

NCAA Women's Basketball Scores

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SPORTS MONDAY

The Daily Tar Heel

NCAA Men's Basketball Scores

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Monday, March 18, 1996 12

Backboard Break Shatters UNC's NCAA Run

■ The Tar Heels never rallied from Darvin Ham's slam, which sent the game into a 39-minute hiatus.

BY ROBBIE PICKEREL
SPORTS EDITOR

RICHMOND, Va. — The first thing that occurred to Jason Sasser was that he had missed a shot.

Sure, it hadn't been a gimme by any stretch of the imagination — a couple of strong dribbles to split two North Carolina defenders before the Texas Tech forward's running seven-footer bounced off the opposite side of the rim.

"Then I saw Darvin (Ham) flying

through the air, and the glass shattered," Sasser said. "The next thing that went through my mind was 'ESPY.' Even though Darvin had the big dunk, they're still going to have to show my missed hook."

It shouldn't be too much of a struggle for the Red Raider senior, though. After all, it was that glass-smashing dunk less than eight minutes into Sunday afternoon's second-round NCAA matchup at Richmond Coliseum that energized third-seeded Texas Tech — all the way to a 92-73 rout over sixth-seeded UNC.

"After the backboard incident, it seems like it took all the fire out of us," UNC point guard Jeff McInnis said.

The play was an act worthy of postseason plaudits.

With 12:08 left in the opening stanza, Red Raider Jason Martin pulled down a

missed try attempt by teammate Cory Carr. Martin passed off to Sasser, who split the defense with a running hook.

When that shot didn't fall, Ham flew through Tar Heel big men Serge Zwikker and Antawn Jamison to scoop the rebound in midair and follow with a two-handed jam that shattered the Hydro-Rim-manufactured backboard.

"I really didn't realize what I did until I turned back and looked at the rim," Ham



SERGE ZWIKKER and Antawn Jamison were both cut by the shattered backboard.

said. "Sasser was giving me chest bumps and I just wanted to flex."

Glass flew to the opposite end of the floor and down the players' tunnel, and play was suspended for 39 minutes.

"I should've boxed out; he just came out of nowhere," said Zwikker, who, along with Jamison and Ham, received minor cuts on the play. "He was just a little bit quicker. It was a nice dunk."

But Ham's jam served as more than a glass-breaker; it served, in the end, as an early back-breaker for UNC.

The slam evened the score at 16, meaning the game virtually started over after a five-minute warm-up, but the Tar Heels were never quite the same. They were as emotional and physical as the first eight minutes, but they seemed spooked by Texas Tech's offense.

"I just feel that we didn't handle it well after the backboard broke," McInnis said. "We came back onto the floor, and we were standing around watching."

McInnis said the Tar Heels weren't surprised by Tech's momentum after the break — after all, they had just shattered a backboard. But UNC just could never match it.

Texas Tech ran the floor as if they owned it, hitting their next four shots to take a 10-point lead before Ademola Okulaja converted two charity throws to put UNC back into the game. Ham had one assist during that four-minute run; Sasser had a trey and a helper.

The Red Raiders' lead was 12 by half-time, and Texas Tech's mini-run after the backboard break was a preview of the second half to come — Red Raider domina-

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"I wouldn't say (the Tar Heels) lost their

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Gymnasts Mount Rally To Topple Towson State

BY BRIAN HAMILTON
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina gymnastics team had set a team record in the vault for the second time in three meets. Tar Heel individuals had won all three previous events, including a record-tying effort by freshman Jen DeLuca on the bars. Despite the impressive efforts, however, UNC was on top in every category except the most important one: the score.

Faced with making up less than three-tenths of a point, coach Derek Galvin called his team into the huddle and let the Tar Heels know what was needed to win.

"I told them, 'Ladies, go out there and do the best you can. I want to see lots of expression. I want to see a lot of team spirit,'" he said. "It was important that everybody on the sidelines put any energy they had left into that person on the floor, by cheering, praying, anything they could do."

Whether by talent or divine intervention, UNC came through with the best team performance in school history, a total just barely enough to edge Towson State 193.375-193.350 in front of 427 at Fetzer Gym Saturday.

In the cozy confines of Fetzer and with a boisterous Senior Day crowd on hand, the day began inauspiciously for the Tar Heels. The UNC vaulters opened the first rotation with a record-setting tally of 48.200, led by Joni Smith and Susan Cunningham, who tied for first in the meet

with scores of 9.750.

Yet for the first time in a home meet this season, the Tar Heels were not ahead after the first rotation of events, as Towson State's 48.650 on the bars enabled them to snare the lead.

UNC needed more big performances in order to stay within striking distance of the Tigers, and the duo of DeLuca and Nicole Austin stepped up with career routines on bars. Austin earned a 9.875, followed by a 9.900 for DeLuca, which tied the individual record set in 1989.

Though the vaults hadn't been enough to take a lead, Galvin said he was still confident his team could pull close.

"To be honest, I thought we'd be very strong on bars," he said. "They were phenomenal on bars at the University of Denver a week ago. I didn't know if we could do better than Denver, and we did. Jen DeLuca and Nicole Austin just had incredible routines."

Still, UNC trailed up until the final rotation, but the floor exercise saw the Tar Heels prove once again that superstars perform big when the pressure is on. Sophomore Amanda Mitchell capped off a record-setting day of her own with a 9.850 on floor, matching the school individual mark. The performance also catapulted Mitchell to the highest all-around total in UNC history, as she finished with an astonishing 38.925 on the day.

Coupled with a 9.825 from Cunningham and a 9.700 from Ashley Simpson, the Tar Heels pulled off the unlikely comeback.

"Coach told us to be enthusiastic and get into everyone's routine and push each other along," co-captain Jenn Wilder said. "I thought we did that, and I guess it worked."

Galvin said: "We had so much emotion in the first three events, I didn't know if we'd have any energy left. But they put together some of the best floor routines we've done all year."



AMANDA MITCHELL set a UNC record for highest all-around total.

Spring Scrimmage Spells New Focus

BY JOSEPH ROLISON
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR



Fullback Chris Watson charges downfield in UNC's spring football scrimmage Saturday. Watson rushed for two touchdowns in the game.

Before spring practice began, the North Carolina football team had all the right people in all the wrong places on offense.

Sure, the Tar Heels had standout tailback Leon Johnson returning for his final season. And the rest of the UNC backfield, with the exception of quarterback, wasn't exactly short on experience.

So the North Carolina ground attack was primed to dominate in the spring. And it made sense that LJ & Co. would carry the burden for UNC's offense, considering the Tar Heels had suffered the brunt of their losses at QB and receiver.

But recent trends in college football dictated that UNC didn't need a stepped-up rushing game. As defenses have geared up more for the run, offenses have taken to the air.

"You're having to throw the ball more because people are trying to stop the run," UNC coach Mack Brown said. "(Defenses) are going to have nine guys around the football some."

"If the quarterback can't put the ball in the right guy's hands, and if the talent's even, you're going to be beat."

Yet the Tar Heels lacked a quarterback with much Division I experience and were sans Octavus Barnes, their go-to receiver.

So Mack Brown brought in offensive coordinator Greg Davis and his four-receiver scheme and signed junior college signal-caller Chris Keldorf.

As a result, Johnson and his rushing cohorts may not be so overworked in 1996.

"Chris has been what we needed — an experienced player, an older player, a mature player (quarterback)," Mack Brown said. "We're using ... things that put a lot of pressure on the quarterback, but Chris has picked it up very quickly."

Keldorf ran the first-team offense in Saturday's Blue-White scrimmage at Kenan Stadium, completing 11 passes for 168 yards and a touchdown. True, his numbers came against UNC's second-

string defense, but he exhibited competence in operating Davis' attack.

And much to UNC's relief, Keldorf's ability to run the wide-open scheme has taken a load off freshman Jason Peace and sophomore Oscar Davenport, who is nursing an injured knee he suffered against Clemson in November.

The other half of UNC's offensive equation rests with the receivers. With Barnes out, the Tar Heels at times have had only four or five wideouts at their disposal, which has thrown a gigantic wrench into UNC's pass-oriented plans.

To ease the situation, Brown moved former defensive back Greg Williams over to receiver and shifted Chuckie Parquet to wideout. Also, Na' Brown, Darrin Ashford and L.C. Stevens, who nabbed five balls for 69 yards and a touchdown Saturday, have picked up their games to lessen the effects of Barnes' absence.

"Darrin Ashford has been the highlight of the receivers," Mack Brown said.

Other than Davenport and Barnes, whose injured knee has kept him out of practice completely, the Tar Heels for the most part have avoided the injury bug. The only other names on UNC's disabled list are running back Jon Linton (elbow), free safety Omar Brown and cornerback Terry Billups (shoulder), all of whom are expected to be at full speed in the fall.

While the new offense has garnered the lion's share of attention this spring, the Tar Heel defense has practiced in relative obscurity. UNC's 'D' returns most of its starters from last year's unit, which limited foes to 267 yards per game.

But in Saturday's scrimmage, defensive linemen Ronnie Holliday, Greg Ellis and Mike Pringley, among others, made their presence known in major fashion. UNC's first-string defenders sacked Peace eight times and generally wreaked havoc on the reserve unit.

Mack Brown said, "They've got to be really careful that they don't feel good about themselves to the point where there's not the same urgency (as in 1995)."

Women Laxers Torch Tigers in Scoring Frenzy

BY TATE SULLIVAN
STAFF WRITER

Appearing to be a step faster than Towson State the whole afternoon, the North Carolina women's lacrosse team blew away the slower Tigers 13-4 Sunday before a crowd of 150 at Navy Field.

Six different Tar Heels scored in the

blowout, and Erin McGinnis, Lori Pasquantonio and Sarah Dacey all tallied hat tricks. UNC (4-1) has scored in double digits in all of its victories.

Dacey wreaked havoc on TSU's (1-2) defense the entire game, blowing by defenders at will. The junior midfielder's penetration often led to quick and easy goals by the Tar Heels.

"We had a little more speed in the midfield," Dacey said. "Our transition was really good and we had a step on them the

whole afternoon."

On one play, Dacey received an outlet pass from Carla Nappi and outtraced numerous Tiger defenders to the crease for the goal.

"We expected to face a good team today," Dacey said. "It was tough competition for us, but we shot much better than we have. The team as a whole was intense."

See WOMEN'S LACROSSE, Page 7

Baseball Batters Bobcats in Sweep

BY LEE TAFT
STAFF WRITER

Despite the chilling weather, North Carolina's bats were hot Sunday as the Tar Heels blasted 11 hits against Ohio en route to a 6-4 victory at Boshamer Stadium.

UNC was led by the relief pitching of winner B. J. Finnerty, who gave up four hits while striking out three batters in four and two-thirds innings, and Corey Richardson, who struck out two in the ninth to record his sixth save of the season.

The win completed a weekend sweep over the Bobcats that improved the Tar Heels' record to 16-7. On Saturday, UNC drilled Ohio 12-1.

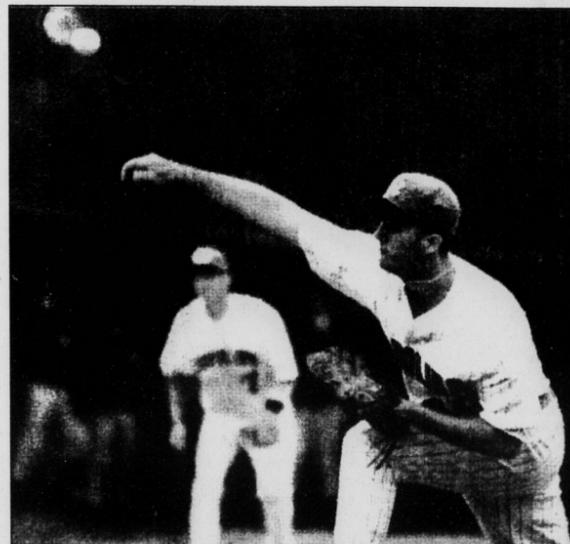
UNC started the Sunday game a bit sluggish, recording hits yet stranding runners in both the first and second innings.

Things picked up for the Tar Heels in the third, however, as Justin Raniszkeski led off with a single. He then advanced to second on Brian Whitlock's sacrifice bunt, and Jarrett Shearin moved to first after being hit by a pitch. Moments later, Michael Stoner crushed an Ashley Hoskins pitch off the scoreboard, putting UNC up 3-0.

Ohio responded quickly, picking up three runs in the top of the fourth as UNC pitcher Eric Severance gave up a hit and walked four straight batters before Finnerty came on in relief.

Severance's difficulties on the mound have plagued him all season, and his effort in UNC's contest proved no different.

"Severance really has a good arm and has good mechanics," UNC coach Mike



UNC pitcher B.J. Finnerty pitches in Sunday's 6-4 win over Ohio. Finnerty earned the win against the Bobcats, giving up four hits and one run.

Roberts said. "He has just struggled throwing strikes in his last couple years here."

"He's trying to work through it. He has a great work ethic — it's just one of those things. Everything today was just down stairs and low, and he just couldn't get it done."

The Tar Heels soon stopped the bleeding, breaking the game open in the bottom of the sixth with three runs. Antawan Smith

had a lead-off single into left field, followed by Julian Dean's sacrifice bunt. Richie Grimsley then drew a walk and later advanced to second on Robby McIver's fielder's choice, which forced Smith out at third. Raniszkeski loaded the bases by getting hit by a pitch.

With the bases loaded, Roberts in-

See BASEBALL, Page 9

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Tuesday	Friday	Men's Lacrosse vs. Maryland, Fetzer Field, 2 p.m.
Baseball vs. Florida State, Boshamer Stadium, 3 p.m.	Women's Golf at Lady Gamecock, Columbia, S.C., All day	Women's Lacrosse at Vanderbilt, Nashville, Tenn., 6 p.m.
Men's Lacrosse vs. Duke, Fetzer Field, 7 p.m.	Wrestling at NCAA tournament, Minneapolis, Minn., All day	Gymnastics at N.C. State, Raleigh, 7 p.m.
Wednesday	Saturday	Sunday
Women's Lacrosse vs. UMBC, Fetzer Field, 1 p.m.	Women's Golf at Lady Gamecock, Columbia, S.C., All day	Women's Golf at Lady Gamecock, Columbia, S.C., All day
Women's Tennis at N.C. State, Raleigh, 2 p.m.	Wrestling at NCAA tournament, Minneapolis, Minn., All day	Women's Tennis at James Madison, Harrisonburg, Va., 10 a.m.
Softball vs. Princeton, Finley Field, 2:30 p.m.	Women's Tennis at Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., 10:30 a.m.	Men's and Women's Track and Field at 10-Team Meet, Belk Track/Fetzer Field, noon
Baseball vs. Florida State, Boshamer Stadium, 3 p.m.	Women's Swimming at NCAA Championships, Ann Arbor, Mich., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.	Men's Tennis vs. Notre Dame, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, 1 p.m.
Gymnastics vs. Cornell, Fetzer Gymnasium, 7 p.m.	Softball vs. South Florida, Finley Field, 2 p.m.	Softball vs. East Carolina, Finley Field, 1 p.m.
Thursday	Wrestling at NCAA tournament, Minneapolis, Minn., All day	Women's Lacrosse vs. Stanford, Nashville, Tenn., 1 p.m.
Women's Swimming at NCAA Championships, Ann Arbor, Mich., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.	Men's Tennis vs. Georgia Tech, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, 1 p.m.	Baseball at Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., 2 p.m.
Baseball vs. Florida State, Boshamer Stadium, 3 p.m.	Baseball at Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., 2 p.m.	