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Blue Reign: UNC Seattle-Bound

Tar Heels Trounce Kentucky 74-61 To Advance to Smith's 10th Final 4

BY JACSON LOWE
SENIOR WRITER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — There's a reason why The Man is going to his 10th Final Four — he's the best in the business at preparing for an opponent in a limited time.

Coming into Saturday's Southeast Regional final against No. 1 Kentucky, UNC head coach Dean Smith knew how strong the Wildcats had been in the tournament. He'd heard how deep their bench was. He'd heard how UK's Rick Pitino was one of the best coaches in the business.

Smith found the kink in the armor, however, and he proved that all the above wasn't enough when his "underdog" No. 2 Tar Heels blasted Kentucky 74-61 in front of 17,721 fans — the most ever to watch a basketball game in the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center.

"I'm kind of stunned," Pitino said. "We had worked on the characteristics of being a team the whole year. I'm just stunned that individuals showed up instead of a team."

"All season we've been fortunate that not many people figured it out — Coach Smith did — our biggest weakness has been our perimeter game, no question about it. With the exception of Tony (Delk), we haven't had a great shooter on the perimeter."

Smith's defensive strategy paid off, and the Tar Heels will face Arkansas on Saturday in the national semifinals in Seattle.

The Wildcats (28-5) shot a paltry 7 of 36 (19.4 percent) from the 3-point line Saturday and managed only a 21-of-75 (28 percent) showing overall from the field. Credit that to the Tar Heels' (28-5) defensive intensity inside and maybe a little too much talent on the UK sidelines.

"What we hoped would happen is, each of them has so much ability, were highly recruited, and (say to themselves.) 'What do you mean you're not playing me tight? Watch me!'" Smith said, trying to explain what the UK players' mindset might have been. "I mean it's human nature when they can get some shots. But I think Kentucky is a marvelous team this year. I still think they're the best I've seen."

And Kentucky showed that greatness in the first five minutes of the game. The

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More than 140 fans were camping out to purchase Final Four tickets Saturday night outside the Smith Center. The line swelled to more than 300 Sunday.

A Thousand Fans Greet Tar Heels At Late-Night Smith Center Rally

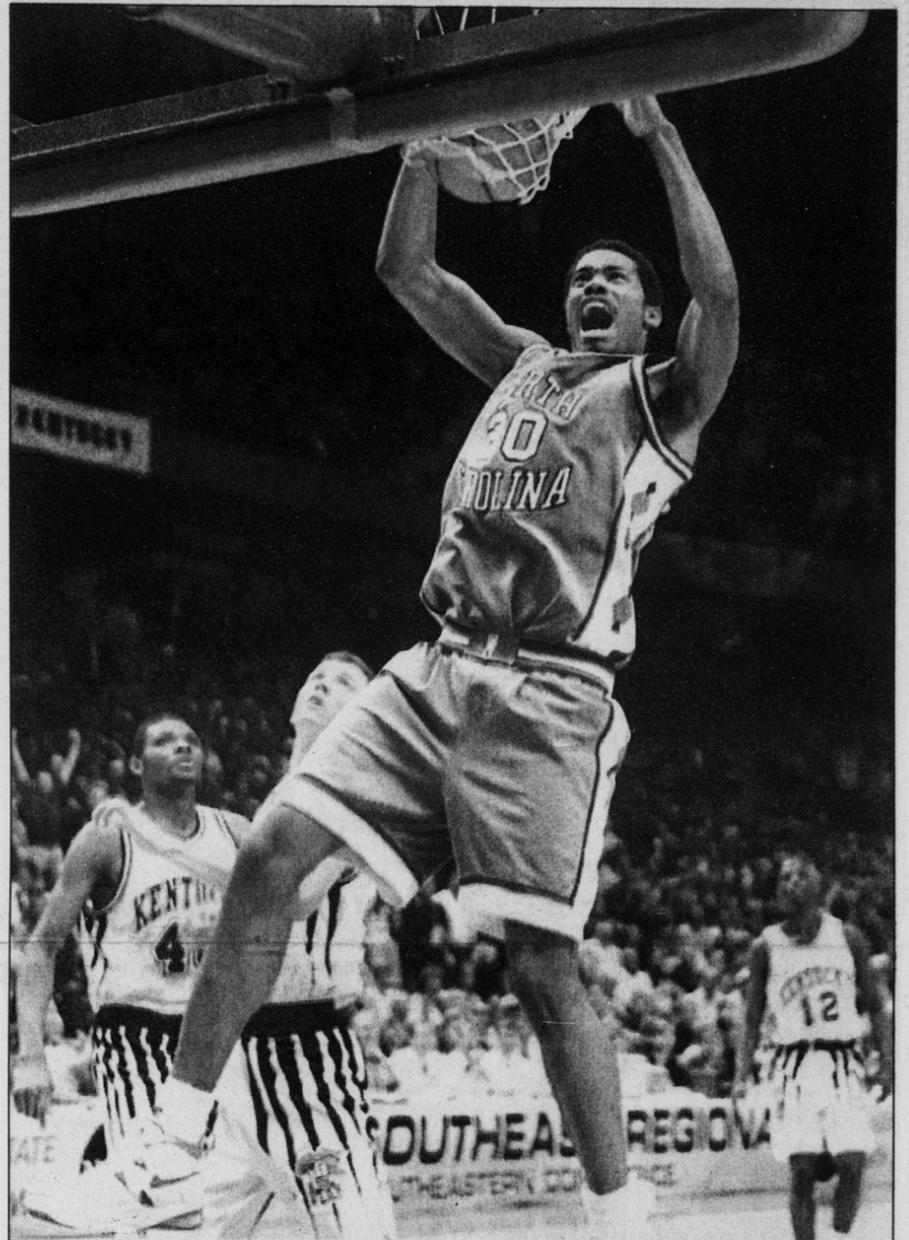
BY JUSTIN SCHEEF
SPORTS EDITOR

The sophomore center came be-bopping out of the Smith Center tunnel as the crowd of 1,000 well-wishing Tar Heel fans rose to their feet to applaud their Final Four-bound team Saturday night.

At the stroke of midnight, Rasheed Wallace spun around, faced the crowd, looked toward the ceiling and let out one of his signature primal screams.

"Aaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!"
The throng roared in approval of Wallace and his North Carolina teammates, the Southeast Regional champions.

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Rasheed Wallace puts the finishing touches on UNC's Southeast Regional championship against Kentucky Saturday night in Birmingham, Ala. UNC will play Arkansas Saturday in the Final Four at the Kingdome in Seattle.

Fans Go Wild After Victory Over 'Cats

BY ADAM GUSMAN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

A bonfire of the vanities. That's what students built on Franklin Street minutes after Donald Williams dunked to put the exclamation points on UNC's victory over favored Kentucky.

The Wildcats came swaggering into the Southeastern Regional final against UNC after thrashing the three teams they had faced in the tournament. They swarmed over opponents, forcing turnovers and launching three-point bombs. In their supreme confidence, they might have overlooked the Tar Heels.

When the buzzer sounded, UNC was going back to the Final Four, and the victory was even sweeter this time around because the team had been underdogs against the top-seeded Wildcats.

Students spilled from the bars and came running from residence halls, carrying rolls of toilet paper, old T-shirts, anything that would burn. Within minutes of Williams' game-ending dunk, two fires were burning on the pavement of sectioned-off Franklin Street.

Any doubts about what Dean Smith's team was capable of went up in flames along with the toilet paper and articles of clothing.

"Carolina rocks! We're going all the way!" freshman Maggie Meyer shouted amid the hoopla.

Some fans were already making predictions. "UCLA and UNC; it's the game to be," said Tony Law, a resident of Raleigh. "Watch it. Live it. Shave it!"

Chants of "U-N-C! U-N-C!" went up as students climbed on each others' shoulders and ran through the bonfires.

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Random Assault Tarnishes Peaceful Festivities, Sends Two Men to UNC Hospitals

BY RYAN THORNBURG
CITY EDITOR

Two men were treated and released at UNC Hospitals early Sunday morning after five men on Franklin Street punched them with brass knuckles, breaking one man's cheek bone, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

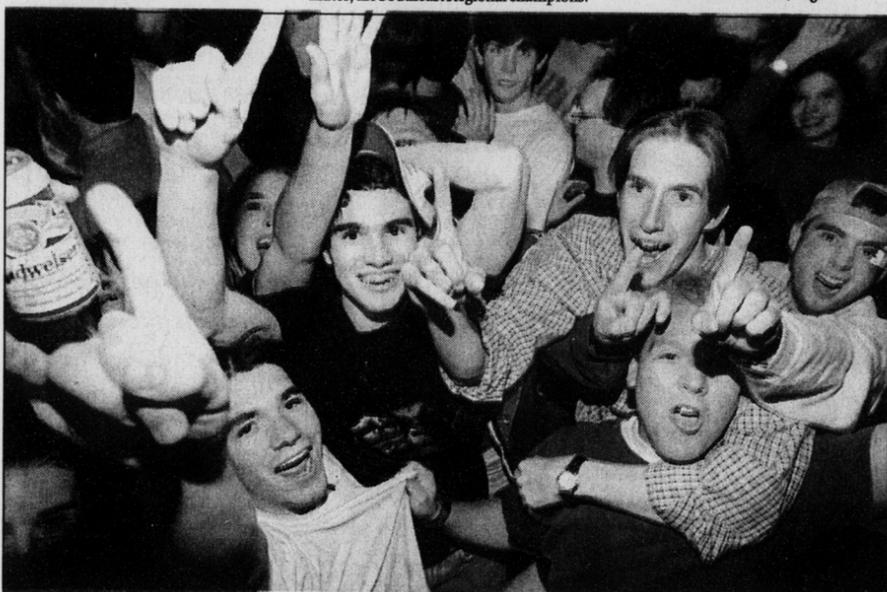
Bruce Miller, 23, of Fayetteville and Brian Gilmore, 21, of Burlington were assaulted on the sidewalk in front of Players at 173 1/2 E. Franklin St. at 2:15 a.m., reports state.

The attack occurred several hours after the main post-game ruckus on Franklin Street had died down. Police believe the assault incident was unrelated to the celebration when 3,000 students and residents stormed downtown to burn toilet paper and douse each other in beer.

"It certainly was in the area (of the celebration)," said Chapel Hill police Lt. Tim Presley. "I'm not sure if they were connected."

Chapel Hill police had made no arrests in connection with the assault as of Sunday. Presley said the case was still under

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DTH/CRAIG JONES

More than 3,000 people swarmed Franklin Street Saturday evening after the Tar Heels defeated Kentucky 74-61. Police broke up the party at about 10:30 p.m., saying, "Save it for (next) Saturday night."

Popular Textbook Store Closes Doors

BY GRETCHEN HOFFMAN
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Cash registers, boxes, and a few empty bookshelves and racks are all that remain in Tar Heel Textbooks, which had been located at 301 W. Franklin St. since its opening in 1988. UNC Student Stores' major competitor closed its doors Wednesday.

However, the store's closing will not have much of an effect on the University population as a whole, Student Stores Di-

rector John Jones said.

"I really don't think it will affect most students," Jones said. "We're going to have to order a lot more books. A lot of students bought their books there."

More students buying their books at Student Stores will also mean even longer lines.

Rutledge Tufts, director of UNC auxiliary services, said he thought Student Stores was well equipped to handle the extra students.

"For a long time, there were no other

textbook stores in Chapel Hill," he said. "In terms of providing for the volume of students, it's not a problem. The textbook department at Student Stores is, and always has been, capable of providing for the students' needs."

The elimination of the store's major competition will not result in higher textbook prices, Jones said. "Prices have never been affected by Tar Heel Textbooks." The cost of a book is determined by national

See TEXTBOOKS, Page 2

\$100 Minimum Meal Plan Requirement Axed

BY MELISSA MILIOS
STAFF WRITER

Almost 10 years after its establishment, the \$100 minimum meal plan on-campus students have had to purchase each semester has been eliminated.

The University's Board of Trustees voted Friday to remove the meal plan minimum. Student Body President George Battle said he was extremely pleased to have been able to fulfill one of his campaign platform goals.

"In this era of tax cutting, many Univer-

sity students just got a \$200-a-year tax cut," Battle said. "Just about every student body president for the last 10 to 11 years has tried to get (the requirement) eliminated."

"I am very pleased that our administration could be the ones to finally pass it," he said. "I like to think of it as a parting gift to the student body as we are getting ready to leave office."

Battle said his close work with the University's administration had been the key to getting the requirement eliminated. "This is something we've worked on for

the entire year. It passed rather easily, but it has not been an easy road to get it done."

Carolyn Eiland, associate vice chancellor for business, led an investigation and reported to the BOT that she was completely in favor of lifting the requirement.

Eiland said the required \$100 meal plan was originally implemented in 1985 after the University restructured the campus dining services.

Prior to this, the University had rented out the dining service spaces, which led to

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He's the master.

UNC senior forward Pat Sullivan on head coach Dean Smith