

## The Daily Tar Heel

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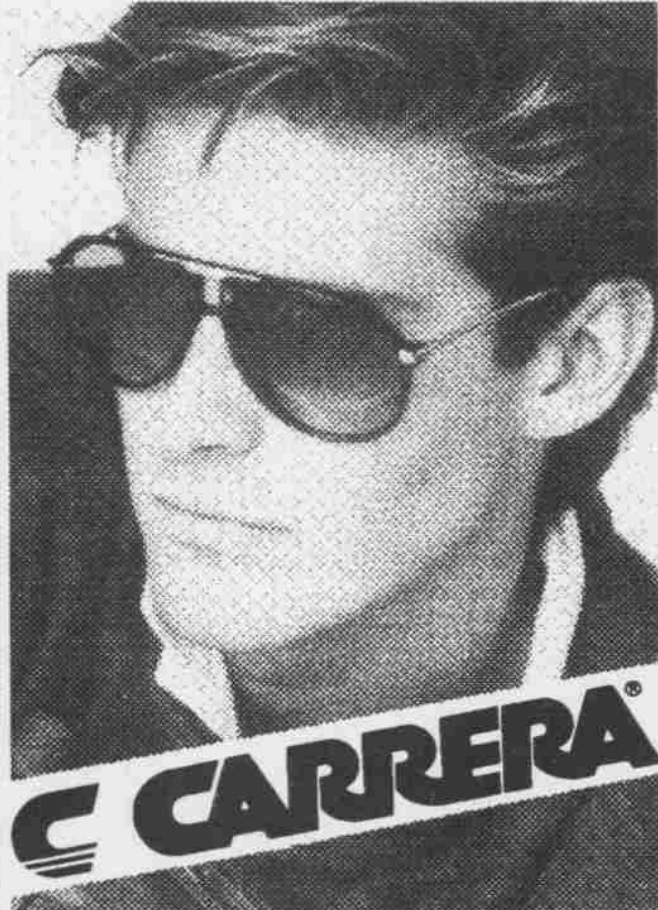
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## IN DEPTH

# Coaches assuming role in academics

By ERIC LUSK  
Staff Writer

In an effort to improve the academic progress of today's student athlete, college athletic coaches are being held more accountable for the academic work of their players.

"There is no question here (at UNC) that academics is number one," said Sylvia Hatchell, UNC women's basketball head coach. "Our players are here, first of all, to get a degree and are here to play athletics second."

All athletic coaches, like professors or academic administrators, share in the responsibility of watching and gauging their player's progress in the classroom, Hatchell said.

Questions of a coach's responsibilities in academic fields have surfaced recently, especially in the case of Jim Valvano, N.C. State head basketball coach. Valvano and NCSU are presently negotiating over a possible breach of Valvano's contract. The university is arguing that Valvano has not encouraged the academic progress of his players.

While some coaches do struggle to graduate their players, most observers doubt that any coach would discourage their athletes from going to class.

"In subtle ways we all encourage

### Analysis

students to be educated and well-rounded," said Dave Odom, Wake Forest head basketball coach.

The extent to which coaches interact with academic progress depends on the group of players, he said. With some teams, coaches need only to mention going to class or studying one or two times a week, but with other teams it requires a great deal more effort.

"We are just an arm of our individual institutions, nothing more and nothing less. Only we are more visible and it is easier to measure the day-to-day progress of our department," Odom said.

Coaches should make giving their players the full opportunity of obtaining a degree one of their prime efforts, but they should not be entirely responsible for the grades students achieve, said Harold Hopfenberg, NCSU acting athletic director.

"The ultimate responsibility boils down to whether or not the student wants the degree," said Jeff Mullins, head basketball coach at UNC-Charlotte.

Mullins said he and his coaches wanted to try to get their players off to a good start in college.

"Being a student athlete today is more difficult than 25 years ago when I was one," he said. "There are more scheduling and travel demands. There is also more pressures to win and continuous academic scrutiny by the media."

To help incoming student athletes, many colleges and universities have set up academic support programs.

UNC's program, one of the best in the state, is also one of the most stringent. UNC coaches and their player's academic progress are reviewed on a yearly basis by a committee consisting of the athletic and faculty administration.

Any coach having major difficulties keeping his or her players in class faces a number of problems, said John Blanchard, director of UNC athletic academic affairs.

Academic affairs at UNC helps to support the athletes by monitoring their progress and supervising study halls, in addition to providing a freshman orientation program, a tutorial program and academic counseling, he said.

"Coaches should be more accountable because they are more influential than any other individual," he said.

Odom said his goal was to keep

athletes out of study halls and on their own.

"My thinking is that mandatory study halls five days a week for four years graduates robots. Their social well-being is number one. I want them (athletes) to interact with university life in total."

The results of the academic support program at UNC have shown drastic improvements since its beginning in the early 1970s. The overall graduation rate for athletes who entered in 1984 is 71 percent, compared with a 72 percent graduation rate for the entire student body.

In addition, the football team has graduated more than 70 percent of its players in three of the last four years, has received honorable mention for academics from the College Football Association and has had 12 players on the Atlantic Coast Conference's academic honor roll in the last two years.

"What needed to happen is that we needed to move academics and athletics to their proper places," Blanchard said. "We have done this (at UNC) in a major way."

"One of my goals in life is to prove that you can win and still graduate players," he said.

## Campus Calendar

1991 Senior Calendar

Class of 1991: **SENIORS 1991**  
Final applications are now available at the Union desk and are due by 5 p.m. today. No experience needed! Pete and Chris will hold office hours in the Pit every Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Please come by and meet us.  
FRIDAY

10 a.m.: The UNC Young Democrats announce that The Orange County Board of Elections will hold a voter registration clinic in the lobby of the Union until 3 p.m. Democrats, Republicans and independents may register to vote in the May primaries and November elections.

Noon: CGLA will have a Lesbian Lunch in 226 Union.

2 p.m.: UNC "Cultures on the Margin: Race,

Class, Gender and Region." Symposium present "The Meanings of 'Hillbilly': Images of Mountain People in American Media," with Jerry Williamson of Appalachian St. Univ., in Donovan Lounge of Green-wood. They also present "Country Music and the Academy: A Thirty-Year Personal and Professional Odyssey," with Bill C. Malone of Tulane, in Donovan Lounge following Williamson. Call 962-0772 for more info.

3:30 p.m.: IRSS Political Economy Faculty Working Group and UNC Macroeconomics present "Political and Economic Cycles: Evidence from OECD Economies," with Alberto Alesina of Harvard, in 211 Gardner. Call 966-2385 for more info.

7 p.m.: 1990 Carolina Symposium presents "Corporate Ethics & Teaching of Ethics," with a panel discussion, in 100 Hamilton. Call 962-8313 for more info.

7:30 p.m.: UNC Child Care Committee presents "People Are Not For Hitting, and Kids Are People Too," with John Valusek, author, in Memorial Hall. Call 962-1483 for more info.

Alpha Phi Alpha/Campus Y Greek Freak Invitational Stepshow in Carmichael Auditorium. Teams from Duke, N.C. State, NCCU, Bowie State, J.C. Smith Univ. and Va. State Univ.

9 p.m.: Focus: Graduate chapter of IntersVarsity Christian Fellowship will meet for folk music at Hardback Cafe.

**SATURDAY**  
6 p.m.: Sangam, the UNC Indian Association, is presenting its 3rd annual Sangam Night in the Great Hall. The evening will consist of a traditional Indian meal followed by cultural entertainment.

8 p.m.: The Tar Heel Voices will present their spring concert in the Cabaret. The opening act is Scott Cranford. Admission is free.

**SUNDAY**

11 a.m.: The UNC Gaming Club will hold a meeting in 210 Union. All are invited to attend.

2 p.m.: Carolina Men's Lacrosse will play Piedmont in the Navy Astorfield Field. Be there!

4 p.m.: CUAB presents the UNC Glee Club in Hill Hall.

The Lab Theatre will present Christopher Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus" in 06 Graham Memorial until 6 p.m. Tickets available 45 minutes before each performance. Another presentation at 8 p.m.

6 p.m.: SYZYGY will have Szyzgy Happenings in the Pit.

7 p.m.: CUAB presents Collage Concert in the Cabaret: Kat in the Hat, Jamie Block and others will perform.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**  
UCPPS announces two new Summer 1990 internship opportunities. UPS will be sponsoring a paid marketing internship - apply by April 10. The Yachtsman Resort in Myrtle Beach is offering a paid Resort Management internship - apply by April 18. Both to interview on campus in April. See Internship Directories in 211 Hanes for more info.

The Hunger Elimination Project will be collecting cans, 2nd-hand clothing and cleaning up local area for 3 hours. Sponsors and volunteers are needed as all money will be donated to the food pantry of Orange County. Come by the Campus Y for info.

Applications for 1990-91 Elections Board now available in Suite C of the Union. Chair and Vice-Chair applications due April 11. Get involved!

Tutor for credit. Applications to tutor are available at the Union desk, Campus Y, BCC and 107 Phillips Annex. They are due April 12.

Bear, Stearns and Co. is recruiting financial analysts to start in August. Any major may apply. Strong applicants will have an outstanding academic record and quantitative skills or aptitude. See UCPPS Two-Year Analyst Notebook in 208 Hanes for more details.

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