

# SPORTS

## Will Patriots sing Super Bowl Shuffle?

By LEE ROBERTS  
Sports Editor

*The Patriots are in the Super Bowl. The Patriots are in the Super Bowl.*  
Over and over, those words ring through my head and over and over those words just don't seem right. The Patriots? In the Super Bowl? The New England Patriots?

I grew up in New England, and for some strange reason, became emotionally attached to the Patriots.

*The Patriots are in the Super Bowl. The Patriots are in the Super Bowl.*

There were some awful years in there. Some awful players. Josh Ashton, the running back who fumbled anything he touched. John Tarver, the running back who never touched the line of scrimmage.

They always found ways to lose. In 1974, they started out the season 6-1 by beating some real (back then) heavyweights like Miami, Minnesota and Los Angeles. They finished 7-7 and broke everyone's heart.

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In 1976, after a couple of great drafts and the talented molding of the team by coach Chuck Fairbanks, the Patriots went wild, winning the AFC Eastern Division Title. All of New England went crazy. In the Patriots' first playoff game, they led the Oakland

### press box club

Raiders 21-17 with just moments left. But an official called a roughing-the-passer penalty, Kenny Stabler brought the Raiders downfield and they scored with seconds left. Heartbreak Hotel.

Five years later, the Patriots went 2-14 for the season.

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This year, New England started out typically. After a loss to Cleveland, New England was 2-3 and going nowhere. But suddenly something happened. Steve Grogan, Pats' regular quarterback in '76, started six games in a row for New England. They won all six.

But alas, in a crucial November game in New York, the aged Grogan went down with a broken leg, and the Patriots fell to the Jets 16-13 in overtime. Two weeks later, they went into Miami's Orange Bowl with a chance to win the AFC East by beating the Dolphins. Down 30-27 and driving late in the game, the Pats' Tony Eason threw an interception that cost the Pats the game and the title. When the big games come, the Patriots choooooo.

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But somehow New England collected itself, beat the Bengals the next week in Foxboro, and made the playoffs. In the wild-card game at the Meadowlands, the Patriots jumped to a 23-7 lead and won 26-14. It was only their second playoff win in 23 years.

The next week, they went into the L.A. Coliseum to face the Raiders, whom they had lost to earlier in the year. The Raiders were favored by everyone and his granny. The Patriots won, 27-20.

Two Sundays ago, the Patriots rolled into the Orange Bowl, where they hadn't won since 1966, and blew Miami off the field, 31-14. AFC Champions.

*The Patriots are in the Super Bowl. The Patriots are in the Super Bowl.*

No one believes in the Patriots. They will go to the Super Bowl in New Orleans against an awesome Chicago Bears team as 10-to-11 point underdogs. The Bears are 17-1, they have Sweetness, they have McMahon, they have the Frig, they have the Super Bowl Shuffle. They are a great football team. And they beat the Pats earlier this season, 20-7.

No one believes in the Patriots, except those who've followed them for years, have seen the failures, the heartbreaks, who have that hopeful feeling springing in their hearts that this is a team of destiny.

*The Patriots will win the Super Bowl. The Patriots will win the Super Bowl.*

I know the Bears are a great team and I respect them. But I'm betting with my heart that the Patriots, yes, the New England Patriots will win the Super Bowl.

By TOM MORRIS  
Staff Writer

Two unlikely heroes and an old standby helped the North Carolina Women's basketball team slip past Clemson 95-91 at Carmichael Auditorium Wednesday night.

The 15th-ranked Tar Heels were once again led by Pam Leake's 26 points, including two free throws with 29 seconds left that preserved the victory. However, the Tar Heels also got help from two unlikely performers in freshman Melaine Oden and sophomore Chrissy Watts. Oden scored 16 points in her first collegiate start and Watts came off the bench to add 15.

UNC led throughout the game but was unable to shake the Tigers, who battled back from 11- and 12-point deficits. The Tar Heels led 43-38 at the half.

Leake picked up her fourth foul with 17 minutes left in the second half and UNC leading 51-46.

After Clemson rallied to within one at 51-50, the Tar Heels held off the Tigers using a lineup of mostly underclassmen. "They had gotten the momentum," said UNC head coach Jennifer Alley. "We had Pam on the bench with four fouls. We had Tia on the bench with four fouls. We had to gamble. It was scary at times but it really paid off."

Leake returned with just under 12 minutes remaining and led a charge that put UNC up 75-64 with 9:20 left. "I think that after the kids settled down they were confident enough to attack but smart enough to pull it back out," Alley said. Clemson refused to quit and narrowed the lead to 87-85 with 2:20 left.

With the game on the line, Watts hit a follow shot and then drew a foul and knocked in two free throws to make it 91-85, UNC. Clemson's Cheryl Nix

## Substitutes, Leake pace 95-91 win

scored to cut it to 91-87, and an Oden basket made it 93-87. Nix and Louise Greenwood then each scored to pull the Tigers within one, 93-91.

Following a UNC timeout, Leake was fouled by Nickey Lynch with 20 seconds remaining and went to the line for a one-and-one. However, the shot clock had never been turned on so the clock was reset with 29 seconds remaining on the game clock and 13 seconds on the shot clock. Despite the interruption, Leake hit both free throws to provide the final margin.

Despite the narrow victory, Alley said she was pleased with the game and the play of Oden and Watts, but was dissatisfied with the mental errors that resulted in turnovers and excessive fouling. UNC turned the ball over 19 times and were called for 22 fouls. However, the Tar Heels' man-to-man defense forced 22 Tiger turnovers and held leading scorer Janet Knight to nine points. Greenwood led Clemson, 8-9 overall and 2-6 in the ACC, with 20 points. The Tar Heels improved to 13-4 and 4-1.

## The Daily Tar Heel

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