# Sunday's win over Wolfpack was classic example of ACC 'basketbrawl'

By DAVE GLENN Staff Writer

RALEIGH — The Wolfpack came out scratching and clawing in front of a rowdy N.C. State crowd in Reynolds Coliseum Sunday, but it was the North Carolina Tar Heels' scrappy defense and physical play that stopped the Pack attack in the end.

Outstanding pressure defense by Steve Bucknall, Kevin Madden and Scott Williams hounded the Wolfpack into a 16-for-37 shooting performance in the second half as the Tar Heels muscled their way to a 77-73 victory.

The first half featured an aggressive Tar Heel defense that upset the rhythm of State sharpshooters Vinny Del Negro and Rodney Monroe. The two combined for 3-of-9 shooting and only one three-pointer in the opening 20 minutes of play.

"I thought we played a good game in the first half with our scrambling and our trapping," Tar Heel coach Dean Smith said. "Steve Bucknall did a tremendous job on Vinny Del Negro, and Del Negro is a great player."

Bucknall, a junior from London, England, typified the gritty Tar Heel effort throughout the game. The 6foot-6 forward went after loose balls with a vengeance, somehow gaining

possession for the Tar Heels amongst a pile of bodies.

The physical nature of the game can lead to some interesting developments. Bucknall's reasoning tells the tale.

"If the ball goes to the floor, it's our job to do whatever we can to come out with it," Bucknall said. "Sometimes little things like that can win you games."

The little things became big things late in the first half when Tar Heel guard Ranzino Smith was elbowed in the head by N.C. State forward Avie (Mo) Lester. Blood streamed down Smith's face as the referees allowed play to continue while Smith ran to the UNC bench.

The senior Chapel Hill native returned in the second half after receiving 12 stitches to close the cut over his left eye, sporting a thick, white bandage wrapped around his

Ignoring the hostile crowd, the rejuvenated Smith hit a clutch 10-foot jumper in the lane with under 10 minutes remaining after the Wolfpack had trimmed the Tar Heel lead to three. Two minutes later, he burned Del Negro and knifed through the lane for another soft jumper after State had climbed to within 58-57.

Afterwards, Smith said he didn't Williams with three minutes left to

think Lester's elbow was intentional, play. but others had their doubts.

"I really don't know what he was trying to do," said UNC forward Kevin Madden, who had 16 points on the day. "I just know that we try to be physical and aggressive, but

The only man who knows for sure if it was intentional is Lester, who had a turnover, a rebound and a slice of Smith's head to show for his 10 minutes of play.

Lester, who is shooting just 27 percent from the field and is averaging an amazing one foul for every four minutes of play, said that the officials were ready for a physical

"The officials knew it was a big game," Lester said. "There was a lot of emotion on the court, and they didn't want to let the game get out of control."

The game never did get out of control, although Madden sent Del Negro into the fifth row with an elbow

late in the second half. Madden, a 6-foot-5 junior from Staunton, Va., followed his airmail package with two big buckets in the last five minutes of the game, including a rim-rattling slam off of a beautiful backdoor feed from Scott

trademark. "We're going to start getting after teams with some real defensive pressure," Williams said. "They're going to have a tough time running

hoop to open up a 10-point lead.

The first half ended with Charles

Shackleford netting a three-point

play and a reverse dunk, the latter

coming seven seconds before half-

time. Lebo launched a 25-foot shot

at the buzzer that fell through the net,

but he was just a little too late getting

it off. Thus, a lead which could have

been much larger, according to Tar

Heel coach Dean Smith, was only 42-

by as many as 18 to 20 in the first

half," Smith said. "We didn't take

advantage of the opportunities we

had late in the half. I thought we

played very good defense in the first

half with our scramble and our

squads. After the first 20 minutes

both Reid and 'Pack forward Chucky

Fouling was a problem for both

The physical nature of the contest

trapping."

"I thought we could have been up

needed him most — crunch time.

brought the Wolfpack within two.

biggest plays at the end.

room at 75-68.

an easy two."

their offenses."



from page 1

The battle between North Carolina's J.R. Reid (with ball) and N.C. State's Charles Shackleford was just one of many in Sunday's game

### Track's Farmer qualifies for NCAAs

By PATRICK O'NEILL

reached both of his goals Saturday night by winning the 3000-meter run at the Eastman Kodak Track and Field Invitational and bettering the qualifying standard for March's NCAA indoor track championships.

Farmer, who ran a personal best of 7:57.63, was helped out by UNC assistant coach George Nicholas, who decided to serve as a "rabbit" in the race, which was held in Johnson City, Tenn., on the campus of East Tennessee State University.

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who purposely sets a last early pace to aid other runners in achieving fast to aid other runners in achieving fast Pollard ran 3:41.21 for second place.

State race after pacing Farmer to a strong early lead.

> "I'm very pleased with my performance." Farmer said, "especially that can run this fast so early in the

Farmer's teammate, Mike McGowan, was fifth in the 3,000 in 8:15.03. Several other UNC runners turned in strong performances in UNC's first meet of the indoor campaign. UNC sophomore Johann Boakes ran a 4:07.49 to finish second in the

collegiate mile.

A "rabbit" is a term for a runner mile relays. In the one-mile relay, the Pollard, who anchored both recordsetting races, led the two-mile relay team of Kari Krehnbrink, Monica Witterholt and Michelle Faherty to another second-place finish in a time of 8:53.01.

> The time would have set a new meet record, but a strong Villanova team breezed in with a time of 8:49.49 to take first place and establish the

4:52.07 to finish fourth in the wom-The UNC women's team set two en's mile and establish the thirdfastest time in Tar Heel history.

school records in the one- and two-

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#### Brown had three. By game's end, though, Reid, Williams, Brown and State freshman Chris Corchiani had four apiece, and Shackleford had joined State coach Jim Valvano on the bench with his fifth. came to a head late in the first stanza. State's Avie Lester, apparently riled Kaplan, gymnasts finish second

From staff reports third with 35.85. WILLIAMSBURG, Va. - The North Carolina gymnasts went to Virginia Sunday and emerged with

a second-place finish behind home team William and Mary. The Tar Heels earned 177.35 points to William and Mary's 178.20, while James Madison University finished third with 172. 05.

Leading the way for UNC was stellar junior Stacy Kaplan, who finished second in the all-around competition with 36.0 points, while sophomore Kristin Bilotta finished

then threw in some words that Buck

sion, Lester threw an elbow that

in full force Sunday, hit a hook shot

and two baseline buckets to cut the

picking up their fourth fouls, the

pressure mounted. But Smith, his

head bandaged, hit a short jumper

to up the lead to three, and after two

Shackleford free throws, he hit a

tough 10-foot jumper to bring the

lead back up to three with 7:43 to

close, pulling even at 62 on a Vinny

Del Negro trey, but they just couldn't

surge enough to overcome the Tar

cut the lead down to one or two, we

just couldn't get over the hump,"

"It seemed like every time we would

From then on, the Pack kept it

With both Reid and Williams

cut took 12 stitches to close.

chose to ignore.

lead to three.

The Tar Heels took first in the vault, behind Kaplan's 9.4, and the uneven bars, with freshman Debbie Sigler pulling out a 9.3. North Carolina swept the uneven bars as Bilotta took second with a 9.25 and junior Missy Shaffner, performing before a virtual hometown crowd, took third with a 9.15.

Freshman Michele Zafrani took fourth on the balance beam.

up, drew a charge on Bucknall and Valvano said. "They made a lot of big plays in those situations, and we had some good shots that we just But on the ensuing State posses- couldn't get down."

One of those plays came from Madden, who hit a layup and then

caught senior Tar Heel guard Ranzino Smith, making his return after picked up a beautiful backdoor feed a thigh bruise, above his left eye. The from Williams for a slam with 3:01 left to move the Tar Heels ahead by The Wolfpack put the squeeze on six. to start the second half. Brown hit Then came a crucial Tar Heel from the baseline and Shackleford, score. Williams, moving right-to-left

> ball in. The three-point play gave the Heels a 75-68 lead with 2:12 to go. But Monroe, who stole Corchiani's spotlight Sunday, hit a three-point

through the lane, head-faked Brian

Howard into a foul as he laid the

bomb which Reid countered with a drop-step lay-in. After a State turnover and a missed Smith free throw, Monroe had a

chance to cut the lead to three. But his trey missed as well, setting up two of the game's biggest plays. Shackleford, who would finish

with a game-high 26 points, rebounded the miss, but Reid went up with him to reject the shot. Brown then put up a shot that Williams batted all the way downcourt.

"I just really wanted to take some time off the clock," Williams said. "I knew there was about 22 seconds at the time that I hit it, and I figured that it would take at least three or

four seconds to bring it up." After Quentin Jackson chased it down, Monroe missed another trey, thereby snuffing out any last Wolf-

pack hopes. "We wanted to come in here, work hard and get out with a win," Lebo

said. "We didn't let up, we didn't give up and we didn't get flustered by the crowd or the situation. "When the game was tied, our

composure showed, and I think that's

a sign of a good team."

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