



SPORTS BRIEFS

Wrestlers to Grapple In ACC Tournament

The North Carolina wrestling team will compete in the 2002 ACC Tournament on Saturday at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh. The Tar Heels, who tied N.C. State for the 2002 regular season title, will be looking for their ninth conference title in the last 11 years.

UNC is led by seniors Brad Byers (141 pounds) and Matt Kenny (heavy-weight). Kenny is a three-time defending ACC champion and finished this season with a 19-7 record including five pins and six major decisions. Byers is a two-time ACC Tournament finalist and completed the 2002 regular season with a 27-11 record, recording eight wins by major decision.

Freshmen Chris Rodrigues and Evan Sola also have been impressive for UNC coach Bill Lam this season. Rodrigues (125 pounds) finished the year at 27-10 and totaled 10 wins by pin-fall. Sola (133 pounds) completed the regular season by winning 14 straight matches to improve to 24-8 for the year. Both Rodrigues and Sola earned ACC Performer of the Week honors earlier this season.

Other Tar Heels competing are: Nick Richmond (184 pounds), who was 17-12 this year; Michael Booth (149 pounds), who tallied an 11-6 record in 2002; Chris DiGuseppe (165 pounds), who finished 13-12; and Mark Canty (174 pounds), who was 15-11 this season.

Action gets underway Saturday at 11 a.m. The consolation finals are at 4:30 p.m., and the finals start at 7 p.m.

9 Swimmers Invited To Women's NCAAs

Nine members of the North Carolina's 15th-ranked women's swimming and diving team earned invitations Thursday to compete in the 2002 NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championships to be held March 21-23 at the University of Texas.

Seven of the nine swimmers have participated in the NCAA meet in previous years. Junior Laura Collier and sophomore Whitney Smith are first-time invitees.

Other swimmers qualifying for the meet are seniors Katie Hathaway, Stefanie Rulis and Molly Sullivan, junior Christy Watkins and sophomores Becky Acker, Jessi Perruquet and Kelly Weeks.

Hathaway, Perruquet and Weeks have earned first-team All-American honors in previous years at the NCAA Championships while Acker, Rulis and Watkins have earned honorable mention All-America status.

UNC, UM Gymnasts To Meet for 1st Time

The UNC gymnastics team travels to Minneapolis to take on ninth-ranked Minnesota on Saturday at the Sports Pavilion.

UNC's No. 22 ranking marks the first time since 1991 that the Tar Heels have been listed in the top 25. UNC's highest regular season ranking was in 1986 when the Tar Heels reached No. 12.

This is the first time that UNC and Minnesota have met in competition.

Men's Lacrosse Looks To Build on 6-OT Win

The 10th-ranked North Carolina men's lacrosse team returns to action for the first time since its six-overtime thriller against Navy when the Tar Heels host the Delaware Blue Hens on Saturday at Fetzer Field at 1 p.m.

UNC is off to a 3-0 start under second-year head coach John Haus. The Tar Heels have a three-overtime win against Ohio State, a victory at Bucknell and the win against Navy.

The Blue Hens dropped their opener to Loyola at home but have since beaten Rutgers and Mount Saint Mary's.

Baseball Heads to Ala. After Thrashing ODU

Coming off a 23-3 win at Old Dominion on March 5, UNC travels to Auburn this weekend for three games at Hitchcock Field at Plainsman Park.

The Tar Heels (6-5) and the Tigers have met just three times on the baseball diamond, including last year at the Coca-Cola Classic in Mobile, Ala. Auburn won that seven-inning game 11-1.

UNC defeated the Tigers 3-2 at the 1978 South Regional held in Auburn. In their only other meeting, the two teams played to a 3-3 tie in 1923.

— From Staff Reports

Former Foundation Head, 79, Dies of Stroke

Ernie Williamson, who led the Educational Foundation for 30 years, was remembered as graceful and accomplished.

Staff Report

Ernie Williamson, former North Carolina football player and 30-year executive director of the Educational Foundation, died Wednesday after suffering a stroke. He was 79 years old.

"The University of North Carolina had no better friend nor greater ambassador than Ernie Williamson," said Director of Athletics Dick Baddour. "Thousands of student-athletes over the past five decades were given an opportunity for a great education and a chance to compete in intercollegiate athletics due to his tireless efforts leading the Educational Foundation."

"Our Tar Heel family will deeply miss Ernie and his friendship."

Williamson, a native of Crewe, Va., played football at North Carolina in 1946 and headed the Educational Foundation from 1957-1986.

A lineman, Williamson was a teammate of Tar Heel halfback Charlie Justice when UNC posted an 8-2-1 record, won the Southern Conference title and played Georgia in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day.

Williamson began his professional football career after just one year at UNC, but that career ended prematurely because of a knee injury. He played pro football with the NFL's Washington Redskins and the All-America Conference's Los Angeles Dons.

Williamson earned an undergraduate degree from North Carolina in 1951 and a master's from UNC a year later. He then became an assistant football, track and wrestling coach at the University of

the South in Sewanee, Tenn. He served as an assistant football coach for two years and was head coach from 1954-56.

In 1957, Williamson returned to UNC to lead the Educational Foundation, a non-profit foundation that raises money for scholarships for student-athletes. He led the organization for three decades and remained as director of the endowment and consultant for many years after stepping down as its director in December 1986.

"Ernie was one of the nicest people I have ever known," said Moyer Smith, who succeeded Williamson as executive director of the Foundation. "He could walk into a meeting with a five-dollar UNC ash tray and walk out with a \$5,000 donation."

"He was just such a genuinely good, honest, friendly person who never met a stranger. Obviously, he loved the University so much, and that just came through any time he met someone."

Tennis Enters Break With Sweep

The UNC men's tennis team won eight of nine matches in its ACC-opening 7-0 win Thursday against N.C. State.

From Staff Reports

North Carolina opened its ACC men's tennis season Thursday afternoon with a 7-0 victory against N.C. State at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center.

The Tar Heels won two of the three doubles matches to earn the doubles point before sweeping all six singles encounters in straight sets.

UNC improved to 7-2 overall on the season and 1-0 in the ACC. The Wolfpack is 3-8 overall, 0-1 in the conference.

The No. 33 Tar Heels earned the doubles point after the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles team won in straight sets.

In singles, freshman Daniel Pinchbeck defeated Bryce McGroby 6-1, 6-3 at No. 4 singles, and sophomore Andrew Metzler defeated Jon Davis 6-3, 6-0 at No. 6 singles to increase the team lead to 3-0.

Senior Marcio Petrone then downed

Matt Lucas at No. 1 by a 6-4, 6-2 score to clinch for North Carolina.

Freshman Geoff Boyd, sophomore Nicholas Monroe and junior Trystan Meniane then won in order to conclude the 7-0 victory.

The Tar Heels are idle until playing in the Blue-Grass Championship at Montgomery, Ala., next Thursday.

Softball Splits in 1st Day of Tourney

PLANT CITY, Fla. — In the first day of play at the Speedline Invitational, the North Carolina softball team went 1-1, beating Temple 6-3 before losing to Florida Atlantic by the same score Thursday.

Against Temple in the first game, the Tar Heels totaled 11 hits and were led by senior catcher Natalie Anter, who went 3-for-3.

Senior first baseman Kelly Ramsey

had a two-RBI double and sophomore shortstop Emily Price added a triple, her second three-bagger of the season for UNC.

Senior Shannon Walsh earned the win, giving up three hits and striking out seven.

In their game against Florida Atlantic, the Tar Heels got all of their runs on a three-run home run by Walsh.

The shot, over the left-center-field fence, was her second home run of the season and the team's eighth on the year.

But despite out-hitting the Lady Owls 7-5, the Tar Heels were unable to pull out the win.

Freshman Ashley Allen took the loss for North Carolina. She pitched 3 2/3 innings before being relieved by freshman Erica Ennis.

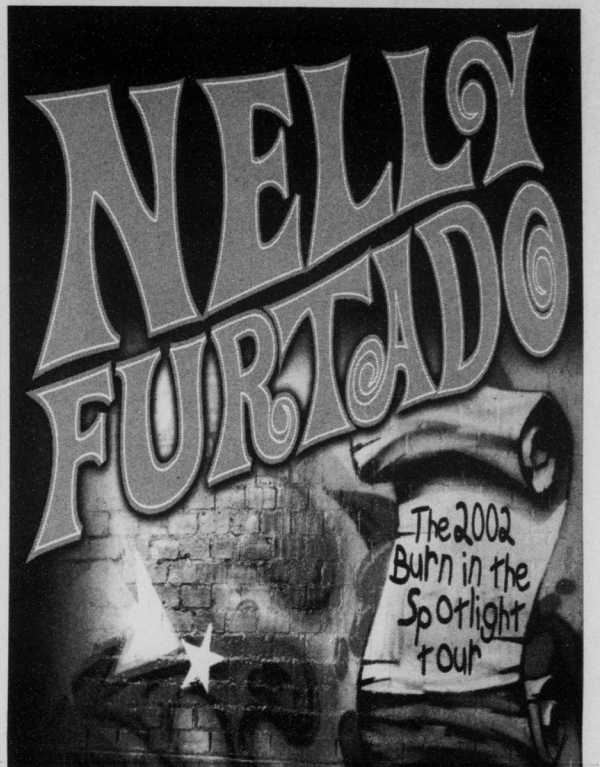
UNC (9-8) meets Mississippi on Friday at 10 a.m. and Central Michigan at 2 p.m.

On Saturday, the Tar Heels will match up against Nicholls State at 2 p.m. to wrap up pool play at the 24-team tournament.

Single-elimination bracket play begins Saturday at 5 p.m. and runs through Sunday afternoon.



UNC senior Marcio Petrone swept N.C. State's Matt Lucas 6-4, 6-2 in the Tar Heels' 7-0 victory Thursday.



March 12
The Ritz - Raleigh

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT THE RALEIGH ARENA BOX OFFICE ALL **ticketmaster** OUTLETS, ONLINE AT CC.COM OR CHARGE BY PHONE 919-834-4000. All dates, acts, and ticket prices are subject to change without notice. A Clear Channel Event.

WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

THE TIME MACHINE

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

DREAMWORKS PICTURES AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT A MACDONALD/PARKES PRODUCTION GUY PEARCE "THE TIME MACHINE" SAMANTHA MUMBA ORLANDO JONES MARK ADDY AND JEREMY IRONS BASED ON H.G. WELLS' NOVEL BY KLAUS BADEL PRODUCED BY LAURIE MACDONALD JORGE SARALEGUI ARNOLD LEROVIT PRODUCED BY WALTER F. PARKES DAVID WALDES SCREENPLAY BY JOHN LOGAN DIRECTED BY SIMON WELLS

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
INTENSE SEQUENCES OF ACTION VIOLENCE

www.countingdown.com/timemachine

OPENS FRIDAY, MARCH 8 IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE

The Taste of Colorado has found a home at The Streets at Southpoint!

FIREBIRDS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GRILL

This exciting "Colorado Lodge" style Steakhouse is already the talk of the Triangle!

HIGH CHECK AVERAGE
EXTENSIVE WINE LIST
IN-HOUSE WINE SEMINARS
HARDWOOD GRILLED STEAKS & CHOPS
EXHIBITION KITCHEN

NOW HIRING

FOR NEW STORE OPENING

We are looking for enthusiastic, committed people to fill the following positions:

★Servers★

Hosts • Bartenders • Bussers • Grill Cooks
Sauté Cooks • Pantry Cooks • Dishwashers

Benefits: Paid Vacations/Insurance
Flexible Schedules/Meal Discounts

Apply at Firebirds at The Streets at Southpoint
8030 Renaissance Parkway, Suite 910
near the Southpoint movie theaters
919-544-6332