

'Disappointment' Not the Adjective for UNC's Effort

Thursday, on the back page of this publication, there was a feature in the Barometer called "The Crying Dutchman" where the statement, "Like most Tar Heel fans, we were totally disappointed with the results of our team's efforts on Saturday."

I've never understood what exactly goes on outside the sports office at the DTH, and I really don't understand how five or six people decide (and print) how the rest of us here feel about the world's events. I just want to go on record saying that I was disappointed Saturday, but it wasn't with the team's efforts.

I was disappointed because I couldn't go up and somehow tell the team how badly I felt for them in the locker room. It's very hard to balance being a fan and a journalist while covering the team I've adored since my elementary school days, and Saturday night I probably leaned a little too much toward the fan side.

I was extremely lucky to get to go to Seattle, and don't think for one moment I don't know that. But while I was there I

saw how hard the team was playing, and I realized how tired they were during that 12-minute stretch without a field goal. I saw the desire in their eyes when they closed to within one with a minute to go, and most importantly, I saw the anguish they felt after their season had ended.

We chose to run the photo of Serge Zwicker because it best summed up that frustration. We easily could have selected David Neal, Charlie McNairy, Octavus Barnes or Clyde Lynn. Even though they didn't get into the game, they felt the hurt inside that every other member of the team felt. They were one game away from playing for the national championship, and I'll bet'cha a dime to a doughnut hole, they



JACKSON LOWE
SENIOR WRITER

probably felt like they had let down this University.

I'm not saying personal glory wasn't part of it at some level, but everyone who has ever put on a North Carolina basketball jersey knows that with the number comes a lot of responsibility. I'm not going to list all the numbers because true Tar Heel fans already know this is the most successful program in college basketball history.

When I returned to the office Wednesday afternoon, I returned a phone call to one of the nicest women I've ever spoken with through this position. Her name was Barbara Mach, a Chapel Hill resident, and she wanted to know why the team hadn't received a hero's welcome when it returned on Saturday.

That's a very good question, Mrs. Mach, and I'm afraid I don't have an answer. Part of it is because most people didn't know the team would return Sunday, and if they did know, the arrival time wasn't exactly common knowledge.

But you have to ask yourself, if that bus

arrival was posted all over campus, would people have come and said, "Thanks for a season full of success and excitement," or would they have slept through the afternoon and not given it a second thought?

No, I'm not disappointed with the team's effort on Saturday, and I don't think most true Tar Heel fans are. For those of you who are disappointed, perhaps you have forgotten that the Tar Heels' season was supposed to end in Birmingham.

For the first time all season, Dean Smith found himself in an unusual situation—he was the underdog. No one expected his team to win against the mighty Wildcats, playing in front of a Kentucky crowd. But

you know what? UNC won, and it received a well-earned trip to the Final Four.

A total of 302 teams started practice Oct. 15, 64 made the NCAA field, 16 made it to the regional semifinals, and only four made trips to the Pacific Northwest to play for the crown. This year's players didn't win a championship trophy, but I don't think any of them would say the season was a total disappointment.

The only people who would view a trip to the Final Four as a total disappointment are people hoping to make a profit off the championship through merchandise or people who don't know a damn thing about the sport.

Though my responsibility is to report the facts when I'm a media representative, I can see the emotions surrounding each event. Until you've had to face the world after losing the most important game of your career in front of a national television audience, I suggest you don't throw around the word *disappointment* so trivially.

So, in parting, I would just like to say thank you to the 1994-95 men's varsity basketball team. It has been my pleasure to follow you to the ends of the earth, to enjoy your remarkable talent, and to share your elation in times of triumph.

I hope I never forsok you in your times of disappointment.

Revitalized Virginia Hosts UNC Laxers

BY JUSTIN SCHEEP
SPORTS EDITOR

It's been 23 years since Virginia won the NCAA championship by upsetting lacrosse giant Johns Hopkins.

Last year, coach Dom Starsia's team was one goal away from winning a second gold trophy, but a goal by Princeton's Kevin Lowe won the game in overtime, 9-8.

The Cavaliers, who host No. 7 UNC at 2 p.m. Saturday in Charlottesville, Va., were favorites to win the NCAA title this year and have been pretty much up to snuff. Early on, Starsia's squad cruised, whipping Navy and Penn State and easily beating top-5 teams Princeton and Syracuse in enemy territory.

But in two of the past three games, the Wahoos have wallowed. Johns Hopkins took over the top ranking with a 22-13 whipping in Baltimore. And last weekend, the Cavs slipped by Maryland 12-11.

"It was a typical ACC game — hard fought on both sides," Starsia said. "It wasn't a work of art, but both teams battled, and we were fortunate to win."

Ah yes, the wacky, woolly ACC. Maryland beats UNC by one and Duke by two, UNC beats Duke by five, and Maryland loses to Virginia by one. All four teams are ranked in the top eight, including the Wa-

hoos and Terps at No. 2 and 3, respectively.

If recent games mean anything, home field advantage won't mean anything in Saturday's match between the Cavaliers (7-1, 1-0 in the ACC) and the Tar Heels (5-4, 1-1).

In 1994, the teams met three times, with Virginia winning 16-6 in the regular season, UNC winning the ACC title 15-7, and Virginia advancing to the final four 12-10. The home team went 0-3 in '94.

"We know each other way too well," Starsia said. "I don't think it's going to be a complicated lacrosse game. It will be just two teams going at each other."

"It won't be for the meek of heart." The key matchup Saturday will be UNC's anemic offense against Virginia's inexperienced defense. Gone from Virginia's 1994 NCAA runner-up team is goalkeeper James Ireland, the ACC Goalie of the Year.

Junior Court Durling has stepped in



Coach DOM STARSIA's Cavs lost last year's title game to Princeton in overtime.

and has 95 saves for a 56.5 percentage.

"He's been very efficient," Starsia said. "We played a very difficult first half of the season schedule. You can't do that without getting good goal play. He's put us in a position to win games."

Winning the games has been UVa's trio of star attackmen, who have accounted for 100 points in eight games — 12.5 per game.

Sophomore Doug Knight is the scorer, leading the ACC with a whopping 28 goals. Junior Tim Whiteley is the passer, leading the ACC with 22 assists. Sophomore Michael Watson does both, tallying 14 goals and 15 assists.

On the flip side, Starsia said UNC relies more on a team effort than a couple of players.

"They may not have any superstars, but Carolina has good players everywhere," he said. "They have balance all over the field."

The Tar Heels have lost three games to top-5 teams by one goal and to No. 1 Hopkins by four. Winning Saturday would give UNC another quality win and undoubtedly its 16th consecutive bid to the NCAA.

Spring Football Ends With Saturday Game

STAFF REPORT

The UNC football team's traditional spring Blue/White game Saturday will have a nontraditional twist. It will be played on Fetzer Field because the Kenan Stadium turf is being replaced.

The 1:30 p.m. game concludes the Tar

Heels' spring practice, which began March 14.

Saturday's scrimmage will be followed by an autograph session for fans.

The Tar Heels open the regular season Sept. 2 in a nationally televised game against Syracuse at Kenan.

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