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SMITH SINKS SHOT FOR NCAA TITLE

Tar Heels Defeat La. Tech for 1st Women's Crown

BY ZACHARY ALBERT
SENIOR WRITER

RICHMOND, Va. — With 0.7 seconds left in the NCAA championship game, UNC's season rested in the hands of Charlotte Smith.

But the 0.7 seconds seemed like an eternity. The Tar Heels trailed by two to Louisiana Tech, when UNC junior Stephanie Lawrence lobbed the ball across the lane to Smith, who waited at the right wing. Smith released, and the aim was true.

The final shot hung in the air as the horn sounded, kissed in off the iron and the celebration began. The Tar Heels had won the national championship, downing the Lady Techsters 60-59 in front of a noisy throng of 11,966 at the Richmond Coliseum.

"I tried to make it exciting for you guys," said UNC head coach Sylvia Hatchell. "Can you believe that? It was just our day."

North Carolina (33-2) became the first ACC school to win an NCAA championship, and only the second school to win a men's and women's title. The Techsters finished their season at 31-4.

But the day didn't look to be, after the Tar Heels' last possession. UNC senior guard Tonya Sampson spun in the lane with five seconds remaining and tossed up an off-balance jumper that nicked the backboard off to the left.

Several players battled on the floor, but UNC's Marion Jones and Tech's Racquel Spurlock held the ball on the tie-up to set up the inbounds play off the alternate possession.

"I didn't even think it was our ball," Sampson said. "When I saw the (possession) arrow, my heart just dropped."

UNC was granted one last chance, and senior center Sylvia Crawley knew her dreams were going to happen.

"I can honestly say that there was never a time I thought we were going to lose," said UNC center Sylvia Crawley. "We were down, and I didn't know how we were going to win, but I knew we were going to win this game."

The day would not have been without the play of Smith. The 6-foot junior from Shelby pulled down a career and NCAA title game-high 23 rebounds to go along with her 20 points.

But Smith's last three were the most important. "I just had to put the time factor aside," Smith said. "I just said 'Oh, God,' and it went in. I didn't even look at it."

But everyone in the coliseum watched it sail. No Tech player was within five feet of Smith on the final shot.

Jones watched from the left wing.

"I knew it was in," she said. "If you could see it all, Charlotte's confidence in the shot, the release, the form — I knew it was going in."

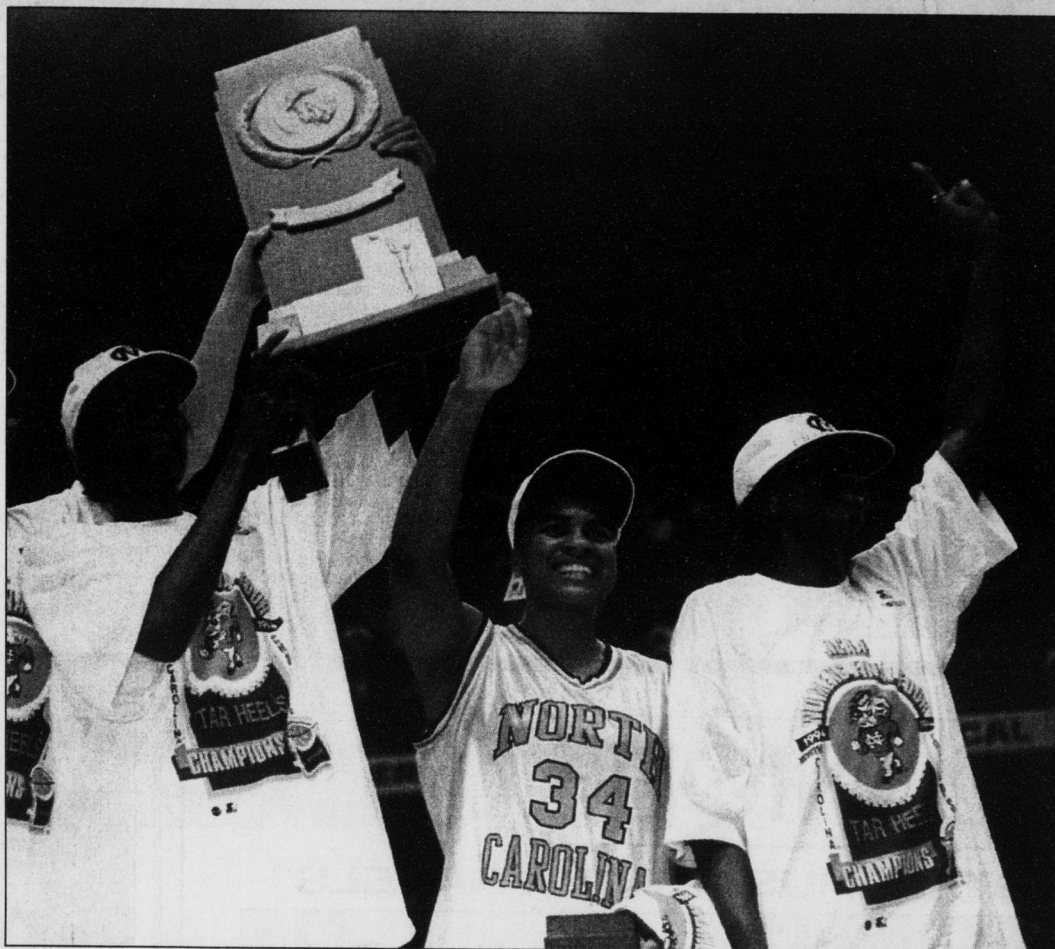
Hatchell watched the shot from the sidelines.

"She was right in front of our bench, and when it left her hand, I knew it was on course," Hatchell said. "I had already started walking down the floor because I knew it was going in. I know these kids well enough that when they release it, I can tell whether it's going in or not."

And as soon as the ball slid through the net, Hatchell ran the sidelines with fists pumping to shake the hand of Tech coach Leon Barmore.

Barmore lauded Smith's performance and UNC's team effort down the stretch.

"We just had a problem matching up with her," Barmore said. "She's a great player. I wish it could've been Louisiana Tech today, but it wasn't. I am not ashamed to lose to the University of North Carolina."



DTH/KATE CANNON

Sylvia Crawley, Tonya Sampson and Charlotte Smith accept the championship trophy at the NCAA women's basketball tournament Sunday at the Richmond Coliseum. The Tar Heels won on a last-second shot by Smith.

The game was a hard-fought struggle from the get-go. Louisiana Tech battled back from key injuries suffered in its 69-66 win against Alabama the day before.

While the injuries slowed down some Tech players, Techster guard Pam Harris surged ahead to lead her team with 15 points. With 15.7 seconds showing and three seconds left on the shot clock, the gold-betoothed senior drove the lane and popped from 15 feet to give Tech the 59-57 lead.

"I just tried to step up, being a senior, to lead my team," Harris said. "I tried to tell them it wasn't over."

The outcome was far from over. Although the Tar Heels trailed by as many as five with five minutes to play, Crawley made sure her teammates had the focus to win.

"A lot of people were looking at me like, 'Sylvia, why are you screaming what is wrong with you?' Crawley said. "But if that's what it takes to win it, I'll do it."

The opening jump went to the Tar Heels, but the game wouldn't be controlled as easily as the tap. The Techsters traded baskets with UNC throughout the first half, and it appeared Tech would take a 32-30 lead into the lockerroom.

But Sampson changed that with a quick steal from Techster guard Kendra Neal and a layup in the final second — the afternoon's

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Junior Earns MVP With Rebounds, Buzzer-Beater

BY CARTER TOOLE
SPORTS EDITOR

RICHMOND, Va. — For those of you wondering, yes, it was designed. Just not initially.

Charlotte Smith's shot that put His Airness to shame was drawn up in the huddle following UNC's final timeout.

"It's a simple triangle play," Tar Heel center Sylvia Crawley said on the floor after UNC's stirring 60-59 win against Louisiana Tech in the NCAA title game Saturday. "The plan was to shoot the 3 and not the two."

North Carolina head coach Sylvia Hatchell concurred.

"I told them in the huddle, 'we're going for the win not the tie,'" she said. "It was just a lucky call I guess."

But not the original call. Here's the 0.07 second-scenario that lifted Smith to the status of UNC legend:

Tech's Pam Thomas hit a jumper from the baseline to give the Lady Techsters a two-point lead with 14 seconds left. UNC point guard Marion Jones brought the ball up court and passed it to backcourt mate Tonya Sampson. Sampson drove into the lane and put up a rainbow.

"When I took the shot, the girl was playing pretty good D on me," Sampson said.

The shot hit the front of the iron and there was a mad scramble for the ball.

"I just wanted to get down there myself, but I couldn't do it," Sampson said. "I was like 'Please get it, please get it.' I was looking at the time and finally Marion got it."

"My heart just dropped."

Jones did force a jump ball, and the possession arrow pointed left — to the UNC basket. The Tar Heels called timeout and designed a play for their senior center.

"That was 20s — it was a job to Sylvia," Smith said. "They had that covered."

After the huddle, Stephanie Lawrence took the ball from the referee and didn't like what she saw. She called North Carolina's final timeout.

"Stephanie is our stabilizer," Hatchell said. "Stephanie is smart — she makes good decisions. That's why she takes the ball out of bounds."

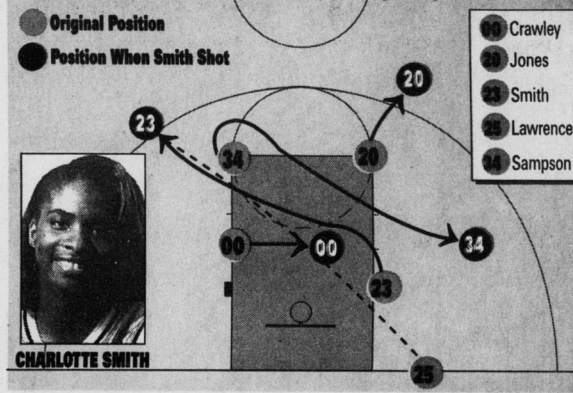
Hatchell knew she had to come up with something different. Much to Sampson's dismay, Hatchell called 30s.

"When she changed up I said, 'No! We need this play, we need it, Sylvia can do it,'" Sampson said. "She's like, 'Shut up, we're not going to do it!'"

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The Play That Gave UNC the Championship

Sylvia Crawley set a screen to free Charlotte Smith for the game-winning 3-pointer, off an inbounds pass by Stephanie Lawrence with 0.7 seconds left. Tonya Sampson, who set up in the lane, served as a decoy by moving to the right wing.



DTH GRAPHIC/JUSTIN SCHEEP

Student, Alumnus Killed in Head-On Collisions

BY JAMIE KRITZER
STAFF WRITER

A December graduate of the University and a UNC senior were killed in separate head-on car collisions over the weekend.

The first accident occurred Friday morning in a head-on crash with another vehicle on a clear stretch of N.C. 54, eight miles south of Graham.

Harvey Tillman Long III, 23, of Roanoke Rapids had just passed another vehicle when his 1984 Oldsmobile collided with a 1990 Dodge Caravan at 9:10 a.m.

In the second accident, which happened at 2:33 p.m. Sunday, UNC senior Olivia

Frigga Tjia, 21, of Cary was killed after losing control of her gold-colored Acura on Interstate 40 in Durham. After losing control of her vehicle, crossing the median and continuing southwest into oncoming traffic, Tjia ran into a 1984 Mercedes-Benz driven by Katherine Yelton of Southport.

Yelton was in critical but unstable condition Sunday night at Duke University Medical Center. Her husband William, a passenger in the car, also was in critical condition.

Durham police officer S.L. Gaither said he did not know at the time how Tjia lost control of her vehicle. Tjia, who was an economics and industrial relations major,

had been returning to UNC after Easter.

Gaither, who responded to the call at 2:46 p.m., said both cars were destroyed in the collision. The Mercedes-Benz was so damaged that its roof had to be pried off to remove the Yeltons.

Traffic on eastbound I-40 was backed up Sunday afternoon, with drivers slowed to a near halt for two hours. The wreckage and emergency vehicles at the scene of the accident resulted in only one open lane for traffic. The westbound lane was closed.

Tjia was the vice chairwoman of the Undergraduate Honor Court and wanted to attend law school after graduating. "She was really instrumental in putting together

the freshman Honor Code presentation," said senior John Sauls, who served as associate student attorney general under senior William Tucker Ball. "She spent countless hours working in the office."

Sauls and junior Harrison Tuttle, chairman of the honor court, had not heard about Tjia's death. Both said they were shocked about the accident.

Ball, former student attorney general, said, "She was very kind-hearted and she did a very solid job as vice chair."

Tjia's father William Tjia said Sunday he was unsure when the funeral would be.

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B-GLAD Event Disrupted By Protester's 'Sex Toy'

BY HOLLY STEPP
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

UNC's gay and lesbian organization's celebration week ended Thursday with an angry debate over an inflatable sheep labeled as a "sex toy" that was placed in the Pit by a campus conservative leader.

Senior Darren Allen, editor of The Carolina Review, a conservative magazine, placed an inflatable sheep in the Pit near the Bisexuals, Gay men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity's table.

The sheep was white with red features, and it had the words "B-GLAD sex toy" written on it.

The sheep later was moved after Patrick Willard, B-GLAD co-chairman-elect, called University Police to complain about the disruption.

Officer Ernest Caviness told Allen to remove the sheep a "safe distance" away. "This group has the Pit reserved, and I want you to move this a safe distance away from their activities," Caviness said. "You have the same First Amendment (rights) as



Senior Darren Allen, editor of The Carolina Review, placed an inflatable sheep in the Pit on Thursday.

they do, but they have the area reserved," he said.

Allen moved the sheep about 30 feet away next to the concrete tables in front of the Student Union.

The disagreement and the call to campus police was the second during the week. On Wednesday, a preacher, Gary Birdsong, was arrested for disrupting a B-GLAD

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Copland: Term Returned Credibility to SBP Office

BY JAMES LEWIS
SENIOR WRITER

Overflowing cardboard boxes sit outside Student Body President Jim Copland's Suite C office.

A small refrigerator has been unplugged and rests idle within the innermost confines of student government.

Tuesday, Copland and his administration formally will step onto the sidelines as Student Body President-elect George Battle begins his transition into office.

After last year's effort to impeach the Student Congress speaker and a student body president that made it a point not to be visible to students, Copland won his campaign on a platform for a stronger student voice and a more credible student

government.

"In terms of broad goals, it was to make student government an active voice to hit the big issues, and I think we've done that," Copland said.

Whether it was the site selection for the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center or the 24-hour visitation policy in campus residence halls, Copland was a vocal campus spokesman.

Anne Cates, a member of the UNC Board of Trustees, said Copland effectively had communicated student opinion to the



JIM COPLAND leaves office Tuesday.

BOT. "I think he's been very diligent and supportive in making the students' voice heard," she said.

She added that Copland had arranged for the trustees to meet with the students on several issues, including the visitation policy and the black cultural center.

Donald Boulton, vice chancellor for student affairs, said Copland brought something unique to the job. "Jim has brought a lot of energy and excitement," he said. "He's brought a lot of innovative ideas."

Boulton said Copland had made sure his voice had been heard.

"One thing I will say about him is that he's never without an opinion, and he always knows how to express it."

Copland oversaw an administration with eight committees and what some crit-

ics described as an inefficient bureaucracy. But Copland said the large administration accommodated greater student involvement in government and University issues.

"We have had more students involved, and I think that's a positive," Copland said. "We have got committees, but we have got committees that are generally formed along the points of my platform."

"There's enough to do in terms of academic affairs at this institution that you can have 15 students working on it, and they can all have stuff to do," he said. "In terms of advocating our position to state government, you can have 15 students working on it, and they would have enough to do."

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All I can say is, 'Thank you, Lord, thank you.'

Sylvia Hatchell