

Sports

Basketball

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The Tar Heels used a 17-4 run early in the second half to take the lead for good against a Stanford team expected to challenge Arizona for the Pac-10 championship this season.

With UNC down 47-42, reserve forward Pete Chilcutt helped jumpstart the listless Tar Heels with three straight buckets. Scoring on a tip-in, a back-door layup and another follow shot, Chilcutt brought his team within one, at 49-48, with 16:21 to play.

Lebo then swished a three-point shot while getting clobbered for the second time in as many games. He missed the free throw and a chance at another four-point play, however, leaving UNC ahead 51-49 with 15:33 to go. The Tar Heels wouldn't trail again.

Do-everything swingman Kevin Madden came through with the next three baskets for North Carolina — a two-hand jam off a Lebo look, a foul-line jumper and a mean post-up, drop-step layup that had Reid's signature all over it.

Meanwhile, Stanford's only offense was coming from Lichti, who banked in a short jumper at the 17-minute mark and beat Lebo on a

back-door cut at 14:14. Madden then scored the last of his three straight baskets, and when Steve Bucknall sank two free throws with 13:06 to go, UNC held a 59-51 lead.

Soon thereafter, Lichti got into foul trouble, going to the bench with his fourth personal after charging into Madden with 10:38 to play and Stanford trailing 64-56. By the time the Cardinal star returned, just 5½ minutes remained and the Tar Heels were enjoying a comfortable 76-62 advantage.

Lichti pumped in six more points over the next few minutes as Stanford whittled the deficit to eight with 2:26 to play. But the Tar Heels hit seven of eight free throws down the stretch to preserve the win.

Madden was next behind Lebo in the point parade with 16, thanks to 7-of-8 field shooting. Then came Chilcutt (14 points, nine rebounds), Bucknall (13) and Williams (10). Sophomore point guard King Rice made up for an 0-for-4 shooting night with eight assists in 24 minutes of playing time.

Joining Lichti in double figures for Stanford were power forward Howard Wright with 13 points, and senior

guards Terry Taylor and Scott Meinert with 11 apiece.

"Had we played better in the zone and been more patient on offense, while hitting the boards, I felt we had a legitimate shot at winning the ballgame," third-year Stanford coach Mike Montgomery said. "In the second half, we just weren't as patient on offense. We wanted to force things a little more. And they killed us on the boards. We just stood around and watched."

Stanford shot a sizzling 64 percent from the floor in the opening half to grab a 43-40 lead at the intermission. The Cardinal cooled off considerably after the break, going 14-for-29 (48.5 percent) in the final 20 minutes. North Carolina shot 54.4 percent (31-for-57) for the game.

"We should have come out fired up in the second half, up by three points and all," Lichti said. "We didn't come out harder than we did in the first half. They did, and that made the difference."

As great players often do, Lichti blamed himself for his team's second-half failure.

"Looking back, maybe I should have been a little more patient, more of a leader out there," he said. "I feel bad. We've played against two teams now who we felt we could have beaten, but we didn't. It gets to be a little painful. We've got to go out and prove ourselves. We can't just talk about it."

The Cardinal used a 10-2 surge late in the first half to transform a 36-33 deficit into a 43-38 lead. Meinert scored seven of those points on a breakaway layup, an 18-foot jumper and a three-point bomb.

North Carolina, which led by as many as six points in the early going, the last time at 16-10, then pulled within the three-point halftime margin on a Williams follow shot just before the buzzer.

UNC 87, Stanford 76
Stanford — McSwain 9-1 0-0 3, Wright 6-13 1-3, Brunton 2-2 0-0 4, Taylor 3-5 3-4 11, Lichti 7-14 6-20, Keeffe 3-3 1-7, Vahov 3-6 1-3 8, Meinert 5-7 0-1 11, Wingate 1-3 0-0 2, Patrick 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 30-54 12-18 76.
UNC — Bucknall 4-11 5-7 13, Madden 7-8 2-3 16, Williams 4-12 2-2 10, Lebo 6-10 8-9 24, Rice 0-4 2-3 2, Fox 4-4 0-0 8, Chilcutt 5-6 2-2 14, Davis 0-2 0-0 0, Derry 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 31-57 21-28 87.
Halftime Score: Stanford 43-40, Three-point goals — Stanford 4-11 (Taylor 2-3, Lichti 0-3, Vahov 1-3, Meinert 1-2), UNC 4-10 (Lebo 4-6, Bucknall 0-1, Rice 0-2, Davis 0-1). Turnovers — Stanford 16, UNC 20. Fouls — Stanford 18 (Wright 7), UNC 38 (Williams 13, Asstels — Stanford 14 (Wright 4), UNC 23 (Rice 8), Fouls — Stanford 21, UNC 15 A — 17,878.

Charlotte's abuzz over surprisingly tough Hornet team

Contrary to popular belief, there is but one expansion team in the National Basketball Association this season — the Miami Heat.

Tonight, the beleaguered Heat will adorn their gosh-awful black uniforms, visit the best basketball arena in the world and lose again.

Tonight, the Miami Heat finally meet the Charlotte Hornets in a game that both teams probably marked on their calendars before the season started. Tonight is the night that both teams must have thought win No. 1 would come on, looking at the schedule back in August.

But the Hornets have outgrown their expansion status very quickly, playing competitive basketball in all but one of their early-season outings. They've even stung the Los Angeles Clippers and the San Antonio Spurs for their first and second victories, respectively.

The Heat, meanwhile, have played like the Continental Basketball Association team they should be. They have fallen and fallen miserably, as NBA teams bounce back from losing streaks and cold shooting performances against them.

But for Charlotte, who took the Celtics to the wire in the Garden and had Philadelphia by 8 with five minutes to go in the Spectrum last week, things are much different.

"We are not an expansion team," Hornets' guard Robert Reid said after the loss to the 76ers. "We're much better than that. We're in every ballgame we play. We just need to become more consistent."

Langston Wertz Staff Writer

That's not to say Charlotte will win 30 games this year. They won't. But they are competitive. People are talking about future Hornet teams in the Queen City. They are talking about playoff contenders, not pretenders.

"We're going to be Dallas reincarnated," said A.D. Neal, owner and operator of Neal's Barber Shop, as he was giving voters truly the symmetrical flat-top haircut last Wednesday. "It'll take us about three or four years to do it, but everyone's talking about Baby Jay. All they need is a big man."

C'mon A.D., Baby Jay? Is it possible that UNC's J.R. Reid could be wearing pinstripes next season? Charlotte will most likely be in the lottery, and who knows, Carl Scheer could well hold up a teal-and-white "34" jersey — cheesing uncontrollably while CBS' James Brown asks him how it feels.

But that's all speculation. What about this season?

"This year, we'll do all right. We should win enough to keep the fans happy," said Ben Bright, who works in The Finish Line, a Charlotte-based sporting goods store. "I hope so, because business is booming. The paraphernalia is selling like wild. But to answer your question, yeah, we'll do all right."

All right for Charlotte may be 15 wins. Great would be 20 celebrations, but it's hard to say how many games this group of hard-fighting, pinstriped warriors will win. One thing's for sure, though: Win No. 3 will come tonight.

Hole in ozone is behind the NFL's most recent shake-up

John Bland Staff Writer

This is the year pro football visited the Twilight Zone and got lost in the episode about the plastic surgeons with blue faces.

Friends and neighbors, it hasn't been a pretty season. Nothing has gone the way anyone predicted. Teams that once led the league are now cellar-dwellers, and teams that were once basement mold are now sitting high as weather vanes in the sunshine.

And my own favorites, the defending world champion Washington Redskins, are now 6-7. Their chances of making the playoffs are about as good as mine for getting a date this weekend: It's possible, but highly suspect.

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "John, why is football so mixed up this year?" and "John, why are so many quarterbacks going down with serious injuries?" and "John, why is Bon Jovi so popular?" and "John, why can't you get a date for this weekend?"

The answers to these questions are explained in one simple phrase: Freaks of Nature.

That's right. It's got something to do with the greenhouse effect. See, back when we still had an ozone layer, back in the '70s, it was a rare occurrence for a loser team like the New Orleans Saints to whup up on the Dallas Cowboys. In fact, it just plain never happened.

But now that the ozone is making like a piece of Neese's sausage and shrinking, more ultraviolet rays are getting into the New Orleans water system, making those Saints into a bunch of winning mutants. It's happening in Buffalo, too. And Cincinnati. And it'll probably happen in Tampa Bay before long.

But in other parts of the country it's having just the reverse effect. Places like Dallas, Pittsburgh and Miami, for example. I'm telling you, it's not a pretty sight.

Take the Cowboys. Tom Landry's team is 2-11. Their big bruising back, Herschel Walker, has failed to live up to the Super Bowl expectations placed upon him by Dallas fans. And the Cowboys haven't had a decent quarterback since Roger Staubach.

John Bland Staff Writer

So what's wrong in Dallas? Does Landry need to go on a nice, long vacation, or what?

Up in Pittsburgh, the Steelers are swimming around in some of that oil that's clogging up the Monongahela. Gone are the glory years of the late '70s, gone are the days of the Steel Curtain and Terry Bradshaw, the days of Rocky Bleier and Franco Harris and Lynn Swann. Welcome to the days of Bubby Brister. (No, I do not know how he got his name, and I don't particularly care to find out.)

"We may as well punt on first down," the eloquent Brister said of coach Chuck Noll, who probably took that tidbit into consideration. Noll is barely .500 since winning his last Super Bowl in 1980.

Does Noll need to take a nice, long vacation, or what?

As for the Dolphins, they have got to be one of the most frustrating teams in the NFL. While the best quarterback in pro football, Dan Marino, is lighting up the offense, the defense is lighting up the offense of the other team. Look at it this way — against the Jets a few weeks ago, Marino threw for 521 yards (a near-record) and the Dolphins still lost.

I don't mean to be cruel or anything, but since there are no Dolphin linebackers in the immediate area, I will be. Miami's defense is like a watered-down white wine spritzer — wimpy and weak.

But I have confidence Don Shula knows what he's doing. After all, he ranks first in career wins among NFL active coaches. Then again, Landry and Noll rank second and third, respectively. Maybe they all need to take a nice, long vacation.

Now we go to the other end of the spectrum. Look who's sitting pretty at the top of the heap: The Bills, the Saints, the Bengals. Scary, isn't it?

Acquiring quarterback Jim Kelly was the smartest move the Bills ever made, although lately it has been their

defense (led by "Bruce Brothers" Bruce Smith and Cornelius Bennett) that has been doing the job right. Coach Marv Levy seems to have done a Marv-elous job getting Buffalo back into contention.

But the Bills in the big one? Buffalo in the Super Bowl? No, I'm sorry, but it just can't happen. It would be too soon and too weird.

And how 'bout them Saints? New Orleans-area Kroger's now have an overstock of No. 12 paper bags because nobody needs them anymore. (They ought to ship them to Dallas.) The team once dubbed the Aints by their own fans has turned it around in the late '80s, riding the Western Division wave above the Rams and 49ers.

Head coach Jim Mora proved in the USFL that he is, indeed, the best coach in pro football, and he's doing it again here. Look for the Saints to go far this year.

And up in Cincinnati, Sam Wyche is wiping the sweat off his brow, and Bengal fans have, for the moment, taken down the noose over the goal post in Riverfront Stadium. But don't know about the Bengals. Sure, they've got Boomer Esiason, who gets better every year, but I don't think they can take it all the way to the big bowl. Sure, they kicked tail on the Bills Sunday, 35-21. But I just can't see it. Cincinnati is living proof that this has been the year in the Twilight Zone.

So, come January, who's going to be clashing in Joe Robbie Stadium? Will it be the Bears and Bills? Will it be the Saints and Seahawks? Will it be the Redskins and Raiders? Will the Giants bruise their way in once again? Or will Minnesota pull the underdog trick again this year and take it all? Truthfully, I can't say.

Put it this way: It's going to be an NFC team that wins it all this year. Again. Whether it be the Giants or Bears or Vikings or (please, God) the Redskins or the Saints. One of those aforementioned teams will win the Super Bowl. I'd guarantee it, but the way this season's been going, I ain't putting a bet down on nobody. And I mean that.

Duke, Notre Dame still top polls

From Associated Press reports

Duke remained atop The Associated Press college basketball poll after the first major weekend of games.

The Blue Devils, 2-0, were No. 1 in the preseason balloting of a nationwide panel of sportswriters and broadcasters and have stayed there for the first two polls of the regular season.

Only one new team joined the Top Twenty, Tennessee, although there was some shuffling in the order of teams.

Duke, which beat The Citadel 93-52 in its only game last week, received 47 first-place votes and 1,229 points.

Michigan, which won the Top Twenty-heavy Maui Classic, moved from third to second with seven first-place votes and 1,162 points.

The Wolverines, 3-0, beat Vander-

Sports Briefs

bilt, Memphis State and then-No. 4 Oklahoma to win the eight-team tournament, which had four members of the Top Twenty in the field.

Georgetown changed places with Michigan after receiving seven first-place votes and 1,096 points. Georgetown won both of its games, 105-69 over Hawaii-Loa and 95-55 over Hawaii Pacific.

North Carolina, which followed its 91-81 loss to Missouri with a 106-92 third-place victory over Indiana, fell from fifth to round out the Top Ten with 709 points.

Irish solidify hold on No. 1

Notre Dame, fresh from a 27-10 victory over Southern California in their 1-2 shootout, was a near-unanimous choice as the nation's top college football team Monday in the Associated Press' next-to-last regular-season poll.

The setback dropped Southern Cal from second place to fifth and cost the Trojans their shot at the national championship.

Defending national champion Miami, an 18-16 winner over previously unbeaten Arkansas, moved up from third place to second and West Virginia, Notre Dame's Jan. 2 Fiesta Bowl rival, jumped from fourth to third. It was the highest ranking ever in the AP poll's 53-year history for the Mountaineers, who, like Notre Dame, completed an 11-0 regular season for the first time.

Bruised Bears lick wounds

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Coach Mike Ditka is a firm believer in overcoming adversity, but he says the Chicago Bears are pushing the idea to its limits this season.

Quarterback Mike Tomczak and defensive end Richard Dent were the latest to go down with injuries in Sunday's 16-0 victory over the Green Bay Packers.

"You have to overcome adversity and injuries," said Ditka, maintaining the company line he originated. "But I don't know of a team ever losing so many key people in a season."

Tomczak, who had been starting in place of injured Jim McMahon, suffered a separation in his left, non-throwing shoulder and Dent went down with a fractured left ankle.

Tomczak will be out at least three weeks; Dent from four to six weeks.

"To lose players like Dent and Tomczak is tough," said Ditka, "but you have to make do. It provides an opportunity for others and they should know that."

Jim Harbaugh, the Bears' only

other healthy quarterback, replaced Tomczak Sunday and played the entire second half.

Crotty named player of the week

GREENSBORO, N.C. — John Crotty, who was named the most valuable player of the Investors Classic and led Virginia to the tournament title, was named the Atlantic Coast Conference basketball player of the week Monday.

Crotty, a sophomore from Spring Lake, N.J., scored 34 points, had 10 assists, grabbed seven rebounds and made four steals in the two games. He scored 20 points in an 99-73 opening round victory over Dartmouth and scored 14 points and had seven assists in an 80-63 championship victory over Marquette.

AP Top 20

1. Notre Dame (57)	11-0-0	1,197
2. Miami, Fla. (1)	9-1-0	1,124
3. West Virginia (2)	11-0-0	1,069
4. Florida State	10-1-0	1,013
5. Southern Cal	10-1-0	946
6. Nebraska	11-1-0	891
7. Auburn	10-1-0	865
8. UCLA	9-2-0	733
9. Arkansas	10-1-0	731
10. Oklahoma	9-2-0	649
11. Michigan	8-2-1	591
12. Oklahoma St.	8-2-0	548
13. Clemson	9-2-0	488
14. Houston	9-2-0	402
15. Wyoming	11-1-0	306
16. LSU	8-3-0	259
17. Washington St.	8-3-0	222
18. Syracuse	8-2-0	170
19. Georgia	8-3-0	149
20. Alabama	7-3-0	90

AP Top 20

1. Duke (47)	2-0	1,229
2. Michigan (7)	2-0	1,162
3. Georgetown (7)	4-0	1,036
4. Syracuse (1)	2-0	1,080
5. Oklahoma	2-1	970
6. Iowa (1)	1-0	914
7. Illinois	1-0	808
8. Missouri	3-1	786
9. UNLV	2-1	742
10. North Carolina	3-1	709
11. Arizona	0-0	670
12. Georgia Tech	1-0	520
13. Louisville	0-1	397
14. Florida State	1-0	369
15. Ohio State	1-0	364
16. N.C. State	1-0	299
17. Temple	0-0	205
18. Villanova	1-1	145
19. Florida	2-1	121
20. Tennessee	1-0	103

AP Top 20

Others receiving votes: Loyola Marymount 56; Connecticut 75; Memphis State 57; New Mexico 40; Georgia 33; UNC-Charlotte 33; Wichita State 30; Houston 22; Pittsburgh 21; Stanford 17; Seton Hall 15; Texas-El Paso; West Virginia 15; Indiana 12; Southern Illinois 12; Southern Methodist 11.
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