

Eliminated! Michigan ousts UNC

Searching for answers

By DAVE GLENN
Sports Editor

What went wrong? That's the question I've heard 100 times since the Tar Heels' 92-87 loss to Michigan Thursday night.

The same question that left UNC coach Dean Smith, looking back at his 28th year at the helm of Tar Heel basketball, fighting back tears in an emotional post-game scene.

Smith didn't have the answer, the players didn't have the answer and I don't have the answer.

Much of the team's grief and frustration stemmed from the fact that there is no true answer to the one question that everyone will ask from now until November, when it starts all over again.

The Tar Heels played well against Michigan. Ironically, that fact made it more difficult for many UNC faithful to accept the loss. Everybody wants an answer.

This time, they won't find one.

Instead of putting a microscope to the Michigan game, it's time to step back and recognize the tremendous accomplishments of the 1988-89 UNC basketball team.

Let's remember a team that won the ACC tournament, a feat that had escaped the Tar Heels since 1982. A team that won 29 games, giving the senior class of Steve Bucknall, Jeff Lebo and David May an incredible 116 victories over the past four years.

Let's remember Lebo for his scintillating performance against the Wolverines, bringing back the tremendous feeling that when Lebo goes up for a three-pointer, you're surprised if it *doesn't* go in. Number 14's shooting problems this year mirrored his ankle problems, and it was not mere coincidence. But he didn't complain or make excuses, and he went on to show that he's more than just a shooter after all.

Let's remember Bucknall for the way he changed himself from the Human Turnover to an excellent guard and three-point shooter. He told everyone exactly what he thought, though it often wasn't what they wanted to hear. He was the glue of this team, the motivator on the court and arguably the team's most valuable player.

Let's remember May as the consummate team player, one who set 11 screens in three minutes in his start against Duke on Senior Day. May is a reminder that this team was much more than eight players. He's a symbol of the hours and hours of practice that went into making this team a successful one.

Let's remember that Pete Chilcutt, Hubert Davis, Jeff Denny, Rick Fox, Kevin Madden, King Rice and Scott Williams will all be back in blue and white next year. Maybe even J.R., too.

Still, the loss hurts.

Lebo captured the moment best Thursday. "It's (the loss) so tough for everyone to swallow," Lebo said. "There was such a closeness on this team. We had come together. It was not so much the Xs and Os, but that everyone knew they had to make sacrifices and not care about points or individual honors."

"I think that's why it hurt Coach Smith so much. He had such respect for what we had been able to accomplish this season."

But many of those accomplishments will be forgotten by those outside the UNC locker room — those who will only remember a Michael Jordan shot dropping through against Georgetown back in 1982.

In a way, it's a tribute to UNC basketball that, in the eyes of many fans, anything short of a national championship is a disappointment. But it shouldn't be that way.

It's a rare day for the Tar Heels that they play well and lose. But it happened.

Let's not let that fact overshadow a year that saw the Tar Heels giving their all from the opening tip until the final buzzer.

Smith may have said it best Thursday when he noted: "Once in a while, there comes a point where you just say 'Congratulations' to the other team, because I don't know how much better we could have played."

Maybe that's the best answer after all.



How 'bout a kiss? An official attempts to stop Michigan's Glen Rice, a task too tough for UNC

Yackety Yack/David Foster

Austin, Murray lead track

By JAY REED
Assistant Sports Editor

Dreary weather on Friday, combined with the strain of the recently concluding indoor season, slowed but did not stop the North Carolina men's and women's track teams, as two school records were set at the Raleigh Relays at N.C. State this weekend.

Sean Murray, a sophomore from Florham Park, N.J., tossed the javelin for a record-setting 68.5 meters (224 feet, 9 inches) while finishing in second place in the event. The old record of 211 feet was set by Murray at the 1988 ACC javelin championships, where he placed second.

Another Florham Park native, Jon Mikula, a 1989 team tri-captain, placed fourth in the javelin with a personal best of 211 feet, 6 inches.

Kim Austin set the other school record this weekend.

Austin, a Wilson, N.C., junior, placed second in the triple jump invitational but broke her own record of 39-11 1/2 by hopping, skipping and jumping 40 feet, 7 inches.

The threesome of Austin, Sharon Couch and Penny Blackwell swept the long jump invitational by taking first, second and fourth places in the event.

A sophomore from Rice, Va., Couch grabbed the top honors with a jump of 6.19 meters (20 feet 3 3/4 inches), falling only five inches short of her school record. Rounding out the point getters, Blackwell jumped 5.94 meters (19-6) and Austin topped out with a leap of 5.9 meters (19-4).

The 40-team invitational held at Paul H. Derr Track on the NCSU campus acts as a warm up for the outdoor season with various runners and jumpers competing in strange events to the athletes. The meet is not as important to the team as a whole since no team points are tabulated.

With the high number of teams competing, the usual emphasis that is centered on team a victory is pushed aside, and the focus instead is placed on the individual's accomplishments.

In the men's 1,500 meters, senior Mike McGowan placed second with a time of 3:55.83. McGowan, a Toronto, Canada, native has made a name for himself as one of the top long distance men in the country. The second-place finish is outstanding considering that McGowan usually competes in only the two-mile, 3,000,

10,000, 3,000 steeplechase and 5,000 meter events.

Junior Mia Pollard took first in the 400 meters, finishing in 54.66 seconds, barely missing her personal-best time of 54.09.

Sonya Thomas, a Greensboro sophomore, came in second in the 400 meter intermediate hurdles with a time of 59.87 seconds, less than 5/100 of a second off her personal-best time of 59.42.

The women's relay teams excelled

as well, as all three finished in first place.

The 4 x 200 team of Cammie Putnam, Kendra Mackey, Rebecca Russell and Thomas crossed the finish at 1:36.28, while the 4 x 800 team of Kari Krehnbrink, Michelle Faherty, Monica Witterholt and Pollard cut the tape at 8:58.62.

The 4 x 400 team of Russell, Mackey, Pollard and Thomas finished at 3:40.62, the fifth best time ever for a UNC team in that event.

Rice's three-point shooting proves too hot for Heels

By MIKE BERARDINO
Senior Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Vern Fleming, Steve Alford, Ed Pinckney, Billy Thompson, Derrick Coleman, Tom Tolbert.

And now, Glen Rice.

These are the names that pierce Tar Heel souls, the outstanding players whose memorable performances have ended UNC's last seven basketball seasons short of Final Four glory. These are the names that will live in Chapel Hill infamy, though none may evoke images of pain quite like the latest Carolina killer.

For Thursday night in Rupp Arena, Glen Rice was king.

Michigan handed the fifth-ranked Tar Heels a 92-87 defeat in the Southeast Region semifinals, as the 6-foot-7 Rice put on an incredible display of long-range shooting en route to a 34-point night. UNC was looking for a third straight trip to the NCAA's Final Eight, but the 10th-ranked Wolverines, whose previous two seasons ended with losses to the Tar Heels, simply refused to be beaten again.

All of it was enough to make Dean Smith cry, and the 58-year-old UNC coach had to choke back tears during the postgame press conference.

"I think we played very well, particularly in the second half, and it wasn't enough," Smith said. "I'm extremely disappointed for our team. (But) it shouldn't hurt as much since we played well. It should hurt more if we didn't."

That logic didn't hold up, however, judging from the many moist eyes in the Tar Heel locker room. On a night when UNC shot 53 percent from the field and nearly won the battle of the boards against Michigan's burly front line, Rice's individual excellence was too much for any team effort to overcome.

North Carolina, which will hang an ACC tournament championship banner for the first time in seven seasons, ended the year at 29-8, Michigan, which ripped Virginia 102-65 in Saturday's regional final, heads to Seattle and the Final Four with a 28-7 mark.

"I don't think I've ever seen anything like that," Smith said of Rice's performance. "We had an asterisk next to his name. We weren't supposed to give him any daylight, and sometimes we didn't and he hit the shot anyway. It's one of those things (where) you can't believe he's going to keep that up."

UNC came back again, finally tying the game at 83-83 when J.R. Reid, who contributed a team-high 26 points off the bench, hit a short turnaround with 4:06 remaining. However, just when the momentum seemed to belong to the Tar Heels, Rice came through again; this time he buried a trey from the right side to snatch the lead back for Michigan.

"That shot broke my back," UNC's Scott Williams said. "It seemed like the ball was in the air for four seconds and then — Whoosh! — right through the net. That was the key shot of the game."

Steve Bucknall missed a three-pointer at the other end, and Kevin Madden's follow try from five feet was short, but Michigan point guard Rumeal Robinson, who had a great game with 17 points and 13 assists, turned the ball over at the 2:39 mark to keep the issue open. After a Tar Heel time-out, Williams cut the difference to one with a layup, but a Michigan free throw moved the score to 87-85.

Williams could have tied soon thereafter, but his seven-foot turnaround was off and Michigan called time to set up the real back-breaker. It came from deep in the right corner

Rice went 13 for 19 from the field, including 8 for 12 on three-point attempts. Three times in the game's final six minutes, with North Carolina frantically trying to come all the way back from a seven-point deficit, Michigan went to Rice for big baskets.

The first deflating trey down the stretch came after Rick Fox's steal and layup pulled UNC within 76-75 with 6:20 to go. On the following possession, with the Tar Heels sagging back in a 2-3 zone, Rice circled around to a comfortable spot on the left wing and nailed a 22-footer that pushed the lead back up to four.

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Men's Basketball

Thursday	
Michigan 92, UNC 87	
Michigan — G. Rice 13-19 0-0 34, Mills 8-11 0-2 16, Vaughn 1-3 2-2 4, Griffin 0-1 0-0 0, Robinson 7-15 0-2 17, Higgins 5-11 2-2 14, Calip 1-4 0-0 2, Hughes 1-2 3-4 5, Totals 36-66 7-12 92	
UNC — Bucknall 2-7 4-4 10, Madden 5-12 0-0 10, Williams 4-9 0-0 8, Lebo 5-10 2-2 18, K. Rice 1-3 2-2 4, Reid 12-18 2-7 28, Fox 4-5 0-0 8, Chilcutt 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 35-66 10-15 87	
Halftime Score: Michigan 50-47, Three-point goals — Michigan 13-24 (G. Rice 8-12, Robinson 3-6, Higgins 2-5, Calip 0-1), UNC 7-16 (Lebo 5-9, Bucknall 2-4, K. Rice 0-1, Madden 0-2), Rebounds — Michigan 34 (G. Rice, Mills, Vaughn, Hughes 6) UNC 31 (Bucknall 7), Assists — Michigan 20 (Robinson 2), UNC 24 (Bucknall 10), Fouls — Michigan 18, UNC 14. A — 22,314.	

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Tar Heels take two in lax tourney

By JOHN BLAND
Staff Writer

UNC's lacrosse team came out of the inaugural NCNB Triangle Lacrosse Tournament with two routs, but the second wasn't quite as easy as the first.

The tournament was held at Duke Saturday and at UNC Sunday. The Blue Devils and Tar Heels, who meet April 22nd in Durham, picked on a couple of teams not renowned for their lacrosse prowess.

Saturday at Duke the Tar Heels decimated, destroyed, chewed-up-and-spit-out, crushed, and just plain waxed the Ohio (as in 0-3) State Buckeyes 29-1.

The 28-goal margin set a new school record, breaking the old one of 27 set in 1977 when UNC routed Virginia Tech 32-5.

Senior attackman David Kelly scored five, senior attackman John Szczypinski (the tournament MVP) scored four, and sixteen others scored at least one goal each in a game that must have been like an AK-47 tearing up a barn door. The Heels outshot the Buckeyes 71-20.

UNC had a tougher time of it Sunday against the 1-4 Villanova Wildcats. Although the final 17-3 score didn't show it, both teams played very much alike: sloppy.

Errant passes, dropped passes, broken fast breaks, and foolish penalties characterized the game. The Tar Heels' usually smooth, quick offense was in shambles at the beginning, but got back on track and silenced the ornery Wildcats with a seven-goal spurt in the fourth quarter.

Defensively, though, the Tar Heels played very well. Goalie Pat Olmert had 11 saves and three goals allowed,



DTH/David Minton

At times Sunday, the Tar Heels seemed to have twice as many men on the field as Villanova

and UNC's long-stick corps effectively stifled the surprisingly tough Villanova offense.

The game was scoreless until John Szczypinski put the ball in the net off of a Dennis Goldstein feed at 8:12 of the first quarter. Three minutes later Chip Mayer doubled the score and the Tar Heels led 2-0 going into

the second quarter. Villanova got its first goal of the day at 13:16 of the second quarter when Chris Scaring took it in unassisted. But eight seconds later Goldstein hit Chris Galgano and UNC was back up by two.

The most exciting goal of the day came at 11:45 of the second quarter

when an alert Chip Mayer, noticing that the Wildcats goalie had strayed too far from his goal, cranked up a shot from the restraining line — on the other side of the field. That goal pushed the Tar Heel lead to 4-1.

With 3:05 left in the half, Villanova

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