

## Sports

## State beats netters, wins league

By DOUG HOOGERVORST  
Staff Writer

The North Carolina and N.C. State volleyball teams squared off on the hardwood of Carmichael Auditorium Tuesday night in a battle for the top spot in the ACC. In a previous non-ACC match, the Tar Heels beat the Wolfpack in four sets. State returned the favor this time, trouncing UNC in four sets, 15-4, 15-11, 13-15, 15-1.

In beating UNC, State all but won the ACC championship with a perfect 4-0 conference record. The Wolfpack, 15-8 overall, must win its two remaining ACC matchups before they can be official regular-season champs. The Southern Region's seventh-ranked Tar Heels had a five-game winning streak snapped and fell to

22-7, 5-1 in the ACC.

State squashed any glimmer of comeback hope the Tar Heels had in Game 4, winning decisively, 15-1. UNC had just won a squeaker in Game 3, 15-13, and was on an emotional high. The Wolfpack scored the game's first five points before an Andrea Wells' kill made the score 5-1. Then there was no stopping State.

The Wolfpack's Patty Lake (four service aces, 11 digs) stepped to the service line with the score 9-1. She had two aces in a string of five points that saw smiles of celebration cross the faces of the State players. UNC stopped Lake's serve, but it was all for naught, as State's Volire Tisdale slammed match point down one serve later.

Tisdale looked like she was related

to the former Oklahoma hoop star, Wayman Tisdale, with her leaping performance. The 5-foot-8 senior was jumping over tall buildings in a single bound and led all hitters with 21 kills in the four-set match.

"N.C. State definitely outplayed us," coach Peggy Bradley-Doppes said. "They played much better defense and I felt they blocked better and played with a little bit more emotion. They played super. We came into this match feeling we were playing very good volleyball and we did this past weekend (victories over Clemson, Georgia and Georgia Tech)."

Bradley-Doppes added, "I don't want to say we looked past N.C. State because I don't think anyone ever looks past N.C. State. I think we

thought it was going to be a good match, but we'd work hard and we'd win. We can't ever go in that way."

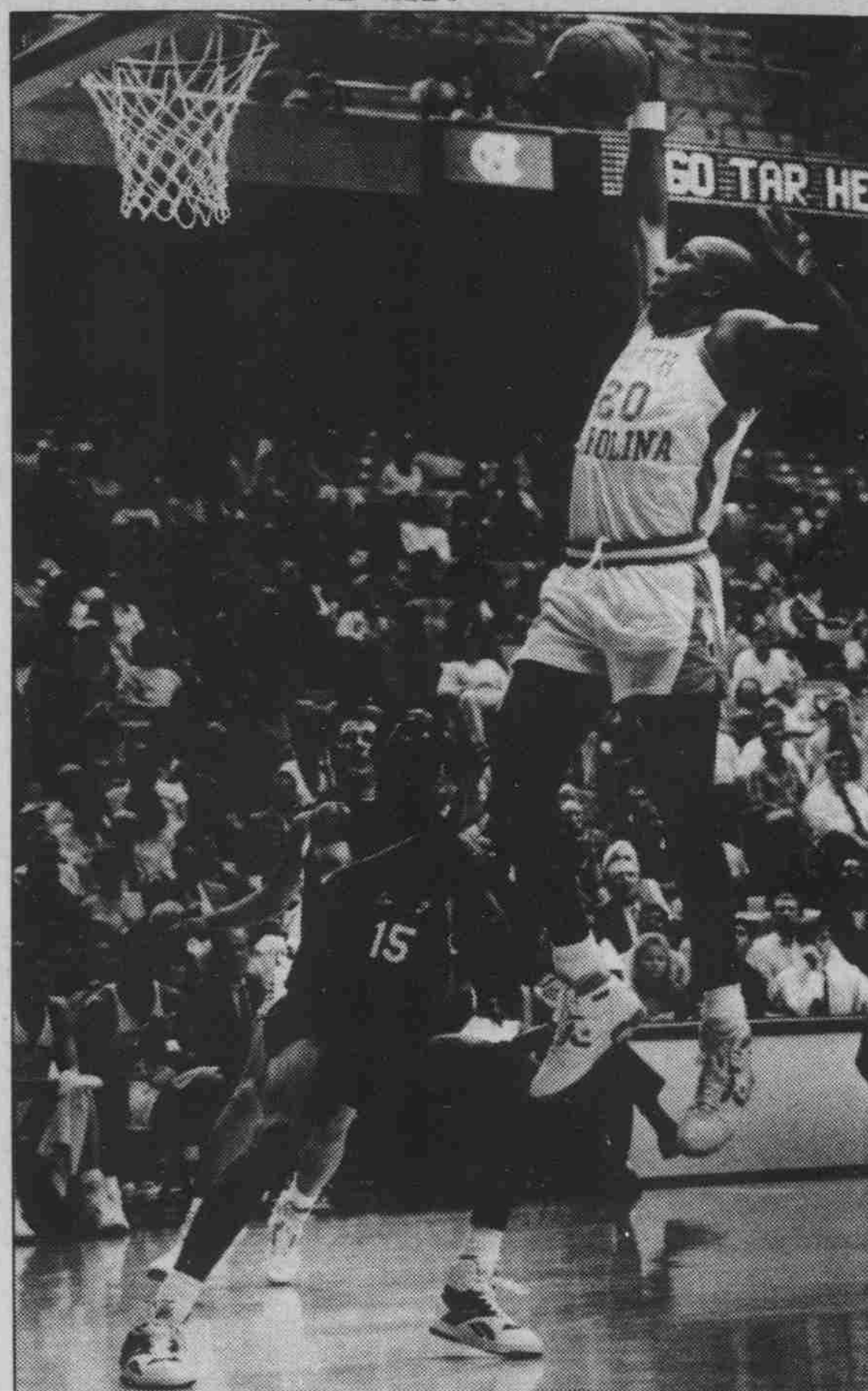
The Wolfpack put the Tar Heels on the defensive immediately, scoring points early and often in Game 1. State's Pam Vehling scored the game's first two points with solo blocks and UNC fell behind 7-0 before scoring its first point. The Tar Heels had no chance in this game, trailing by as much as 14-2 before they tallied twice. State forced a Tar Heel error to end the game, 15-4.

The start of the second game looked like a replay of Game 1, as the Wolfpack jumped on the Tar Heels early for a 4-1 lead. North Carolina looked cold and awkward. No one person was taking charge, though each hustled to her utmost.

"(State) did a very, very good job of keying in on our players that weren't playing well," Bradley-Doppes said. "You can get by when you have one player cold, but when you have three or four at once, you can't. I certainly don't believe we weren't trying. We were trying our hearts out. I just think that N.C. State put us on the defensive so early that we could never establish ourselves."

UNC started to play better midway through Game 2 but could not make up the points they had spotted State. In Game 3, North Carolina opened up its first lead, but State would not let them out of reach.

The Wolfpack regained the lead late, 11-10, but improved UNC hitting proved to be the difference. Wells (16 kills), Liz Berg (12 kills, 13 digs) and Sharon German (11 digs) helped the Tar Heels with kills from all angles. North Carolina scored five of the game's last seven points to win 15-13 and force the fourth game.



Senior Steve Bucknall slams one home in Tuesday night's win.

## Brown: Tigers are phenomenal

By MIKE BERARDINO  
Sports Editor

The buzzword at Mack Brown's press conference Tuesday was "phenomenal." The recipient of this choice of adjective was, more often than not, the Clemson Tiger football team, UNC's next opponent.

"They are so big and fast; it's like playing Oklahoma when you play Clemson," Brown said. "They wear you down, make you tired. They're so physical. Not only can they beat you, they can hurt you."

"It's phenomenal." And scary, too. Just think about it. Those poor little 1-7 Tar Heels having to step into Death Valley and play the big, bad 6-2 Tigers, a team that plays SEC-caliber football against ACC opponents.

Sure, UNC took Maryland down to the wire Saturday and, in fact, should have handed the Terrapins only their second conference loss of the season. But Clemson is different. Everybody knows that.

These guys are — can we say it?

— phenomenal.

"The thing that's phenomenal about their defense," Brown said, "is that they have intercepted 11 passes this year and returned them for 120 yards. That's phenomenal."

That statistic is, of course, a great tribute to the Tigers' super-athletic secondary, led by senior cornerback Donnell Woolford, a leading candidate for the Thorpe Award. But according to Brown, the Tigers may be even stronger up front.

"Their strength is their defensive line against the rush," Brown said. "They play nine guys on the line, just run 'em in and out, and they're all very good. They've had 34 players on defense make tackles this year. We won't even have 34 players healthy enough to bring down there."

"It's phenomenal."

Equally impressive is Clemson's 59-0 scoring advantage in first quarters this season. Combined with UNC's notorious slow starts (the Tar Heels have been outscored 89-20 in the opening period), Saturday's game could be over shortly after the Tigers touch Howard's Rock.

"I asked some of our people what we should do about that, and they said 'Show up in the second quarter,'" Brown joshed. "Clemson's just an outstanding football team. Like Oklahoma, even though you know they're going to run the football, they've been good enough, successful enough and dominant enough that it doesn't matter. They are just a dominant physical football team."

After establishing just how good he thinks Clemson is, Brown detailed just how dinged up his own team is.

Starting cornerback Skeet Baldwin, who injured his knee against the Terps, will definitely not play Saturday.

Torin Dorn, the Tar Heels' oft-injured tailback, was still in the infirmary Tuesday nursing a bruised back that flared up on the first series of the Maryland game. Brown said it's doubtful Dorn will play against Clemson.

The good news is senior linebacker Mitch Wike's return to the practice field. Wike, who suffered a perforated intestine when he was kicked in the stomach in the season opener at South Carolina, has worked his way back and, though he's not ready for contact drills, will participate in this week's practices without gear.

Should he somehow return to game action in the final three weeks, that would be... well, phenomenal.

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## Tar Heels get by Marathon Oil

By LANGSTON WERTZ  
Staff Writer

The North Carolina men's basketball team proved three things during its 109-100 exhibition win over Marathon Oil in the Smith Center Tuesday night.

■ One, it's very early in the season, and it was their first game against outside competition.

■ Two, they could get out and run coach Dean Smith's new up-tempo, Shoot-It-Before-You-Lose-It game well — albeit with 18 turnovers.

■ And three, with J.R. Reid out for two months with a stress fracture, the Tar Heels have a new Mr. Fantastic.

"It's a nice way to win, being down late in the last 10 minutes," said Smith, whose team will take on the Russian National team on Nov. 12. "Playing against Marathon Oil was kind of like playing against a semi-pro team. But we had some bright and low spots."

One of the shiniest Tar Heels was sophomore forward Rick Fox. Fox emerged from the muck of the sloppy exhibition game — where both teams turned the ball over a combined 40 times — and showed the sparse crowd of 3,700 that even Reid-less, UNC still

had a little electricity.

Fox went 5-for-11 and scored 10 points, but brought a little of the fan-pleasing, showtime-type plays that UNC fans haven't seen since No. 23 trotted around Chapel Hill dunking alley-oops with his tongue hanging out.

Fox dunked the ball four times Tuesday night, including one diving, kiss-the-rim type, but it was his first one that was the most important.

With UNC trailing 26-18, Jeff Lebo hit Fox with a bounce pass that the 6-foot-7 forward turned into a wake-up call for the Tar Heels. The two-fisted crunch began a big Tar Heel move that ended with them finally gaining the lead following a Scott Williams lay-in at 1:59 at 41-39.

Four straight Lebo points and a Marathon layup by Bud Greer left UNC with a curious 45-41 halftime lead.

"It's a change to go for 27 years one way and then to speed it up," Smith said. "We always go fast, though, but not this fast. But they were supposed to be the old men. We were the ones huffing and puffing."

UNC huffed and puffed in the second half, but didn't come close to

blowing the Marathon house down. Marathon Oil stayed right with the Tar Heels in the second half — surviving three more Fox jams — and regained the lead at 79-77 after a Darren Rowe layup with 10:26 remaining.

Kevin Madden, who finished with 14 points, two-hand-jammed the Tar Heels into a tie and sent them on a 6-0 spurt — and effectively seal the curiously tight game.

The Tar Heels cruised home and featured Fox — who alley-ooped a pass from Bucknall at 7:24 as UNC went up 89-81, and crammed one home left-handed at 5:31 to give the Tar Heels a 93-85 lead.

"I think I've got to do things that will help the team first," said Fox, when asked about his penchant for the spectacular. "But if, at the same time, I can do the exciting things, too, it's just great."

Pete Chilcutt played just great for the Tar Heels Tuesday, leading UNC with 23 points.

Center Scott Williams struggled early, but finished with 22 points on 9-of-21 shooting. Lebo scored 17 and was 2-of-5 from tri-fecta city, Bucknall had 16 and Madden added 14.

## On grinning and Bear-ing it

Mark Anderson  
Staff Writer

quarterback. Sure, his college career was kind of cute, but as a pro, he's been more of a comedic prop.

Unfortunately, I watched the game Sunday. And reality proceeded to shoot down those stats time after time.

■ This year, the Bears were once again the NFL's best ball-control team, as they were in the championship year of 1985.

Jinx: they had the ball for only seven minutes, 40 seconds in the second half.

■ No team had scored more than nine points in the last five games against Chicago.

Jinx: the Patriots ripped them for 30.

■ The top-ranked defense had not allowed a 100-yard rusher in 31 games, while giving up an average of only 66.3 yards on the ground.

Jinx: The Patriots' season-high, 185-yard rushing day was led by rookie John Stephens' 124 yards on 35 carries.

■ The Bears had shut down three of the NFL's top quarterbacks — Dan Marino, Joe Montana and Jim Kelly — limiting them to 42-of-88 passing for 555 yards, two touchdowns, two interceptions, 11 sacks and three losses.

Jinx: The NFL's resident midget didn't have much better stats (6-for-18, 165 yards, 80 of those on the first play), but he did the job the others couldn't — no interceptions, four touchdowns and one win.

■ Finally, Jim McMahon had remained relatively healthy over the first eight games for the first time in memory.

Jinx: McMahon went down with a strained right knee early in the second quarter. He will be out at least four weeks and, if ligament or cartilage damage is found, could be out longer.

So who are the real Bears? Obviously, they are still a team to be reckoned with. The offense will be the key. It is stocked with the necessary weapons, but McMahon has proven he is the general with the finger on the button. Without him, the offense is below average.

If McMahon is unable to return, the defense must once again carry this team. Fortunately, this has become a role they seem to relish. It's an attitude.

Note the San Francisco game. In the waning minutes, the Bears had a fourth-and-one on the 49ers' 45, holding a one-point lead. The book and everything else told Ditka to punt and let the 49ers try to drive the whole field. But All-Pro linebacker Mike Singletary told him, "Go for it, they won't score on us!"

Caught in the emotion, Ditka went for it and failed. But Singletary and the rest of the defense held true to their word and shut down San Francisco. This kind of arrogance could lead the Bears right back to the Super Bowl.

So some of you might be thinking that I am beginning to use the DTH as a vehicle to shamelessly promote Chicago sports teams (Bulls, Bears). You're right! I would have praised the Cubs, seeing as they are the best team in baseball playing in the best park, but the season ended before I could.

Anyway, I've learned my lesson the hard way once again, the one about reading and believing. Oh, I still hope, and believe the Bears will win the Super Bowl, I'm just not going to say it out loud.