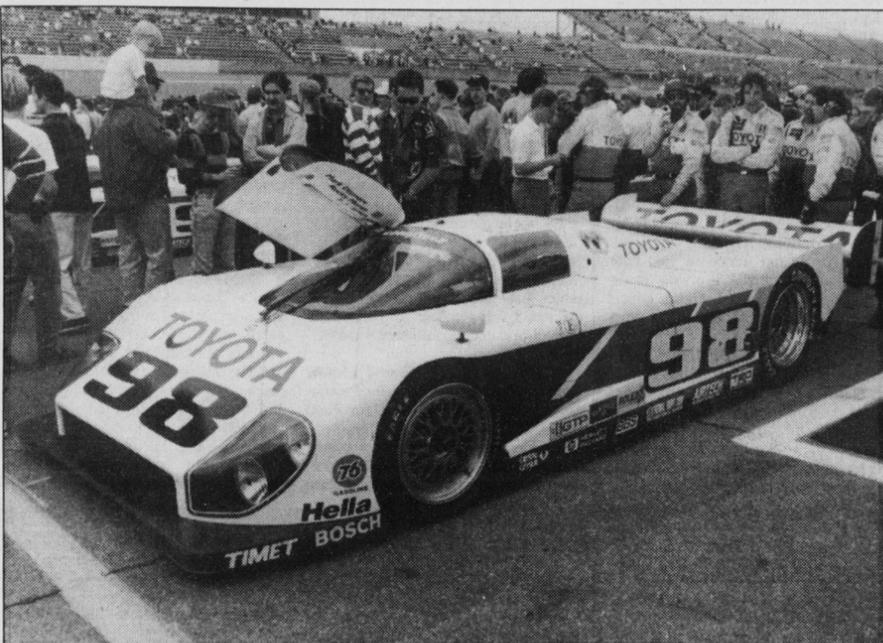
One of the biggest truths in motorsports is that racing costs money. It seems as if the International MotorSports Association may just now be realizing it.

I began following the series back in its heyday several years ago. IMSA made regular stops around the country, putting on highly competitive shows for happy promoters. Now with costs spiraling upward, manufacturer support dwindling, and starting grids sparse, times look bleak for IMSA.

The Grand Touring Prototype division (GTP) showcases the series' most powerful and exotic sports cars. However, they aren't cheap. GTP cars sticker at roughly \$750,000, not to mention the provisions (crew, spares, etc.) to be competitive.

Last year, the series boiled down to whoever had the money to spend, won. Dan Gurney's Toyota team ran away with the series title, as Mazda, Nissan and Chevrolet decided to forego factory-backed efforts for 1993.

The sanctioning body's board of directors called for broad cost-cutting measures and a new captain. Enter Dan Greenwood, IMSA's newly-appointed CEO, who seeks to lead the series back to its glory days.



DTH/Zachary Albert

With cars averaging \$750,000 and manufacturer support waning, the International MotorSports Association faces a bleak future

IMSA hopes to create a fairly stock open-cockpit racer, dubbed the World Sports Car, to replace the GTP class. Strict guidelines intend to keep competition close and costs down, shooting for a price tag of around \$200,000. The WSC will debut in 1994.

Greenwood hopes the transition will be a smooth one, but many changes need to take place in car design. GTP cars have highly modified engines and swoopy aerodynamics with ground effects. The proposed WSC hopes to recapture a classic sports car feel by banning the use of turbochargers, outlawing ground effects, improving safety features and retaining largely "stock" engines.

After a quick pit stop for lunch at the local Steak n' Shake (also a family

tradition), I caught up with Greenwood in the garage area to discuss his plans for this season and seasons to come.

"1993 is definitely a transitional year, transitioning from a couple of years where we've had some problems," Greenwood said. "A couple of big teams left, and maybe that was our fault for not seeing that coming — that it had gotten so expensive that you had a very limited number of people that could afford to go racing with you."

"What we're trying to do now is put together a car that will be affordable to build, will be entertaining to watch and will create big fields for exciting races."

However, much of the garage talk centers around not only how the cars will endure the weekend, but how long GTP will endure the season. Jaguar has

indicated that it will pull its entries after the season's third race at Sebring, Fla.

Although he has his critics inside the sport, Greenwood remains optimistic about the strength of IMSA's other classes and the future of the WSC in relation to the demise of GTP.

"Heck, we show up to the first race and we get the biggest entry list that we've had (60 cars in six classes)," Greenwood said. "Our big show, the GTP, it's going to be a little short this year, but again we've got to deal with it."

"We've talked to all the promoters, and they're not going to worry about it if we're showing them where we're going to be next year."

Greenwood also added that he had

See IMSA, page 7

Women's tennis falls to 0-3 with loss to No. 14 Miami

By Jon Goldberg
Staff Writer

MIAMI	6
UNC	3

UNC women's tennis head coach Kitty Harrison was glad to see the weekend finally come to a close. After losing to BYU and No. 13 Tennessee, the team was hoping to turn it around Sunday against No. 14 Miami.

But the Hurricanes swept through town en route to a 6-3 victory Sunday at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center. The loss dropped UNC to 0-3 on the season.

With the exception of Alisha Portnoy's three-set victory at No. 4 singles, it was a day full of blowouts.

UNC cruised at No. 1 and No. 4 singles. Senior Cinda Gurney, ranked fifth nationally, cruised by Michelle Fry 6-2, 6-0, while senior Alisha Portnoy lost the first set 6-2 but fought back to oust Bethina Sonneveld 2-6, 6-0, 6-3.

But the Tar Heels could not win a set in the remaining four singles matches. In fact, they only managed to win seven games combined.

At No. 2 singles, Miami's Melissa Mazzotta downed junior Nicole Transou 6-1, 6-2. Julie Downs eased by freshman Ariana Cervenka 6-1, 6-0 at No. 3 singles. Pilar Valls defeated sophomore Freddy Uihlein 6-0, 6-1 at No. 5 singles and Le Ann Gutkin beat junior Scotti Thomas 6-0, 6-2 at the sixth slot.

Men's tennis drops match as No. 1 player nurses flu

By Jon Goldberg
Staff Writer

FLORIDA	4
UNC	3

With top player Roland Thornqvist bed-ridden with the flu, the eighth-ranked North Carolina men's tennis team fell to No. 12 Florida 4-3 Saturday in its opening dual match at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center.

The loss dropped the Tar Heels to 1-1 on the season. The Gators upped their record to 2-0.

Florida captured two of the three doubles matches, winning one team point. The key match occurred at No. 2 doubles, with David Blair and Damon Henkel of Florida struggling to defeat senior Sean Steynour and freshman Brett Hutton 8-6.

With the score tied 6-6, Steynour had his serve broken and Henkel held serve to give Florida the 8-6 win. Steynour and Hutton had 30-love leads in each of the last two games, but Blair and Henkel held on for the win.

The UNC freshman tandem of David Caldwell and Daryl Wyatt lost to Mark Merklein and Trevor Taylor 8-5 at No. 1 doubles.

UNC senior Woody Webb and freshman Brint Morrow cruised by Brett Stern and Dyllan Fitzgerald 8-0 at No. 3 doubles.

A new Intercollegiate Tennis Association rule gives one point to a team for winning two of three doubles and one point for each single's victory.

Thornqvist's illness forced the UNC

The two UNC singles victories gave the team a chance to win the match by sweeping all three doubles matches. Gurney and Portnoy, ranked first in the southeast region of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, had no problem with Fry and Sonneveld. They led 5-0 before the Miami team retired due to an injury.

But the Miami squad was too strong for the Tar Heels in the second and third flights of doubles. Mazzotta and Valls defeated Cervenka and Uihlein, ranked 14th in the southeast region of the ITA, 7-5, 6-3. Downs and Gutkin downed Thomas and Transou 6-0, 3-6, 7-5.

Despite the three losses, Harrison has remained optimistic. "We have played three strong teams to start the season," she said. "We just have to realize we're a good team. We have to stay positive and have no negative thoughts."

The Tar Heels started the home stand on Thursday, suffering a 6-0 shutout at the hands of BYU. Unranked Evica Koljanin upset Gurney 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

Gurney came back to win her match against Tennessee, but she was the lone Tar Heel to triumph in the 5-1 loss.

singles players to each move up one position. At No. 1 singles, Merklein, ranked third in the nation, held off Webb, ranked 35th nationally, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2. Webb opened the first set with a service break but Merklein broke back to even the score at 3-3. Webb led 4-2 in the tiebreaker before losing 8-6.

Henkel downed Morrow 6-2, 6-2 at No. 4 singles, while Stern rolled past senior Cooper Pulliam 6-1, 6-1 at No. 5 singles.

UNC recorded singles victories at No. 2, No. 3 and No. 6. Caldwell, ranked 21st nationally, downed Blair 6-4, 7-6 (7-3). Steynour defeated Taylor 7-6 (7-2), 6-4. Wyatt, who normally sees action only in doubles, beat Dave Balogh 6-4, 6-3.

"Our effort was very good, we just got outplayed," said UNC head coach Allen Morris, who announced last week that he is retiring at the end of the season. "Some of the matches were very close. Not having Roland in the lineup hurt us."

Thornqvist's illness came one week after he won the Rolex National Indoor Championships. Coach Morris said he hoped Thornqvist would be at full strength when the Tar Heels travel to Louisville, Ky., for the USTA-ITA Intercollegiate Indoor Team Championship on Thursday.