



SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's hoops debuts

Marion Jones returns to the court tonight as the North Carolina women's basketball team faces Athletes in Action tonight at 7 p.m. in Carmichael Auditorium.

The exhibition marks Jones' first contest since redshirting a year ago. The 5-foot-11 junior was voted ACC preseason player of the year by the conference's media.



UNC point guard MARION JONES returns to the court tonight.

Jones reclaims the helm of a squad that finished a disappointing 13-14 last season. But with the return of 1995-96's key cogs, the Tar Heels were voted the ACC's top team as well.

UNC also brings back leading scorer Tracy Reid and ACC Freshman of the Year Chanel Wright to a squad that finished fifth in the conference.

Seibert captures honors

UNC outside hitter Tori Seibert received ACC Volleyball Player of the Week for leading the Tar Heels to three conference wins last week. She recorded a .384 hitting percentage in victories over Duke, Clemson and Georgia Tech.

Seibert averaged 5.1 kills and 3.4 digs per game for the span, while also notching 21 blocks. Her best match came against the Yellow Jackets, when she posted 27 kills, 16 digs, eight blocks and a .404 percentage.

The freshman from Williamsville, N.Y., leads UNC with a .354 percentage.

Smoltz wins Cy Young

NEW YORK — John Smoltz ended Greg Maddux's Cy Young streak at four, easily winning the award Monday and giving the Atlanta Braves four straight winners.

Smoltz received 26 first-place votes and two second-place votes for 136 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers Association of America. Florida's Kevin Brown was second with two firsts, 26 seconds and 88 points.

Atlanta's prized pitching staff became the first to win four consecutive Cy Young Awards and has won five of six, a streak that began with Tom Glavine's in 1991.

Smoltz, a 29-year-old right-hander, was 24-8 with a 2.94 ERA, winning 14 consecutive decisions from April 9-June 19. He led the majors in wins and his total was the Braves' highest since 1965, when Tony Cloninger went 24-11. Smoltz also led the majors in strikeouts with 276, innings (253 2-3).

Howard charged with DUI

WASHINGTON — Juwan Howard was arrested early Monday, charged with drunken driving after his 1995 Mercedes was spotted speeding down a Washington street.

The Washington Bullets forward had just left a nightclub when the arrest was made at 3:45 a.m., said District of Columbia police spokesman Sgt. Joe Gentile. Howard was released on his own recognizance.

Howard said he understood that "we all have to follow rules and regulations," adding that he would continue to be himself and "let everyone know that I'm not perfect."

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Men's soccer earns 6th seed in tourney

BY M. LEE TAFT SENIOR WRITER

At the beginning of the season, the North Carolina men's soccer team wanted to change two things from last year: one, win conference games, and two, make the NCAA tournament.

UNC accomplished the first goal, winning games against conference opponents Duke and Wake Forest.

But the Tar Heels lost several close games in the last half of the season, including a come from behind win for South Carolina and a loss to non-conference opponent Radford, lowering their favor with the NCAA selection committee.

UNC now finds itself entering this weekend's ACC tournament in Charlottesville, Va. as the No. 6 seed, needing to win the tournament to net an NCAA berth.

Despite being one of the lower seeds in the tournament, UNC coach Elmar Bolowich said there is no additional pressure on his team.

"There is no such thing as an underdog in our ACC tournament," he said. "You might could say that Virginia is the favorite, but no other team could be considered an underdog."

"The ACC shows so much parity, that with a little luck, or lack of it depending, you could finish very high or very low. I have always thought that the No. 7 is capable of knocking off the No. 2."

In the first round, UNC (8-7-1, 2-3-1 ACC) will face No. 3 seed Wake Forest at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. Wake is one of two teams the Tar Heels defeated this season. UNC took the contest 1-0 on Nov. 3.

Bolowich said he feels no advantage or disadvantage in having beaten his opponent already this season.

"It doesn't matter that we've played Wake," he said. "We realize that its a do or die situation if we want to continue our season. We aren't locked into the NCAAs, and our guys realize that. This is something they wanted to accomplish this season."

Brown says Louisville game a blessing

BY KURT TONDORF ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina coach Mack Brown sees the Tar Heels' performance Saturday against Louisville as a mixed blessing.

On one hand, it revealed some deficiencies in which UNC needs to improve before next weekend's critical matchup with Virginia. But at least now the Tar Heels will be less likely to make the same mistakes twice.

"If we scored 55 points and beat Louisville to death it would have been the worst thing to happen to us," Brown said at his Monday press conference.

Virginia, a loser to Clemson last weekend, dipped to No. 25 in this week's Associated Press poll. But Brown doesn't expect the contest to be any less difficult for his squad. The Tar Heels haven't beaten the Cavaliers in Charlottesville, Va., since 1981.

"We'll probably have to play better than we've played all year to win on the road this week," Brown said.

Two more records set to fall

It may not have come at the most opportune time, but cornerback Dre' Bly broke UNC's single season interception mark on Saturday.

Bly, a redshirt freshman, picked off his

ninth pass of the year in the first quarter Saturday when the Cardinals' attempted a pass out of punt formation on 4th and 22 from the UNC 40.

Bly stepped out of bounds with the ball at the UNC 5-yard line when he should have batted it down.

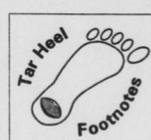
"And what's neat about this football team is that he knew it before he got to the boundary," Brown said. "Because he had about seven of the older guys run and tell him."

Bly's comeback teammate, sophomore Robert Williams, tied Thomas Smith's record for most pass breakups in a season with 16. And defensive end Greg Ellis, a junior, is one half-sack away from breaking Marcus Jones' school record 24. Ellis had three sacks against the Cards, moving him past Lawrence Taylor to second place on the all-time list with 23.5.

Brown: Bowl talk still premature

With two games left, North Carolina tied Colorado for sixth place in the AP polls this week, its highest ranking since 1983.

"As I told our players yesterday: enjoy



Tar Heels ranked 8th in AP hoops poll

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

North Carolina's men's basketball team returned to the top 10 on Monday night, as it garnered the No. 8 spot in the AP Preseason Basketball Poll.

The Tar Heels return three starters, two additional experienced players and a crop of new talent that is expected to make the 1996-97 UNC team the deepest coach Dean Smith has boasted in three years.

Cincinnati, returning three starters from a team that fell one step shy of the Final Four last season, was No. 1 poll, the school's first top ranking in 34 years.

The Bearcats were a runaway choice of the national media panel, receiving 34 first-place votes and 1,641 points. Kansas, which will have to play at least the early part of the season without injured guard Jaque Vaughn, was second with 15 No. 1 votes and 1,548 points, six more than defending national champion Kentucky, which had 13 first-place votes.

Wake Forest, which has the only returning All-America in center Tim Duncan, was fourth with six No. 1 votes and 1,524 points.

UCLA, which will enter the season under 32-year-old interim head coach Steve Lavin, was fifth and was followed

in the Top 10 by Utah, Villanova, UNC, Michigan and Duke.

The No. 1 preseason ranking wasn't bad for Kentucky last year as the Wildcats went on to their sixth national championship. All but two schools in last year's preseason Top 25 — No. 14 Missouri and No. 19 Virginia — advanced to the NCAA tournament.

Eight of the teams in this year's poll weren't in last season's final poll and all of them except Fresno State were ranked at some point of the season.

The ranking for Fresno State, which is beginning its second season under coach Jerry Tarkanian, was its first since 1984.

Massachusetts was No. 1 in the final poll last season and the Minutemen were beaten by Kentucky in the national semifinals. Mississippi State, which lost to Syracuse in the other Final Four semifinal, lost all five starters and didn't receive a single point in the preseason poll.

The Top 25 was again dominated by the bigger conferences, with all the teams coming from nine leagues. The ACC led the way with four teams, with three (Wake, UNC, Duke) in the Top Ten. Five conferences — Big 12, Pac-10, Western Athletic, Big East and Big Ten — each had three teams in the rankings.

AP Preseason Basketball Top 25

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, Record, Pts, Pct. Lists top 25 teams including Cincinnati, Kansas, Kentucky, Wake Forest, UCLA, Utah, Villanova, North Carolina, Michigan, Duke, Iowa State, Syracuse, Arkansas, Fresno State, Massachusetts, Texas, New Mexico, Stanford, Arizona, Clemson, Boston College, Minnesota, Iowa, George Washington, Marquette.

Others receiving votes: Providence 182, Indiana 164, Louisville 149, South Carolina 144, Tulane 141, Illinois 90, Connecticut 81, Tulsa 69, Penn State 58, Temple 52, Auburn 51, Purdue 41, Virginia Tech 20, UNLV 18, Alabama 12, California 12, Georgetown 12, St. John's 11, Washington 11, Kansas State 10, Oklahoma State 6, Virginia 6, Oregon 7, Rhode Island 4, Brigham Young 3, Long Beach State 3, Miami, Ohio 3, Tennessee 3, College of Charleston 1, Old Dominion 1, San Francisco 1, Vanderbilt 1, West Virginia 1, Wisconsin 1, Wyoming 1.

Advertisement for Ram Triple featuring movie listings for 'The Ghost and the Darkness', 'Thinner', 'Bad Moon', 'Set It Off', 'The Associate', 'The Long Kiss Goodnight', 'Fly Away Home', 'High School High'.

Advertisement for Plaza Theatres featuring movie listings for 'The Ghost and the Darkness', 'Thinner', 'Bad Moon', 'Set It Off', 'The Associate', 'The Long Kiss Goodnight', 'Fly Away Home', 'High School High'.

Advertisement for Ransom featuring movie listings for 'Ransom', 'Dear God', 'Larger Life', 'Michael Collins', 'Romeo + Juliet'.

Advertisement for Saladella Cafe featuring 'Homemade Delicious Food' and 'That's Good For You!' with address 105 N. Columbia St.

Advertisement for Tar Heel Sports Shorts featuring 'Women's Basketball Exhibition Game' vs. Athletes in Action at 7:00pm at Carmichael Auditorium.

Advertisement for Sera-tec Biologicals featuring 'Share Love... Give Plasma!' and 'Make \$50 this week!' with contact info 942-0251.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Large classified advertising section with categories: Sublets, Rooms, Roommates, Parking, Lost & Found, Tutoring, Announcements, Carbro's Annual Surplus Auction, Loreleis Fall Concert, House Sitting, and DTH Classifieds 962-0252.