

# SPORTS MONDAY

Monday, February 4, 2002

The Daily Tar Heel

## Track Team Finds Success In Arkansas

North Carolina thrower Sal Gigante (left) and the rest of the UNC track and field team fared well at the Tyson Invitational this weekend. See Page 5.



## INSIDE:

- Gymnastics places third in four-team Maryland event. Page 5
- Wrestlers win two road matches. Page 5
- Texas tops UNC in tennis. Page 5

## Overdone Patriotism Mars Game

The madness extended far beyond the halftime show, the intermittent commercials and even the ridiculous, overwrought pregame celebration.

In fact, the lunacy that preceded Super Bowl XXXVI – soon to be known forever as the “Patriotism Bowl” – started with the celebrities who, for some still-unknown reason, were asked their championship picks by ESPN.com.



IAN GORDON  
OFF WAIVERS

Take the esteemed (albeit) senior senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Edward Kennedy. Why, Ted, will New England bring home a title to the six-state

region for the first time since the Boston Celtics reigned supreme in 1986?

“This year of all years, a team with the name ‘Patriots’ has an extra advantage that can make all the difference.”

Of course. The logic and wisdom behind the words of the learned Kennedy ring so true, no?

Well, if you can't trust a Kennedy, surely you'll acknowledge the wit of Miss America herself, Katie Harman, who said she picked the Patriots because “I'm Miss America, and I'm feeling very patriotic.”

Again, the intelligence and common sense of a true American representative like Harman bring a star-spangled glow to my true-blue heart.

But so it went, with luminaries as important as Carrot Top to those as respected in their fields as Leeza Gibbons spouting off their views as to why the obviously all-American Patriots would win the Super Bowl.

Although the Pats did come through with the greatest Super Bowl win in history, why was there this commonality in the responses of the nation's intelligentsia? More importantly, why did the Super Bowl – at its heart, only a game – become a pseudo-symbol of the American spirit?

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the sports world has responded in various ways, from publicly appealing for blood donation to postponing and even cancelling various games and events.

At the World Series, the national anthem and the seventh-inning stretch singing of “God Bless America” became poignant reminders of the events that ripped the innocence and naivete from the United States.

But Sunday, there was something about the blatant, overdone patriotism showed at New Orleans' Superdome that smacked of overzealousness – or maybe even exploitation.

Maybe it was the power quintet of Yolanda Adams, James Ingram, Patti LaBelle, Barry Manilow and Wynonna belting out a melange of patriotic favorites while seemingly thousands of flags adorned the field.

Maybe it was the eerie, endless march of women dressed in red, white or blue Statue of Liberty costumes, replete with fake torch in hand.

Maybe it was the steady stream of children dressed as the “common American,” or the little boy in fatigues who rang a large, faux Liberty Bell.

Maybe it was the soft-focus, over-dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence by football greats and former presidents.

But most likely, it was at the end of the one moment that actually struck a chord deep in my heart that I realized how insulting and ridiculous the outward celebration actually was.

While Bono's raspy voice blared through “Where the Streets Have No Name,” an imposing, telling list lifted from the stage at midfield. The seemingly never-ending cloth bore the names of those killed on Sept. 11.

It was a moment in which the horror of the mindless violence came rushing back, making me pause and question my initial skepticism.

But at the end of the song, the curtain dropped. And I'll be damned if a corporate logo – a red, white and blue E\*TRADE logo, to be exact – didn't pop up on the television screen.

After all, nothing's more patriotic than online personal financial services.

Ian Gordon can be reached at igordon@email.unc.edu.

## Swimming Sweeps State in Finale

By JAMIE AGIN  
Assistant Sports Editor

The last home meet of the season for the North Carolina swimming and diving teams left some team members feeling emotionally spent.

Unfortunately for N.C. State, it had little to do with the actual competition.

On Friday's Senior Day, both the UNC men's and women's teams made quick work of their Wolfpack counterparts. The No. 12 women were victorious 179-112, while the No. 21 men cruised to a 193.5-94.5 win.

All-American Katie Hathaway's last meet at Koury Natatorium was somewhat routine. Her times in 100- and 200-yard breaststroke wins didn't come close to beating her own school records, but considering the emotion of the meet, they might as well have been world records.

“My head was in about 100 different places today,” Hathaway said. “I didn't think I was going to cry at all, but at the beginning of the meet, I started to get a little emotional.”

Men's Swimming
N.C. State . . . . .94.5
UNC . . . . .193.5

Women's Swimming
N.C. State . . . . .112
UNC . . . . .179

**Tar Heel Diving Team Quietly Enjoys Success**  
See Page 7

Hathaway was hardly the only one feeling the emotion of Senior Day.

“It's emotional for old farts as well as other people,” said UNC coach Frank Comfort. “I've never taken her great swimming for granted. We've been fortunate to have her.”

Sophomore Jessi Perrequet added two individual wins for the Tar Heel women (7-2, 4-1 in the ACC), who saw just about everything go their way.

The only downside to the win against the Wolfpack (3-4, 2-3) was the impromptu “senior relay” team of Hathaway, Jennie Gardner, Stefanie Rulis and Molly Sullivan placing a mere second in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

“We went and asked Frank, ‘Do you mind if we do a senior relay?’” Hathaway said. “But we weren't just doing it to win. We were just swimming to swim together.”



UNC senior Katie Hathaway won the 100- and 200-yard breaststrokes in her final home meet.

The UNC men (5-4, 3-2) were more businesslike in dismantling the Wolfpack (3-4, 2-3). After being upended by underdog Clemson in their Jan. 13 opener, the Tar Heels weren't taking a win against a lesser opponent for granted.

“That loss really hit home and made us realize there are other teams out there gunning for us big time,” said Michael Chenier, who won the 50- and 100-yard freestyle events. “Meets like this are taken very seriously now.”

Said Comfort: “That (meet) was in the back of my mind. I was whiny and aggravated this morning with my coaches. I wanted to get started.”

The Tar Heels got the start they wanted. UNC won 10 of the meet's first 12 events before swimming the last two races as exhibition heats. Sophomore Sean Quinn led the men, winning both the 100- and 200-yard breaststrokes.

Despite hitting their strides against the Wolfpack, UNC has some fine tuning to do before heading to Maryland for the ACC tournaments later this month.

“We're starting to rest and get our tapered practices in now,” Chenier said. “The majority of the work is done but the technical stuff can still be improved on. We've got plenty of work to do.”

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.



DTH/KATE MELLNIK

UNC diver Stephen Krebs twists his way to a win in the 1-meter springboard against N.C. State on Friday.

## Akins, Tech Sting UNC After Half

Tony Akins scored 22 points after halftime to help Georgia Tech send UNC to a 86-74 loss and the bottom of the ACC standings.

By RACHEL CARTER  
Senior Writer

ATLANTA – North Carolina guard Brian Morrison sat stonefaced in front of his temporary locker at Alexander Memorial Coliseum. He tilted his head slightly to ask a reporter, “How many points did he have in the second half?”

“22.”

He was Georgia Tech's Tony Akins, who exploded for 22 points and four assists in the second half of Saturday's men's basketball game to lead the Yellow Jackets to a 86-74 victory against the Tar Heels in front of 6,550.

The loss dropped UNC (6-13, 2-7 in the ACC) into a tie for last place in the conference with Georgia Tech (8-14, 2-7) and Clemson (11-11, 2-7). It also could be a possible derailment of a two-game stretch where the Tar Heels had been doing things better.

“I don't think that is a fair game to measure our improvement by today,” said UNC coach Matt Doherty. “We just played less than 36 hours ago against a tough Duke team and had to turn around and play an active Georgia Tech team.”

“I'm not making any excuses for our team today, but at the same time, I looked at this game on the schedule early this year and knew that it was going to be a tough one to play.”

The Tar Heels lost to top-ranked Duke 87-58 on Thursday, but shot 50 percent from the floor. Against Clemson on Jan. 27, UNC hit 55.4 percent of its shots and only turned the ball over 10 times.

It took almost 2 1/2 minutes for North Carolina to make a basket Saturday after missing its first three shots. Melvin Scott's 3-pointer was the first of five the Tar Heels would make to build a 15-9 lead with 12:52 remaining in the first half.

Georgia Tech closed the gap and then took a 18-17 lead on a Marvin Lewis layup. Tech stretched its lead to as many as seven before a 16-8 North Carolina put the Tar Heels on top as the half ended. It was only the sixth time all year that UNC entered its locker room on top.

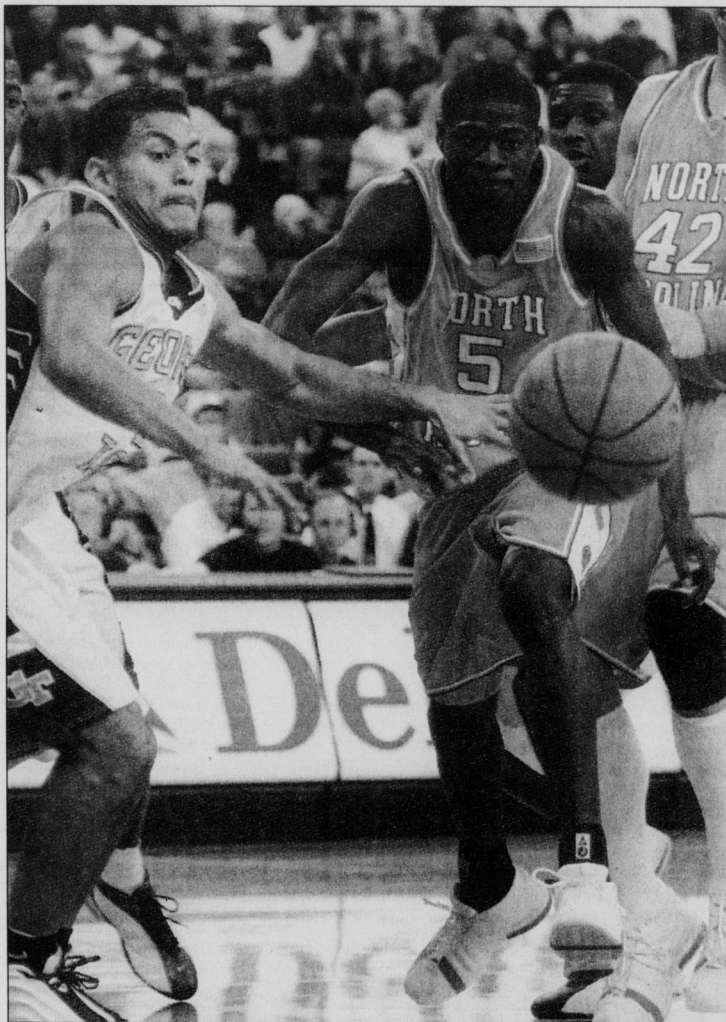
As the Yellow Jackets entered theirs, Akins had a dismal line. One of 9 from the floor, 0 of 5 from behind the arc. Six points. Georgia Tech coach Paul Hewitt told his leading scorer to keep his head up.

“Basically, (he said,) ‘Have confidence,’” said Akins, who averaged 15.8 points a contest going into Saturday's game. “Just play basketball. Keep the team together.”

Said Hewitt after the game: “He's going to keep shooting.”

See MEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 7

Men's Basketball
UNC . . . . .74
Georgia Tech . . . . .86



DTH/KARA ARNDT

UNC's Jackie Manuel (right) scrambles after a loose ball with Georgia Tech's Tony Akins. Manuel scored four points in 19 minutes in the Tar Heels' 86-74 loss Saturday afternoon.

## Tech 'D' Smothers Lang, UNC

By JAMES GIZA  
Senior Writer

ATLANTA – A quick glance at the sheet of paper lying in front of the NBA scout sitting on press row Saturday revealed the trio of players that he, presumably, had his eye on.

The players listed second and third on the scout's list – Georgia Tech guard Tony Akins and North Carolina forward Jason Capel – might have boosted their stock somewhat with their performances in the Yellow Jackets' 86-74 win.

But the man at the head of the dock, Kris Lang, probably wished he could have gotten another chance to flaunt his stuff at Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

Feeling the crunch from Tech's physical inside play, Lang was held scoreless in the second half and tied a season-low with four points on 2-of-6 shooting.

Lang, who had averaged 17.2 points in his six previous outings, also was bothered by foul trouble, which limited him to a total of 24 minutes.

“We had a hard time getting the ball in to Kris,” said UNC coach Matt Doherty. “When we did they jammed it pretty good.”

Tech coach Paul Hewitt said he simplified his team's defensive scheme to neutralize Lang, who scored 13 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and opened up the Tar Heels' perimeter game in their win against the Yellow Jackets on Dec. 2.

“Simplifying things made us a little bit more aggressive,” said Hewitt, who rotated fresh bodies in at a near constant pace. Six-foot-7 forward Ed Nelson was pri-

See LANG, Page 7



DTH/BRIAN CASSELLA

UNC's Caroline Hill topped N.C. State's Loni Worsley 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 to help the Tar Heels sweep the Wolfpack 7-0 on Sunday at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center. North Carolina is now 3-0.

## Tennis Passes ACC Test

By AARON FITT  
Assistant Sports Editor

The box score made it look like a blowout. But the 7-0 score didn't tell the whole story of the North Carolina women's tennis team's victory against N.C. State on Sunday at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center. For the first time this season, the 17th-ranked Tar Heels were tested.

“I think it's very important, especially before national indoors, to be tested a little bit,” said UNC coach Jen Callen.

“And (State) definitely came out very strong today.”

The top two doubles teams for North Carolina (3-0, 1-0 in the ACC) faced stiffer competition than they saw in their first two matches of the season, but they still pulled away. Marlene Mejia and Aniela Mojzis escaped a late rally to defeat Katrina Gildemeister and Kristin Nicholla 8-4.

At the No. 2 doubles spot, UNC's Julie Rotondi and Kate Pinchbeck had early trouble with their

Women's Tennis
N.C. State . . . . .0
UNC . . . . .7

State counterparts. But the duo went to a fitness game and won 8-3.

The No. 3 doubles match was the most competitive contest of the day. UNC's Kendall Cline and Lee Bairos came from behind to take an 8-7 lead, but Jen Jassawalla and Loni Worsley won the next game to tie the match. In the tiebreaker, Bairos got her overheads going and Cline came up with an ace to win the match for the Tar Heels, 9-8 (8-3).

“We started off a little bit slow,” Cline said. “I didn't really have a great serving game, so we were down a break from the get-go. But I feel really safe with Lee up at net, because pretty much anything that comes back she's going to demolish.”

Bairos brought her strong serve-and-volley game to the singles side, making quick work of Jassawalla, 6-2, 6-0. Mojzis and Pinchbeck also cruised, winning 6-0, 6-2 and 6-1, 6-0 respectively.

In the longest match of the day, UNC's Caroline Hill outlasted Worsley in a three-set marathon, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. Hill got frustrated in the second set and

See WOMEN'S TENNIS, Page 5