

Sports

UNC Athlete of the Week

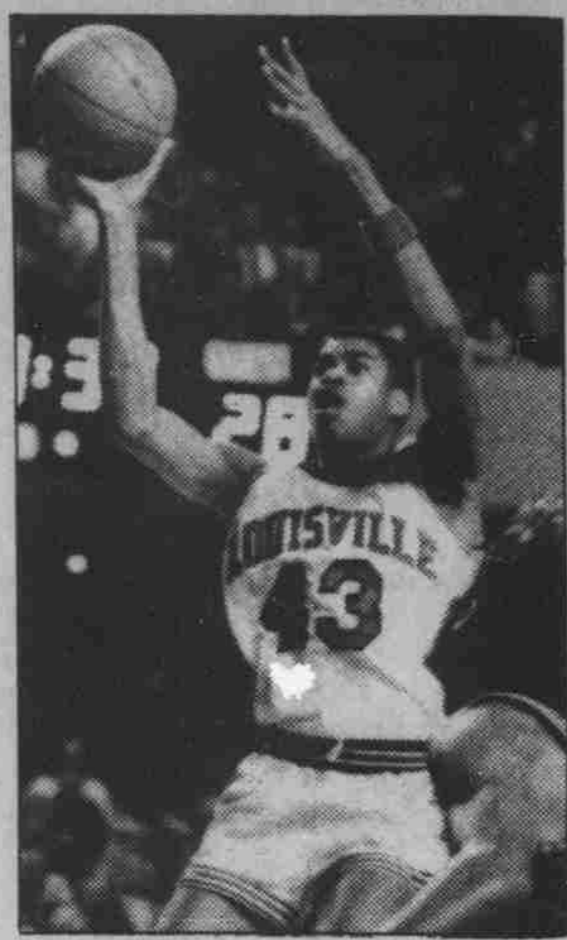
Take that, Dookies!

We at the *Daily Tar Heel* sports staff were so impressed, even inspired, by the odds-defying, Duke-denying antics of Louisville's freshman center Pervis Ellison in Monday night's NCAA championship that we proudly present him with the prestigious *UNC Athlete of the Week* award.

The sheer joy of the Cardinals' 72-69 win over Duke — of watching Coach K writhe in defeat, of hearing Brent Musburger try futilely to douse Duke's vanquished seniors with sympathy while getting in just a few more fawning descriptions of Johnny Dawkins, — is a feeling we'll cherish for years.

And it was all made possible by Ellison's 25-point, 11-rebound performance that left Duke center Jay (I now know I'll never play in the NBA) Bilas emotionally scarred for life. When "Never Nervous" Pervis, as teammate Milt Wagner dubbed him, dropped home the clinching free throws with time running out, you could almost hear the wicked Coach K wailing "I'm melting, I'm melting!"

Thanks to our friend Pervis (who, as you'll remember, also did a number on the Tar Heels a few weeks ago), Duke's most successful season ever ended in bitter disappointment and the realiza-



Pervis Ellison

tion that the Blue Devils will probably never come this close again.

With that established, we at the *DTH* can only say "For all you do, Pervis, this UNCAOTW is for you."

UNC tennis prolongs Blue Devils' dry spell

By SCOTT FOWLER
Sports Editor

DURHAM The pall that was cast over Duke Monday night by Louisville had not lifted by Tuesday afternoon, and the UNC tennis team took full advantage to upset Duke, 6-3, in its biggest win of the season.

The Blue Devils came into this match with a 17-6 record, a conference mark blemished only by nationally-ranked Clemson and a desire to avenge UNC's mastery over Duke in past years.

The Tar Heels appeared to be ripe for their role. They had just come back from a 1-3 road trip to Montgomery, Ala. and had fallen to 9-11 on the year. Last week UNC had also lost to Georgia Tech 7-2 at home, a team that Duke beat 5-4 earlier in the year.

But the Tar Heels ignored the odds, playing inspired tennis and handily doing in Duke to run their conference record to 3-1.

UNC coach Allen Morris, who on Sunday had watched his team pull an upset of No. 22 University of California at Irvine, wasn't expecting a win. "I'm surprised," he admitted. "We've had a lot of adversity this year, and I just give

all the credit in the world to these guys."

Duke coach Steve Strome was somewhat less impressed with his charges. "That was the worst performance I've seen in quite awhile," he said. "It was terrible. We absolutely did not come to play, and it beats the shit out of me why."

Maybe the UNC players had something to do with it. Pollack, in particular, was a force in the victory, as he was instrumental in winning two of the swing matches that the team score would depend on.

The sophomore trailed 5-1 in the first set against Duke's Tom Frisher, but rebounded to win 12 of the next 13 games for a stunning 7-5, 6-1 win at No. 2 singles. "I wasn't up enough at the beginning, but then it felt better and I began to keep the ball in play more," he said.

Another big singles win came from a somewhat unexpected source, as Koley Keel lost the first set but then pounded his way to a convincing 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 win over Duke's Phil Ragonetti at No. 6 singles, a trouble spot for UNC for much of the season. "I chipped and came in on his backhand all day long,"

the lefthander Keel said.

Jeff Chambers took the No. 1 singles over the Blue Devils' always-emotional Jeff Hersh, 6-2, 1-6, 6-2, and Mark DeMattheis swept to a straight-set victory over Ricky Peck, 7-5, 6-2, for UNC's other two singles wins.

Weilbaecher lost his singles to Keith Kambourian 6-2, 6-4, and Jon Coss was beaten by Duke's Bob Williams 6-0, 7-5 in the other two singles.

After the six singles matches the Tar Heels were up 4-2, needing only one victory in the three doubles for a team victory. They got two in impressive fashion after Morris gave the team an impromptu pep talk before the beginning of the doubles.

At No.1 doubles, Chambers and DeMattheis handily defeated Hersh and Peck in a match marred by several disputes by the Duke tandem. Hersh yelled a profanity, was assessed a warning and called for an umpire, all within the space of a minute early in the second set.

Chambers and DeMattheis weren't rattled in the slightest, promptly breaking Hersh's serve and never looking back on the way to a 6-4, 6-

2 win.

Pollack teamed with Weilbaecher to clinch the second doubles victory with a hard-fought, 7-5, 6-4 win over Frisher and Ragonetti at No. 2 doubles.

Williams and Kambourian teamed to defeat Coss and Keel 6-4, 6-3 at No. 3 doubles in the last match.

The Tar Heels will in all likelihood run their ACC record to 4-1 and even their overall slate at 11-11 with a victory over the always-abysmal N.C. State Thursday. However, matches with Maryland and Clemson loom on the horizon Friday and Sunday, respectively.

But they can worry about those later. Tuesday was a time for celebration for a team that hasn't had too many of those this season.

Baseball picks start tomorrow

Many sports fans agree that spring doesn't officially start until the opening pitch on opening day of the Major League baseball season. Those of us at the *DTH* who follow this edict will put our battered reputations on the line beginning tomorrow in an attempt to prognosticate the outcomes of the four divisions. Is this finally the year the Cleveland Indians will jump into sixth place in the AL East? Are the K.C. Royals serious? Is there life after Joaquin in St. Louis? Is Pete Rose ready to make Tommy Lasorda really bleed Dodger Blue?

Find out the answers to these and many other silly questions in the *DTH Baseball Preview* beginning tomorrow with the first of two installments: the American League.

Balanced gymnasts spring into NCAAs

North Carolina gymnasts won each one of the individual events in capturing another dual meet victory last weekend over Kentucky and Radford. UNC's Stacy Kaplan, who was third in the all-around competition, won the vault with a 9.5. Kristin Bilotta took first in the bars with a 9.3. Missy Shaffner won the balance beam with a 9.35. And

Tammy Gilbert scored a 9.3 in the floor exercise to take that event.

Outstanding individual performances have been a way of life for the gymnastics team. In a dual meet on Feb. 2, Kristin Bilotta set a UNC record in the bars (9.7) and Stacy Kaplan also set a school record in the floor exercise (9.7). As a team, UNC sports a 12-2

overall record which is good enough to send it to the NCAA Regionals in Morgantown, W.Va., beginning this Friday.

The 16th-ranked Tar Heels will face No. 4 Georgia and No. 5 Florida as well as Maryland, Kentucky and West Virginia in the regionals. The UNC team and individuals will be competing to qualify for the NCAA Finals in Gainesville, Fla., on April 18.



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TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS

**TODAY
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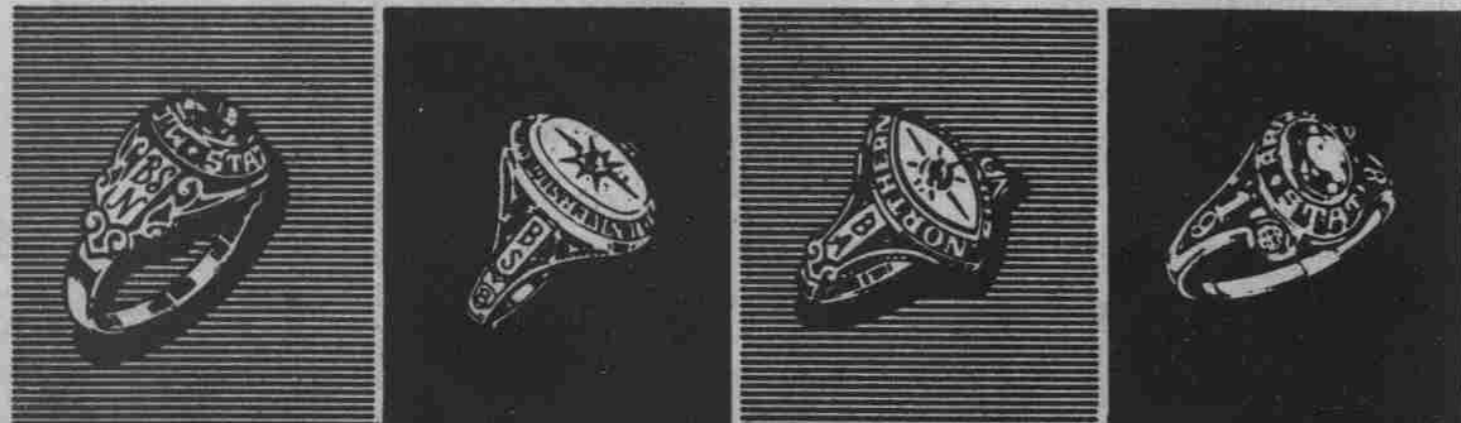
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