



DTH/Scott Sharpe

Gator Bowl champs...again

Kelvin Bryant (left) and Ethan Hortan (below) rushed for 292 yards to lead the Tar Heels to a 31-27 victory over Arkansas in the 1981 Gator Bowl Dec. 28. Coach Dick Crum (above) displays the trophy — the second one he has taken from Jacksonville, Fla. In 1979 Crum's UNC team defeated Michigan 17.15 in the Cator Bowl Michigan 17-15 in the Gator Bowl.



UNC's perfect holiday

The Christmas holiday period wasn't just good for Carolina's football and basketball teams-it was perfect.

The football Tar Heels won their third bowl game in as many years by beating Arkansas in a 31-27 thriller, and the basketball team won seven games without a defeat.

UNC held a 31-10 fourth-quarter lead in the Gator Bowl but saw that nearly evaporate in a furious final quarter.

Carolina's co-most valuable players in the game were tailback Kelvin Bryant, who gained 148 yards against the Razorbacks, and Ethan Horton, a freshman who had played only a marginal amount of time during the regular season, but who gained 144 yards on 27 carries.

Exciting as the game was, some of the spectators in Jacksonville saw little of it, because of very thick fog which enveloped the stadium and got worse as the game went on.

The basketball team made it through the holiday period with its No. 1 national ranking intact. The Heels looked like the best team in the nation Dec. 26 when they defeated No. 2-ranked Kentucky 82-69.

Nos. 1 and 2 met again on Saturday and again the Tar Heels survived, as 65-60 winners over Virginia.

In between, the basketball Heels won the Cable Car Classic in San Francisco by edging Penn State 56-50 in overtime and beating Santa Clara 76-57; defeating William and Mary, 64-40; and beating Maryland, 66-50.

The Heels began the holiday period Dec. 19 with a 59-36 win over Rutgers in New York's Madison Square Garden.



UNC forward James Worthy (right) slarns home a basket over Kentucky center Melvin Turpin in the Tar Heel's 82-69 win over the then second-ranked Wildcats. The Tar Heels faced another second-ranked team when they played host to conference foe Virginia Saturday. The Tar Heels came back from a nine point deficit to win 65-60. Jimmy Black (above) and Michael Jordan (23) pressure Cavalier guard Othell Wilson.

