# SPORTS MONDA

Holbrook's heroics power baseball, p. 5

## Big, bad Tar Heels kick 'Bama off block

UNC bulldozes Tide 64-55, earns 12th straight Sweet 16

By Mark Anderson

CINCINNATI - On the playground, the only way for small children to escape the big bully is to use their speed - to run, not fight. But on a basketball court, a small team can only run so far.

Confined by the sidelines of the Riverfront Coliseum court, the smaller, quicker Alabama Crimson Tide could not escape the big bully North Carolina Saturday. Instead, the Tide was forced to fight UNC with what 'Bama forward Robert Horry called its "frail little bod-

So the bully won the classic clash of styles 64-55, but its punishment will be meeting Ohio State, the Southeast Region's top seed, Friday in Lexington, Ky. In front of 16,000 fans, the fourthseeded Tar Heels improved to 23-9, and Alabama finished the season 26-9.

North Carolina and head coach Dean Smith advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament for the 12th consecutive season. UCLA played in the same round from 1967-80 but received a bye into the Sweet 16 eight of those

UNC reacted to the win much the same way the 1989 Tar Heels did when they toppled No. 1 Oklahoma to advance to the Sweet 16. Both squads thought they were written off too soon. The Tar Heels spent Friday fending off questions about how they could possibly match up with Alabama's superior

A lot of people counted us out this year,"UNC's George Lynch said. "Alabama had a lot of good athletes, and we didn't play that well against Miami, but

But they put on a typical North Carolina performance Saturday. The win stemmed from little more than establishing their style of play instead of letting Alabama establish it's tempo. A simple concept maybe, but one that often seems to slip away from teams in the rush of the game.

Horry said the physical play was not to the liking of the Crimson Tide's post players. Unlike North Carolina, Alabama's front line cannot boast anyone taller than 6-foot-9 or heavier than



SWEET 16 **PAIRINGS** 

East Regional at Philadelphia #1 seed Duke vs. #4 Seton Hall #2 Kentucky vs. #3 Massachusetts

West Regional at Albuquerque #2 Indiana vs. #3 Florida State #1 UCLA vs. #12 New Mexico State Southeast Regional at Lexington, Ky. #1 Ohio State vs. #4 North Carolina #2 Oklahoma State vs. #6 Michigan Midwest Regional at Kansas City, Mo. #4 Cincinnati vs. #9 UTEP #6 Memphis St. vs. #7 Georgia Tech

220 pounds. Freshman center Cedric Moore spent the afternoon throwing his 6-9, 210-pound frame up against UNC's Eric Montross - all seven feet, 264 pounds of him.

Being a team like us that doesn't have any beef on the inside," Horry said, "that takes a toll on us, and it wore Ced and myself down.

UNC advanced despite a second straight "normal" outing from senior Hubert Davis, who again misfired on all his 3-pointers. After hitting only 2 of 17 shots in Thursday's opening-round game, Davis led UNC with 16 points four in the second half) on 6-of-15 shooting Saturday.

Instead of waiting for some Davis heroics, the Tar Heels grabbed the victory the old-fashioned way -as a team. UNC used a balanced scoring attack, played stifling defense and owned the backboards. The Tar Heels had four players score between 10 and 16 points including the reawakening of Brian Reese, who scored 13 points and grabbed

seven rebounds. Davis said he loved it. "It's fun, It's just everybody step-ping up," he said. "I don't have to score 30 points every game. Sometimes I

scored 30 and we were losing, so I'd rather take a medium-range game and win, than a 30-point game and lose." In watching tapes of the Tar Heels,



UNC's Hubert Davis explodes toward the basket during Saturday's second-round win

the Crimson Tide must have caught whatever shooting bug was bothering Davis Thursday. Alabama shot a season-low 29 percent from the floor.

They did an excellent job on the defensive end," said Alabama's Latrell Sprewell. "We had some shots that we normally make and we didn't make. It was a combination of both things."

The combination was deadly for the Tide. Smith kept Alabama off-balance by switching defenses, and the Tar Heels used the trap effectively - a rare sight

"We were pretty much out of synch," Horry said. "When you're playing a team that traps, that kind of runs you out of your offense a little bit. We let that get to us. We should have stayed in it and not worried about it."

Smith's plan was to double-team Alabama's big three — Horry, Sprewell and James Robinson - to eliminate their driving lanes against the slower

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#### Fabulous 4 quiet doubters in coming-of-age showcase

By Neil Amato

CINCINNATI - It seems like it was only yesterday.

The Fabulous Five, UNC basketball coach Dean Smith's quintet of recruits, burst onto the scene while Smith tried to

downplay their arrival.
"They're just freshmen," he would say. "If I had three one year and two the next, it wouldn't be a big deal."

All five were top-50 prep players. Four were McDonald's All-Americans. Eric Montross, Derrick Phelps, Brian Reese and Pat Sullivan are now UNC sophomores. The fifth, Clifford Rozier, transferred to Louisville. At the start of last season, they had been called the greatest recruiting class of all time. With Michigan's present freshman class, however, those "greatest" notions have been shelved for future evaluation.

It's hard to imagine that, in two weeks or less, the foursome's college careers

will be halfway over. In Saturday's 64-55 win versus Alabama in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, the sophomores showed how far they've come since November of 1990. Montross et al. scored 53 points and grabbed 26 rebounds to help the Tar Heels advance to the Southeast Region's semifinals Friday in Lexington, Ky. More importantly, all of last year's remaining recruits were on the floor when Saturday's game was still in doubt.

In fact, the four sophomores scored 23 of UNC's 31 second-half points. Of the other eight, four were off easy buckets on assists by Sullivan, who had three assists and five rebounds in 10 minutes. After the 'Bama win, the critics had

been quieted, at least according to Reese. "The critics can talk all they want," Reese said. "They were saying that Alabama was going to beat us. What happened? They don't know the outcome. You know, they can talk all they want about how we're not great players. By the time we make it to the next level, people will say, 'Iknew that Brian Reese was going to be' - you know, just like what people said about Rick Fox. Everybody was like, 'He's not going to be a good pro.' Look at the things he's

porters can write whatever they want. But it comes down to what we do and how we feel

about ourselves." The sopho-mores dealt with mixed reviews last year, as they did this season. The questions surfaced



this year but were more prevalent last

year: Why don't they play more? Why don't they play better? ■ Smith had too many experienced players in front of them, which is just the way he likes it. Seniors Fox, Pete

Chilcutt and King Rice ate up most of the playing time. 'People expected a lot out of us," said Phelps, who had six points, eight rebounds, six assists and five turnovers Saturday. "We couldn't really do much because we had a lot of senior leader-

ship. Our roles are coming into place right now.' Reese agreed, saying Smith didn't need to throw the sophomores on the court, so he used them conservatively.

"Coach Smith, he protects you," Reese said. "He doesn't put you on the court to shoot 30 times.

■ The sophomores needed time to learn Smith's system, especially the multiple defenses UNC employed versus Alabama. After a game last year, Smith said that Rozier had "no idea where we want him to be defensively." Maybe that's why he's not a Tar Heel

The other four struggled with the system, too, and they're still trying to

grasp it.
"We're getting comfortable with the Carolina system, which is very compli-cated," Montross said. "We're getting better. We know that down the road we're going to be very important. We are important right now."

Montross proved his worth with 34 points and 19 rebounds in the two tournament games.

After the foursome's showing in the

See SOPHOMORES, page 7

#### Women swim to 14th; Heels hit Hurricane, fall from No Staylor pins down 6th

Staff reports
AUSTIN, Texas — The UNC women's swimming and diving team placed 14th in this weekend's NCAA Division I Women's Swimming and Diving Championships at the University of Texas Swimming Center.

The Tar Heels finished the meet with 57 points, well behind Stanford's winning score of 735.5. The 14thplace showing was UNC's best since the 1987 team placed ninth.

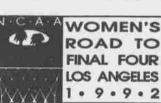
The Tar Heels picked up points Saturday thanks to a strong performance by the 400-yard freestyle relay team. The foursome of junior Jenny Huber, freshman Ann Hart, senior Melissa Douse and freshman Shannon Allison grabbed seventh with a time of 3:24.47. All four women were designated as first-team All-Americans in the event. Also Saturday, Douse claimed 12th

See SWIMMING, page 7

Staff and wire report MIAMI — Francis Savage bounced back from a sprained ankle to provide Miami with an emotional lift as she led the Hurricanes to an 86-72 victory Saturday night against North Carolina, giving the Hurricanes a berth in the NCAA's Sweet 16.

Savage, the Big East Player of the Year and Sports Illustrated's Women's College Basketball Player of the Year, scored 25 points, had eight rebounds and six assists and teammate Jeannie Hebert added a season-high 26 points

and six assists in leading Miami. The Hurricanes are 30-1 and have



won 30 consecutive games, the nation's longest winning streak. The seventhseeded Tar Heels, led by Charlotte Smith's 16 points, finished at 22-9, after finishing 13-15 a year ago. Smith also had eight rebounds, while senior Emily Johnson tallied 14 points and three assists for UNC.

North Carolina had advanced to play Miami after defeating Old Dominion 60-54 Wednesday night in Carmichael

doing for Boston.

Miami, ranked sixth in the nation and the second seed in the East Region, advanced to the final 16 for the first time and will play third-seed Vanderbilt Thursday in Charlottesville, Va.

Miami and Savage came out strong, jumping to a 22-11 lead with Savage scoring 10 quick points.

Suddenly Miami's season seemed in jeopardy when a fast-breaking Savage was sandwiched between two Tar Heel defenders and fell to the court, clutch-

ing her left ankle with pain. Savage limped off to the locker room at the 10:28 mark of the first half.

Hebert picked up the slack, scoring 10 points on a 12-5 Hurricane run, until Savage returned with 4:38 left in the half. Miami led 48-36 at halftime.

North Carolina head coach Sylvia Hatchell said she was impressed by the play of Savage. "She's as good as any-body we saw in the ACC all year. She's a great player, there's no question about

Hatchell said her Tar Heels had not See MIAMI, page 5

### Top-ranked lacrosse rebounds versus



By Eric David Assistant Sports Editor

Sunday's matchup between topranked North Carolina and No. 3 Princeton looked more like an NBA basketball game than a lacrosse game.

The two teams muddled around for three quarters, showing occasional flashes of individual brilliance. In the fourth quarter, they finally got down to Keyed by three fourth-quarter goals,

the UNC lacrosse squad overcame a methodical Princeton team 9-8 at Fetzer Field. The win broke a two-game losing skid for the Tar Heels, moving their record to 3-2. The Tigers fell to 3-2. After losing 15-10 at No. 2 Syracuse

March 7 and 7-6 at fourth-ranked Loyola March 14, the defending-national champion Tar Heels were looking to regain form against a Princeton squad that was playing its fourth game in eight days.
"We really went back to the basics in

practice," said UNC senior midfielder Eric Seremet. "We were just concentrating on becoming a team.

The key, said UNC goalie Billy Daye, was that the Tar Heels came out aggressive. "In our losses, we had been coming out flat," he said. "Today, we came out and took the initiative.' Despite the aggressive play, neither

team was particularly sharp, as the Tar

Heels turned the ball over 24 times and Princeton mishandled it 22 times.

Things did not start well for UNC in its return to Chapel Hill after two weeks on the road. After only 58 seconds, Princeton middie Paul Murphy took a bass from attackman Kevin Lowe and beat Daye to put the Tigers on top 1-0.

Tiger middie Andrew Moe followed at the 8:56 mark with a spectacular goal to put his team up 2-0. Moe, working the right side, dropped the ball five yards from the goal. He fell to the ground, scooped up the bouncing ball and shovelled it by Daye from his stomach.

Meanwhile, the UNC attack was having trouble converting its shot opportunities. Attackmen John Webster and Michael Thomas both missed pointblank chances in the first five minutes.

UNC sophomore midfielder Ryan Wade finally broke through for the Tar Heels at the 6:58 mark, as he tallied an unassisted goal from the left, side to make the score 2-1. Wade finished with three goals and an assist.

The Tar Heels could not grab the lead until the 8:48 mark of the third stanza, when Wade took a feed from Webster and knocked it in from 15 yards to put the Tar Heels up 5-4.

With the lead, the UNC defense buckled down. Princeton had the ball for more than five minutes and was unable

At the start of the final stanza, the two teams decided that it was time to play. With the score tied 6-6, Seremet took

matters into his own hands. At the 12:02 mark he found the upper-right corner of the cage with a rocket from 15 yards out that left Princeton goalie Scott Bacigalupo blinking. It was one of three goals on the afternoon for Seremet.

For the next 6:28, the Princeton attackmen tried in vain to penetrate the Tar Heel defense. At every turn, they were denied, as UNC's Alex Martin, Greg Paradine and Chuck Breschi continually pounded their smaller opponents in one-on-one situations.

"Our defense was absolutely great." Daye said. "They took the ball away well."

With 5:30 left in the game, Tar Heel midfielder Ryan Wade took an assist from middie Dan Donnelly and scored to put UNC up 8-6.

On the ensuing faceoff, UNC midfielder Jim Buczek fed middie Donnie McNichol, who took the pass and made the score 9-6.

Princeton attempted a comeback, scoring twice in the final 3:25, but North Carolina held on for the victory.

"That was the longest two minutes of my life," Daye said. With the win, Daye said the Tar Heels were ready to roll. "This was the first step to get us back on track."

UNC junior attackman John Webster fends off Princeton defender David Morrow in Sunday's 9-8 Tar Heel victory at Fetzer Field