

SPORTS

Fading Blue Devils look for an emotional March

By Warren Hynes
Senior Writer

CHARLOTTE— After his team had made an unexpectedly quick exit from the ACC Tournament Friday night, Bobby Hurley was not a happy point guard.

The Yellow Jackets' 69-66 win at the Charlotte Coliseum stunned Hurley, not in that Tech had played a strong offensive game and hung tough, but that the No. 8 Blue Devils had played so out of sync, so lacking in emotion.

"I just don't think that we have the toughness as a group as in past years," Hurley said after the game. "We've always been the toughest team down the stretch. That's just not the case right now."

"We allowed them to pretty much have their way with us."

The two-time defending national-champion Blue Devils (23-7, 10-7 in the ACC) are seeded third in the Mid-

west Regional and will play Southern Illinois Thursday in Chicago.

With forward Grant Hill returning to the lineup Friday for the first time since Feb. 13, the Devils had hoped to win some conference tournament games and, in the process, mesh together as a team again. Such was not the case.

"I thought Grant did pretty well," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski. "You could tell that we weren't exactly the same. I would have hoped to have played a couple more games here so we could get there before the NCAAs. Now we'll have to practice that."

And that's not what Hurley, the senior all-everything point guard who led his team with 17 points, eight assists and zero turnovers, had wanted.

"It's getting down to a point where our season's coming close to an end," Hurley said. "If we don't make a real quick turnaround, we're not going to make any noise in the NCAA Tournament. We needed to have a good show-

ing here to really get something going for the NCAAs. We just didn't."

Hurley said Hill's return had brought out some things that he had no desire to see in his team. "Overall, our guys took the totally wrong approach to having him back. The guys who have been doing great things for us while he was gone just weren't there for us today."

"If I was Coach K, I wouldn't know what to say to us right now," Hurley said. "I have a lot of doubts."

Said Krzyzewski, "Certainly we're not going to advance in the next tournament unless we have everybody contribute the way they can."

The big thing with this Duke team is emotion. Sometimes the Blue Devils have it, sometimes they don't. It's been a problem all year, and some players are fed up with it.

"Coach shouldn't have to sit around and tell you to be emotional," said center Cherokee Parks. "It should just be there. It should come from within. Last

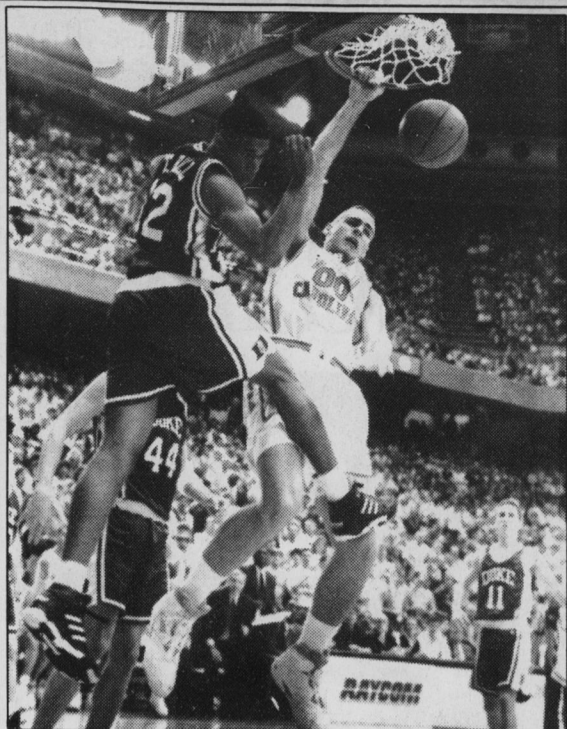
year's team was like that. It was just there every game.

"This year, it seems like that consumes 80 percent of our time. That's all we talk about: 'We've got to be emotional.' It shouldn't be like that. You should want to be emotional and want to be together."

Last year's senior captains, Brian Davis and Christian Laettner, were by nature emotional players. They made sure that this emotion spilled over to their teammates. "Brian was good at getting you motivated, and Christian was good at kind of getting you pissed off so that you played well," Parks said.

"I'm not saying that Bobby and Thomas aren't good captains — they're very good captains. It's just got to come from within — from everybody."

The Blue Devils have until Thursday to work on getting their emotional level up to par. If it doesn't happen, then Hurley's final Duke team will not be three-peating as NCAA champion.

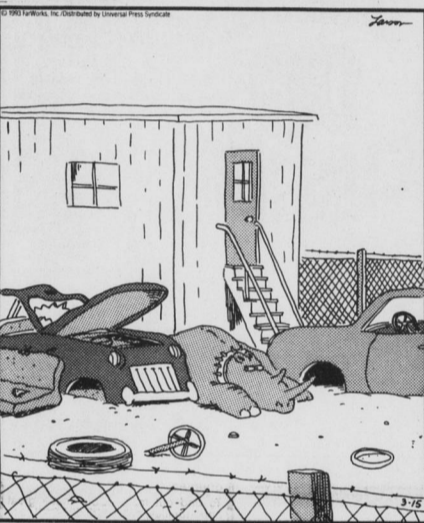


DTH/Jayson Singe

And for some good news ...

Eric Montross dunks over Thomas Hill in UNC's 83-69 win against Duke March 7 in the Smith Center, icing on the cake for UNC, which won the regular season ACC title.

The Far Side



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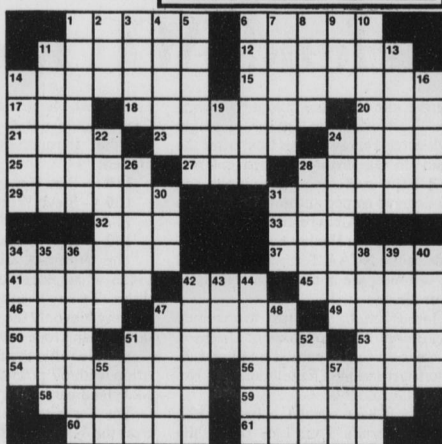
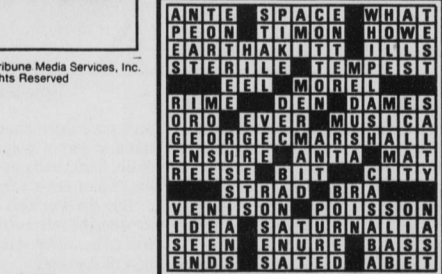
Doonesbury



THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 49 Part of QED | 22 Amble |
| 1 Censor | 50 "Spare the ..." | 24 Defeat |
| 6 Gelatin mold | 51 More evident | 26 Opera heroine's role players |
| 11 Baseball's Reese | 53 Holy woman: abbr. | 28 Icy islands |
| 12 Rats on | 54 Sudden outburst | 30 Managed |
| 14 Water catcher | 56 Overwhelming fact | 31 Op. — (footnote abbr.) |
| 15 Link | 58 Hyperactive one | 34 Boa |
| 17 Perform | 59 Barefoot | 35 Roseanne or Benedict |
| 18 Parachute opener | 60 Filled up | 36 "— child is fair..." |
| 20 Eureka! | 61 Stitch back on | 38 Flying exhibition |
| 21 Tizzy | | 39 Like some pills |
| 23 "— to bed..." | DOWN | 40 Come in |
| 24 "Star —" | 1 Feral | 42 Legume feature |
| 25 Crown | 2 Permit | 43 Onassis |
| 27 Topper | 3 Spouted pitcher | 44 Agree |
| 28 Leave holding the bag | 4 Out of this world | 47 Feather |
| 29 Pastry | 5 Friend by mail | 48 Plating alloy |
| 31 Finalizes | 6 "— as any stone" | 51 Bogs are full of it |
| 32 Ms Lupino | (Shakespeare) | 52 Yeltsin's land: abbr. |
| 33 Chit | 7 Floor | 55 Genetic letters |
| 34 Asian craft | 8 "On Golden —" | 57 Haggard novel |
| 37 Bridge holding | 9 Charged atom | |
| 41 Maltese or double | 10 — a bell | |
| 42 Soft shoe | 11 Inge opus | |
| 45 Heir | 13 Devious plan | |
| 46 "— of Green Gables" | 14 Class system | |
| 47 Noted American, H. Ross — | 16 Movie shots | |
| | 19 Dernier — (latest fad) | |



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NCAA

leader Glenn Robinson, Gene Keady's 18th-ranked Boilermakers finished 9-9 in the conference. But Purdue finished its season on a down note Sunday, falling to Ohio State 72-62 at home. Earlier in the season, UNC whipped Ohio State 84-64 on the road.

If the brackets hold true to form in the East, the Tar Heels would play No. 4 seed Arkansas in the regional semifinals in East Rutherford, N.J. The No. 14 Razorbacks (20-8) ended its regular

season with a 92-81 loss to No. 4 Kentucky in the Southeastern Conference semifinals.

In the lower half of the East Regional, second-seeded Cincinnati (24-4) and third-seeded Massachusetts (23-6) could threaten UNC down the line.

The East Regional features one other ACC team, Virginia (19-9). The Cavaliers, seeded sixth, open tourney play Friday in Syracuse, N.Y., against No. 11 seed Manhattan (23-6). If the Cavs and Tar Heels both make a run, they could meet in the East Regional final.

Four other ACC teams will join UNC and UVA. in March Madness. Out west, ACC champion Georgia Tech (19-10) drew the No. 4 seed and will meet No. 13 seed Southern (20-9), the Southwest Athletic Conference champions. If the Yellow Jackets get past their first two games in Tuscon, Ariz., they could face top-seeded Michigan (26-4) in the regional semifinals.

Two-time defending national champion Duke, a No. 3 seed in the Midwest, open their title defense Thursday in Chicago against No. 14 seed Southern Illinois (22-9).

Indiana (28-3), the Big Ten champions, is the top seed in the Midwest.

Finally, two ACC squads received bids to the Southeast Regional. Florida State (22-9), seeded third, opens Thurs-

day in Orlando, Fla., against No. 14 seed Evansville (23-6).

Fifth-seeded Wake Forest (19-8) will

face Southern Conference champion Tennessee-Chattanooga (26-6) in first-round play Friday in Nashville.

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