NCAA destroys concept of modern student-athlete

"Over the next 12 months, a relatively small group of talented college students will generate more than \$1 billion in revenue. In return they will receive scholarships worth little more, and sometimes less, than classmates who generate no revenue at all. Many of the generators will spend four years of college penniless and unhappy, then leave without a pro contract and without a diploma. Instead of the revenue being returned to those who have produced it . . . it will be squandered on bureaucratic overhead, needless national championships and windfall allocations which schools can't plan on getting.' - Dick DeVenzio

It is not enough to state that the athletes are being systematically abused by college institutions. In every aspect of their lives, these modern-day athletes are being subjected to a plantation-style system in which they barter their hard-earned skills cheaply — for a paltry collegiate scholarship. In the process, they lose many of the privileges and rights that most other, normal students enjoy.

The Pell grant was originally established so that underprivileged students could enjoy a college experience that would be free of the shackles of monetary inequality. However, under NCAA rules, a student-athlete is only allowed to keep a maximum of \$900 out of a possible \$2100. His collegiate athletic association is given the remainder. Clearly this policy is misguided.

Says University of Georgia football coach Vince Dooley: "The Pell Grant limitation is one of the most discriminating things in college athletics. A regular student can get the whole thing, but not the athlete."

The moralistic Bob Knight concurred: "The one thing that the NCAA does not care about is the kids. The schools make the rules and they don't care about the kids. When's the last time that they made a rule for a kid instead of against him?"

To deny these students, many of whom come from severely impover-

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Opinion

ished families, money which is lawfully theirs is, at best, criminal. It is, however, a singular digression in a series of institutional abuses. Millions of dollars that are pro-

duced by basketball and football players are needlessly wasted on other sports such as softball, baseball and gymnastics, far removed from the individuals who originally produced this gigantic pork barrel.

Many colleges claim that little money is being made, but as DeVenzio claimed in an interview with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution in mid-December, "They're making big money. They're just giving it away to all of the non-revenue sports. Tennessee has four assistant baseball coaches. That tells you all you need to know about how the players' money is being wasted."

But alas there is a steadily burgeoning revolutionary movement in college athletics. Behind it all is DeVenzio, a former Duke player and academic All-America who is doing his best to convince the players of the system's injustice.

Working from his townhouse in Charlotte, DeVenzio is embarking upon a nationwide tour of over 30 campuses in his attempt to educate the players. In a phone interview with The Daily Tar Heel, DeVenzio said, "There is no one who is actively trying to help the athletes get what they deserve . . . I feel that the only way that we can get them to rise up is by going out and talking to them, informing them of their rights so that they will become more active. They will get nothing from the benevolence of the colleges or the NCAA."

Substitute the words 'athlete' and 'NCAA' for 'workers' and 'bourgeoisie,' and DeVenzio's words sound exactly like those of any modern-day socialist revolutionary. For many, especially those who still believe in the anachronistic ideal of amateur athletics, his words are those of a

Yet the concept of amateur athletics is dead and has been for years. There are many examples of payoffs by alumni and agents, of gambling and of the millions of dollars in windfall reaped in just one Saturday

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of home football action. (The gate receipts from one game are ample to pay for all of a school's basketball and football scholarships for a year).

It is deplorable that thousands of athletes must go to a university where they are valued purely for their physical skills, and thus their enormous financial promise. Though given a free education, they choose not to pursue it due to ignorance, time constraints and, in many cases, a public school system that inadequately prepares its students, especially its athletes, for middle school, much less a college environment.

Their lives are completely regimented. In the mornings, they go to "crip" classes which are recommended solely on the basis of keeping the "student"-athlete eligible to play. After a grueling afternoon, consisting of practice and/or training sessions, the athlete must attend a study hall where his tutor often does the remedial work for him.

This oppressive scenario is not fiction. It is only a measure of the amount of concern that the system has for the individual. Unless a concerted effort is made among the players, it is unlikely that the script will be changed, only that the actors

"Presiding over the exploitation of today's student-athlete is the NCAA," DeVenzio said, "a cumbersome association of diverse schools which has grown rich, out of control and irresponsible."

Yet, surprisingly, aside from the absurd NCAA leviathan and the colleges themselves, the largest obstacle facing DeVenzio has been player ignorance. Many student-athletes are not cognizant of the iniquity. Instead they are distracted by the inherent pressures of classes, their sport, and their social lives. A high-minded revolution to benefit later generations of afflicted adolescents is far from their list of priorities.

Yet DeVenzio refuses to give up

"All of this will change as soon as the student-athletes realize their value and decide to end their subjugation," he said. "The time is near when perhaps two Final Four basketball teams will make it clear to everybody that the theft of their money is over.'

Let us hope this will occur before thousands more are subjected to this unfair treatment.

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Heels win in 2 OT, 75-74

By LANGSTON WERTZ

North Carolina went to its own personal grandmother's house Tuesday night for some home cooking and hoped for a victory to end a three-game losing skid.

Grandma's house, er, Carmichael Auditorium, again housed a nail-biter of a basketball game. More importantly, Carmichael again was the host of a UNC victory, this time over ACC rival N.C. State in double overtime, 75-

"This is a big victory for us," an elated UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said after the game. "We're down in numbers. We've had to move a lot of people around to positions they're not used to playing."

Hatchell and UNC almost didn't have the chance to celebrate

a win, however. The Wolfpack fought back

from a 54-45 deficit with 7:58 to go to tie the game at 66 with eight seconds left following a Sharon

Manning layup. N.C. State, which hadn't led in

regulation, then took its first lead of the game following another Manning layup with 1:43 left in the first overtime. Wolfpack guard Gerri Robuck sent UNC's Marsha Matthews to the charity stripe for a one-and-one 43 seconds later. Matthews hit the front end and missed the second.

State's Debbie Bertrand was then fouled in desperation by Tar Heel junior Jenny Yopp with 12 ticks left. Bertrand calmly swished two free throws and State led 72-

Following a UNC timeout, ACC leading scorer Kathy Wilson, who finished with 29 points on nine-of-21 shooting, ran down the baseline, got a pick from Merlaine Oden and nailed a 22foot baseline jumper to tie the game at 72 and send it into a second overtime.

"That was a special play we set up for Kathy," Hatchell said. "Thank goodness she hit it."

Said Wilson, "When she set up that play I was thinking, 'Gosh Kathy, you've been shooting horribly.' But if coach has that kind of confidence in me to hit the shot, I'll take it."

In the second overtime, UNC rode a Matthews free throw and a pair from Oden to a three-point lead with 2:09 left. State's Lori Phillips hit a jumper over Wilson at the 1:45 mark to draw the Wolfpack to within one, 75-74.

State had the chance to win the game when Kerri Hobbs was fouled by Oden and went to the line for two charity shots. Hobbs missed both shots but following a Wilson drop-step miss, State had another chance.

"We had our chances," Wolfpack coach Kay Yow said. "But we were unaware of the time at the end — and that just can't happen — but it did."

State's unawareness prevented them from getting a good shot in the final 32 seconds of play. Nicole Lehmann's desperation 21-footer fell short of the mark and UNC's Chryss Watts threw her arms high in celebration. State's leading scorer, Kerri Hobbs, knelt sadly in defeat.

"The team put out a great effort for us," Yow said. "But it was in spurts. Carolina did a good job closing down our passing lanes and our inside game. But I think the difference was perhaps our slow start."

That slow start allowed UNC to forge a 15-4 lead in the first half, disallowing a N.C. State field goal until a Sandee Smith jumper at the 13:29 mark. In fact, the Tar Heel defense held State to only 20 points in the first half, leading 28-20 at the break.

Wilson felt the early lead helped UNC and said she was especially happy to win a 50-minute basketball game.

"I would have cried if we had lost," Wilson said. "It's really a shame that someone had to go home a loser."

With the loss, the Wolfpack falls to 8-13 overall, 2-8 in the ACC. UNC improves to 9-11, 3-7.

Notes: UNC players Wendy Gatlin and Kim Oden are no longer eligible to play for UNC due to their new eligibility status

. . . The Tar Heel win was its first over the Wolfpack since an 81-79 OT victory in 1986 ... State freshman Nicole Lehmann hit 3of-9 three pointers en route to a career-high 19 points . . . next up for UNC is a Feb. 13 date in Atlanta versus Georgia Tech.

Women splash easily past State

By CHRIS SPENCER Assistant Sports Editor

Amidst discussions of, among other things, the cultural ramifications of "ALF," a very relaxed North Carolina women's swim team comfortably downed N.C. State 155-110 Tuesday night at Koury Natatorium to end their dual meet season.

If the Tar Heels had lost, which afterwards seemed a very, very remote possibility, it would have been the first time they ever finished with a losing ACC record. Instead, they now sport an 8-3 mark, 3-2 in the ACC, heading into the ACC Championships Feb. 18-20. The Wolfpack fell to 5-5, 1-4.

A slew of Tar Heels were multiple winners in the meet, as UNC took 10 of 14 events.

Leading the onslaught were a pair of freshmen, Jill Benda and Devon Hyde. Benda, who hails from, ironically, Raleigh, swam on the meet's opening event, a Tar Heel-winning 200-yard medley relay. She also swept the 100-yard backstroke in 1:00.46 and the 100-yard butterfly in 59.37.

Hyde, a Reston, Va., native, took the 200-yard backstroke in 2:09.9 and the grueling 400-yard IM in 4:38.42.

"It's a week out of the ACCs, so we were looking forward to that," Hyde said. Added Benda, "We were just trying to have a little fun." Senior Susan O'Brien, junior

Wendy Powers and freshman Tammy Virag also won more than one event on the night. O'Brien swam in the 200-yard medley relay, as did Powers and Virag, and took the 50-yard 20. Villanova

freestyle in 24.54. Powers added the 100-yard breastroke in 1:08.17, while Virag swam on the winning Tar Heel 200-yard freestyle relay. Other Tar Heel winners included

juniors Jennifer Cline and Kim Beattie. Senior Erika Schmidt took the one-meter diving event with a score of 428.99.

"We didn't use some of our usual people tonight, and we changed the lineup a bit," Tar Heel coach Frank Comfort said. "For some girls, this was their final meet since we can only take 18 to the ACCs."

Comfort referred to the Tar Heels' next confrontation, the ACCs, as an opportunity to have more swimmers qualify for the NCAA meet.

AP Top 20

1. Temple (23)

2. Purdue (16)

3. Arizona (15)

4. Oklahoma (

5. Pittsburgh (

6. UNC

7. UNLV

8. BYU

(tie) Duke

Kentucky

11. Syracuse

12. Michigan

14. Kansas Stat

16. N.C. State

17. Vanderbilt

18. Wyoming

19. Indiana

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13. lowa

15. Bradley

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		_
	18-1	1,204
	19-2	1,191
	21-2	1,162
9)	20-2	1,134
2)	16-2	927
	16-3	905
	20-2	900
	17-1	859
	16-3	859
	16-3	749
	17-5	701
	18-4	605
	16-6	378
е	14-4	323
	14-3	283
	14-4	269
	14-5	173
	17-4	146
	10.0	404

he said. "We had a couple of minor injuries tonight, and next week is going to be fun time." The two freshmen stars of the meet

"The conference meet will be wild."

said that while the team was relaxed Tuesday night, it must pull together in Raleigh, site of the conference "Our freshman class is very strong,

and it has brought this team together," Hyde said. "It's (the ACC meet) our first really big meet, and it will be a learning experience."
Added Benda, "I think everybody

was looking to win tonight, and I'm excited about next week. I'm really looking forward to it."

If that meet is anywhere near as fun as Tuesday's was, the Tar Heels should do just fine.

DTH Top 10

1. Temple (7)	109
2. Arizona (1)	90
3. Purdue (4)	9
4. Duke	8
5. UNLV	5
(tie)Pittsburgh	5
7. Oklahoma	45
8. UNC	45
9. Brigham Young	23
10. Kentucky	2
Also Receiving Votes: Mich	
Syracuse 13, N.C. State 5, Hersey	
4, Big East 2, UNCC 1, Villanova 1,	
1, Indiana 1.	
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