



DEREK HOWLES
TRUE THAT ... DOUBLE TRUE

Rational analysts a rarity

College basketball fans don't agree on much. Except when it comes to one thing, of course: the incompetence of the game's announcers.

Want proof? Just look around the ACC. It's a subject on which fans of both North Carolina and Duke can unite, as evidenced by their joint pastime of relentlessly smacking Billy Packer around on Internet message boards, in bars and at work.

It's a subject that jacks up N.C. State faithful, who wonder why Dick Vitale, while calling a game in the Big Ten, spends so much time praising Roy Williams and so little time discussing the merits of Herb Sendek.

And it's a subject that irks Maryland fans, who might say Mike Patrick, a widely alleged Duke rooster, has so much bias, his first name should be Lenny.

In truth, the situation's not nearly as bad as many make it out to be. The vast majority of broadcasters — including those three — are mostly fair and genuinely enthusiastic. But it's not like there aren't flaws, either.

Packer isn't prone to ridiculous hyperbole, but he does have the annoying habit of picking one topic and harping on it more than that kid at the frat party who just wants to convince you that, 'Dude, he is sooo drunk right now.'

There's no doubt Vitale and his kid-on-Christmas-morning enthusiasm are positive for the game, but it's easy to wish ESPN would take a T.O. of its own (baby!) from Dickie V. every once in a while. Besides, he needs some time off to accept the lifetime achievement award for overbearing announcers with only one good eye. Stuart Scott will be presenting.

And, yes, sometimes Patrick does seem just a teensie bit partisan. After all, discussing the "brilliant" shooting of Trajan Langdon in the midst of a nail-biter is kind of suspicious. Especially when Duke's not playing. Also considering Trajan Langdon graduated in 1999.

All of which brings us to the bigger question: Who exactly is the best announcer in college hoops?

He's 62 years old. White-haired. Looks like Mr. Rogers. Speaks more random phrases than Cosmo Kramer and George Costanza put together. Always gets accused by his partners of never picking up a check. He goes by the name of Bill Raftery.

For instance, Raf's the only guy whom you can mistake for a duPont commercial. ("Nothing but nylon ... and other assorted materials" is a favorite synonym for a swish.)

He's the guy who patented the phrases "take it to the tin" (drive to the basket), "the kiss" (a shot off the glass), "send it in!" (a ferocious dunk) and "a little lingerie on the deck" (for when a defender's been totally fooled).

The guy who turned "man-to-man" into *mantaman*.

The guy who makes you smile every time he calls a cheap foul a "nickel-diiimer."

The only 62-year-old guy who can refer to a certain pair of male body parts ("onions!") and not make you cringe.

We don't get to hear him much here in ACC territory — he's usually teamed with Sean McDonough and Jay Bilas on ESPN's Big East telecasts — but when the next thriller between, say, Clemson and Wake Forest on WRAL becomes too insufferable, try moving on up the dial to see if Raf's calling a game that night.

After all, you can't spell Raftery without "rafter." And if there was such an honor for college basketball's greatest broadcasters, that's exactly where his jersey — or headset — would be.

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Hurricanes held at bay

NORTH CAROLINA FRESHMEN LEAD TEAM TO ROAD VICTORY

BY DEREK HOWLES
SENIOR WRITER

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — North Carolina started the game by scoring nine times on nine shots — once on each of its first nine possessions.

Still, Miami came back. UNC 80, Miami 70.

North Carolina recorded a rebound margin of plus-11 — an emphatic reversal from its first meeting with the Hurricanes in January, when it was dominated on the boards. Still, Miami kept it close.

North Carolina turned it over just 13 times — five fewer than its season average — and only five times in the second half.

Still, Miami wouldn't go away.

So Sunday night at the BankUnited Center, with the Hurricanes finding an answer for everything North Carolina threw at them, the No. 23 Tar Heels turned to the most unlikely of sources for its most important plays down the stretch: guards Bobby Frasor and Marcus Ginyard.

Typically relegated to the shadows of players such as Tyler Hansbrough, Reyshawn Terry

"In the second half I was more impressed with my team than I have been at any point this year." ROY WILLIAMS, UNC COACH

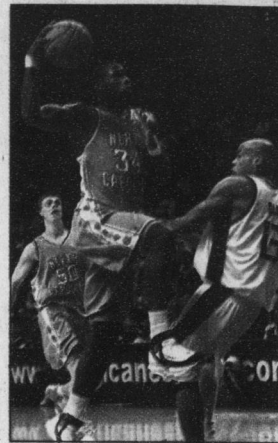
and David Noel in crunch time, the freshmen made several key baskets in the second half to help North Carolina pull away from Miami for an 80-70 win.

After North Carolina (15-6, 6-4 in the ACC) took a four-point lead with 17 minutes to go in the second half, Miami fought back to take the lead by one at the 12:26 mark. A Terry free throw soon tied the game at 56, and

with 11:49 to play, a TV timeout was called.

"At the 12-minute mark Coach (Roy Williams) really got into us to play defense," said Frasor, who finished with 13 points. "At that point we did, and we got stop after stop, Marcus got to the offensive boards, got some baskets there and got fouled, and I

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TARHEELBLUE.COM/JOHN LYON

North Carolina's David Noel (34) goes in for a layup against Miami's Guillermo Diaz (13) in the Tar Heels 80-70 win against the Hurricanes.

Heels outlast pesky 'Pack

Wrestlers wrest win from NCSU

BY AL KILLEFFER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Throughout history, wolves have been a source of trouble for many people.

They've blown down houses, dressed up in sheep's clothing — even disguised themselves as loved ones. Yet somehow, the wolves' adversaries have always come out on top.

On Saturday, the North Carolina wrestling team had its hands full with its own set of wolves at N.C. State's Reynolds Coliseum.

But like their fictional forbears, the Tar Heels avoided a number of close calls and escaped with a 20-16 win.

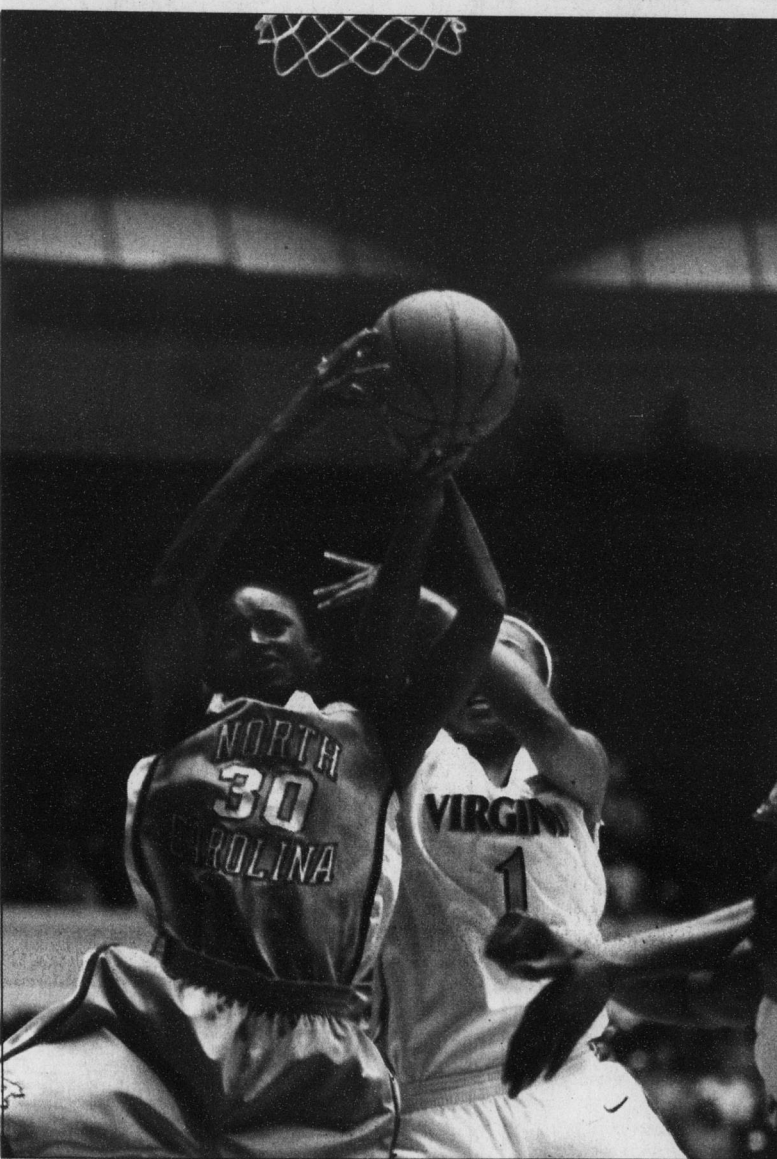
"Last time we wrestled them, we had a pretty bad match and we tied them," sophomore 174-pounder Alex Maciag said. "So I think coming back here today, we had a lot of making up to do."

Because of what he perceived as a subpar performance in the team's Jan. 20 tie against N.C. State in Chapel Hill, UNC coach C.D. Mock viewed that match as a loss.

And even though the Tar Heels (15-8-1, 3-2-1 in the ACC) avenged

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UNC STRUGGLES IN WIN



THE CAVALIER DAILY/JASON WATSON
North Carolina's LaToya Pringle (30) goes up for a rebound against Virginia's Lyndra Littles (1) in UNC's 72-60 victory against the Cavaliers on Sunday. Despite the win, the Tar Heels got outrebounded 48-35.

Team turns ball over 20 times

BY DANIEL MALLOY
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — After flashy point guard Ivory Latta and bruising post player Erlana Larkins, there isn't much room in the hype surrounding the No. 1 North Carolina women's basketball team to talk about junior Camille Little.

Maybe it's because she's a little shyer than the rest, but Little flies under the radar for the Tar Heels, despite making contributions in just about every category of the box score.

So it makes sense that even though Little scored 16 points, pulled down eight rebounds and swiped four steals Sunday, in UNC's 72-60 win against Virginia at University Hall, she wasn't brought out for the postgame press conference. The media requested Latta and Larkins instead.

It was a little funny, considering that Little made the two biggest tide-turning plays of the night to keep North Carolina (23-1, 10-1 in the ACC) from losing their second game in a row — UNC lost to Maryland in overtime Thursday.

The first one came less than four minutes into the second half. Virginia (13-10, 2-9) had just cut North Carolina's 15-point halftime lead to five. A livid Sylvia Hatchell called her second timeout in three minutes.

On the ensuing possession, Little got the ball at the top of the key, pump faked and drove to the hole for the basket and the foul. The big bucket keyed a 15-5 UNC run.

But the feisty Cavaliers wouldn't go away, and they knocked the Tar Heels lead down to seven with less than four min-

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Fencing teams end season on high note

BY JOANNE CANNELL
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — The North Carolina fencing team sent its seniors out in style this weekend. In both teams' final meet of the regular season, the Tar Heels not only finished 7-3, but did it in their archrival's house to boot.

The men's team went 5-0 Friday, and the women's team came back Saturday afternoon, despite a tough morning, to finish 2-3 at the Duke Invitational.

The men (24-11) dominated the Blue Devils 19-8, and with a solid performance from the women, the teams earned a point for North Carolina in the Carlyle Cup.

"We really want to beat Duke," said foil Steve Piantadosi, who finished 8-2. "That's why we get up in the morning, you know."

The senior is affectionately known by some on the team as "the legacy." His dad Steve also fenced for North Carolina under UNC coach Ron Miller.

When asked if his dad gave him any advice Friday, Piantadosi

said, "No, but he yelled at the referee a couple of times."

The Tar Heels didn't need any help from the referees, though. Their domination was simply a result of hard work.

The men's epee team finished first place at the invitational, while the sabre and foil squads took second and third, respectively.

"The men pretty much were consistent all day long," Miller said.

They also had a solid game plan in mind.

"Basically, we knew we had to go out there and work every single meet," said junior epee Mike Burkhart, who finished 11-4. "We kept on moving, kept on winning."

The seniors were more than pleased with how they finished their careers at UNC.

"We've gained more experience, and we fence better for it," said senior sabre Travis Wherry. "We come out with heart."

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Doubles fail to spark win

BY GREGG FOUND
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Her fist was pumped before the ball even touched the ground.

As soon as North Carolina's Sara Anundsen saw that her Notre Dame opponent's return would land out of bounds, she knew she and Jenna Long had just beaten the nation's No. 1 doubles team.

"It was really exciting,"

Anundsen said of the 8-3 victory. "We Notre Dame 5 were practicing tough for doubles

all week. We wanted to poach a lot, keep moving, and come out aggressive."

Unfortunately for Anundsen and Long, their victory in doubles not only failed to earn the doubles point for UNC, it also failed to dictate the course of the match as the Fighting Irish cruised to a 5-1 victory Sunday at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center.

"We have three really good doubles teams," said Notre Dame coach Jay Louderback. "So for us to win the doubles point without winning at No. 1, confidence

wise, it's really good. Hopefully our girls see they don't have to lean on No. 1 doubles."

Anundsen and Long, the 11th ranked doubles pair in the country, jumped out to an early 4-1 lead against Notre Dame's top-ranked sister duo of Catrina and Christian Thompson in the featured doubles match.

The two tandems split games to get to 6-3 before UNC won the

final two games, culminating with the Irish's out-of-bounds return.

"North Carolina made no errors, lobbed a lot and served well," Louderback said. "I give them a ton of credit."

The Notre Dame coach could afford to give them credit — his team didn't drop a singles match until after it had clinched the

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DTH/ROB LANGDON
North Carolina's Tanja Markovic serves the ball against Notre Dame's Kristina Stastrny on Sunday. Markovic lost the match in a tiebreaker.