

WRESTLING Page 7

Raging bull

Tar Heel wrestler Jason LaMotta (left) upended Virginia's Jason Mutarelli in the 134-pound matchup during UNC's 29-7 victory over the Cavaliers on Saturday. LaMotta, grandson of boxer Jake LaMotta, had fallen twice to Mutarelli during the season, but turned the tables on the UVA. senior for a 3-2 win.

SPORTS MONDAY

The Daily Tar Heel

NCAA men's basketball scores

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Monday, January 27, 1997 **12**

UNC tops Tigers in defensive battle

BY ALEC MORRISON
SPORTS EDITOR

The role reversal in Sunday's North Carolina-Clemson game was obvious, with the upstart Tigers leading the ACC and the Tar Heels dwelling near the bottom.

But UNC paid the numbers no mind and took a cue from the record books instead.

The Tigers entered Chapel Hill as the No. 2 team in the country, while the Tar Heels were struggling to remain in the top 25. Clemson, 0-42 in Chapel Hill, appeared poised to turn the tables on the Tar Heels and win at North Carolina for the first time ever.

Men's basketball
Clemson48
UNC61

But amid fans' chants of "Overrated," a horrid shooting performance by the Tigers and a smart, defensive-minded game from the 19th-ranked Tar Heels in front of a crowd of 21,572 at the Smith Center, UNC dominated Clemson and breathed new life into its season with a 61-48 win that was never really close.

"We needed some good things to happen, and this win is certainly a good thing for us," said UNC coach Dean Smith, whose team finishes the first half of the ACC season Wednesday at 10th-ranked Duke.

"... They had (19) more possessions than we did. It's amazing we won."

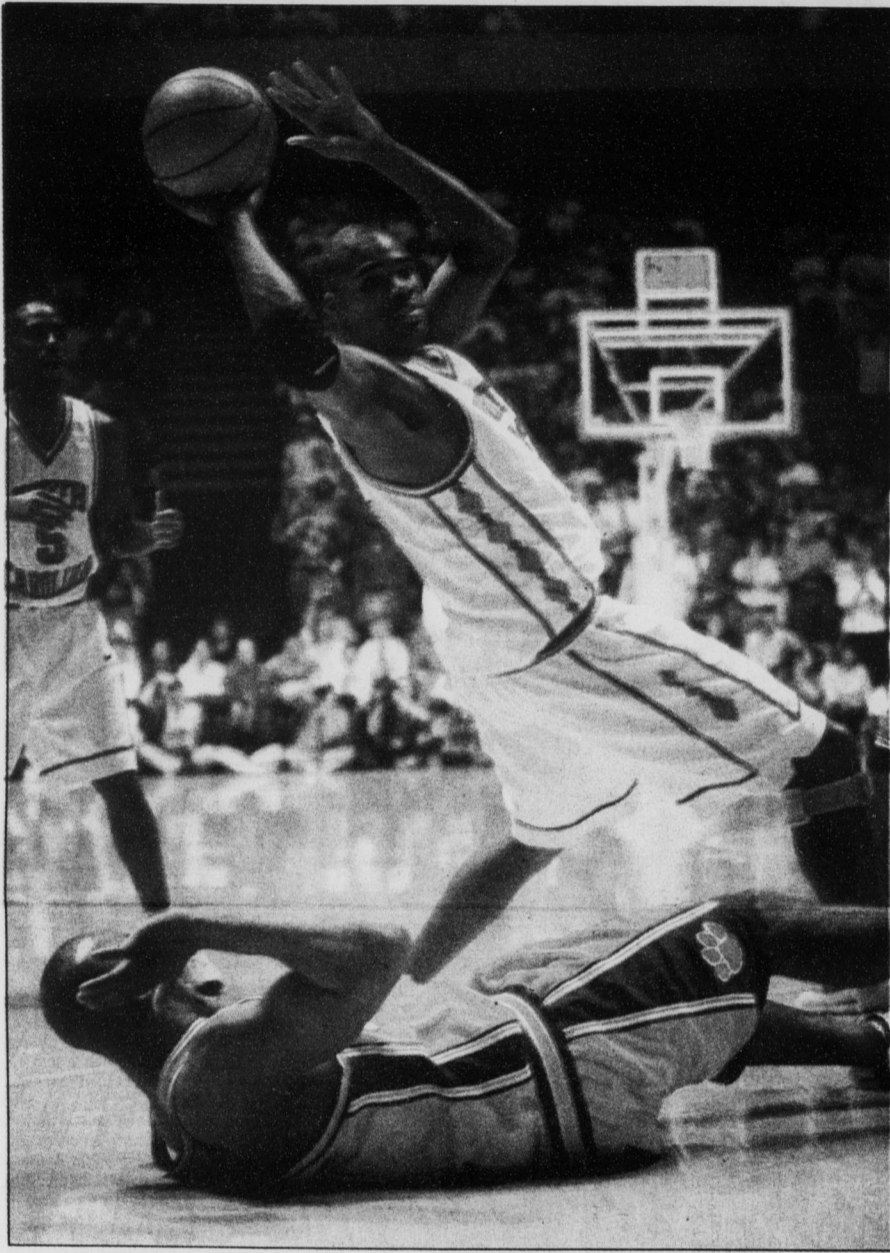
UNC played with patience and tenacity throughout, taking the lead with a 10-2 run early in the first half and never looking back. Tar Heel forward Antawn Jamison hounded the Tigers relentlessly, scoring 22 points and grabbing seven rebounds with an array of quick moves that left Clemson helpless in the paint.

UNC attempted just 13 first-half field goals and 32 overall but turned in its best shooting performance of the ACC season at 56 percent. Clemson, meanwhile, put up 66 shots and hit just 18.

"We didn't want to take many bad shots," said UNC forward Vince Carter, who shot 2 for 3 from the floor. "I know personally a couple of times, we had a break, and I felt we had to slow it down, get good shots. Maybe get the big men in foul trouble, which we did."

And though the Tigers won the battle on the boards, they never made a run to turn the game around.

UNC grabbed a series of key rebounds off Clemson misses down the



UNC forward Antawn Jamison looks to pass Sunday during the Tar Heels' 61-48 win over No. 2 Clemson. Jamison scored a game-high 22 points and grabbed seven rebounds in the victory.

Tar Heels get near-perfect game from AJ

BY JOSEPH ROLISON
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The thought kept coming back to Antawn Jamison, creeping up from the back of his mind.

Not another letdown. North Carolina's sophomore forward had been there too many times. He and the 19th-ranked Tar Heels would grab a lead, only to watch it evaporate before their eyes.

And with UNC up 31-25 early in the second half against Clemson on Sunday, the thought snuck up again. The Tar Heels had watched a carefully-crafted nine point lead over the No. 2 Tigers quickly drop to six.

But before the momentum swung away from UNC, Jamison decided to take action.

He gathered in the ball, went to the basket and kissed in a layup as Clemson's Harold Jamison swiped at him. Once AJ drained the free throw, it was clear — this time, there would be no letdown.

Sure enough, UNC held on to win 61-48 at the Smith Center, thanks in great part to Jamison's dominance. When the Tar Heels needed a lift, AJ was there — witness the 3-point play. When Clemson pounded it inside, he forced the Tigers' big men to hurry or alter shots.

"You can look at his points, but it's all the little things he does," UNC forward Ademola Okulaja said. "He was everywhere."

On a day when defense took preeminence, Jamison stole the spotlight with 22 points and seven boards. More importantly, Clemson never overcame the AJ factor.

"He's just relentless the whole time," Clemson center Tom Wideman said. "It's tough to contain a player like that."

While Clemson couldn't contain Jamison, AJ & Co. bottled the Tiger attack.

Clemson had only 16 points at half, and no Tiger except forward Greg Buckner managed much success against the UNC 'D.'

With Antawn Jamison flying around

SEE JAMISON, PAGE 9

Green Bay recaptures NFL glory

■ The Packers defeated New England to win their first Super Bowl since 1967.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — The Green Bay Packers finally have a present to go with their past.

The 35-21 Super Bowl victory over the New England Patriots on Sunday hardly brought back memories of Vince Lombardi's grind-it-out champions of the '60s.

Instead, it was a high-powered Pack — doing it with big plays, especially by MVP Desmond Howard — that returned Green Bay to NFL prominence and put the title back in "Tidletown, USA."

"I think it's time that the Lombardi Trophy goes home to Lambeau Field, where it belongs," Packers president Robert Harlan said.

Super Bowl XXXI
Green Bay35
New England21

It was Brett Favre finding the duck-walking Andre Rison for a 54-yard touchdown on the Packers' second offensive play, then throwing an 81-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman in the first minute of the second quarter.

That score put Green Bay ahead for good.

It was Howard scoring on a 99-yard kickoff return then striking an abbreviated Heisman pose in the end zone, a dagger in the heart of the Patriots, who had closed to within 27-21 of the Packers.

Howard, the first special teams player ever to win MVP, finished with a record 244 return yards.

The win was the 13th straight for an NFC team and kept Bill Parcells, who had two of those 13 with the Giants in 1986 and 1990, from becoming the first coach to win a Super Bowl with two different franchises.

Instead, the Packers won the trophy named for their storied coach. It was Lombardi's teams that won the first two Super Bowls.

"Vince Lombardi had a wonderful legacy for the rest of us, Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren said. "Now we're just trying to do our part, and we hope we can do it for a long time to come."

Tar Heel grapplers drop UVA. to claim driver's seat in ACC

BY JOHN SWEENEY
STAFF WRITER

Conditioning is key in any sport, but maybe more so in wrestling, in which there are no substitutes to spell the starters and no coverages to change when an athlete gets tired.

North Carolina's wrestling team proved that point Saturday with a 29-7 victory over Virginia that has put the Tar

Heels in the driver's seat for the ACC championship. But the lopsided score doesn't tell the whole story of a meet that came down to which team could last the longest.

"We won some close matches," UNC coach Bill Lam said. "The meet was a lot closer than the score, but I thought we were in better shape. I thought we out-fought them."

Virginia coach Lenny Bernstein, a former UNC All-American, said the Tar Heels' superior conditioning was most visible near the end of the individual

matches, when the Cavaliers began to tire.

"I thought they out-fought us in the third period in a few of those matches that didn't go our way," he said.

The meet started off on a high note for the Tar Heels, with freshman Chuckie Connor's 11-2 decision over Dave Takseras in the 118-pound division. But sophomore Frank Nocito followed up that performance with a one-point loss to Virginia's Steve Garland at 126 pounds.

The Tar Heels began to step up heading into the middle weights, where Lam said he expected the roughest going. Sophomore Jason LaMotta scored a 3-2 upset victory over Jason Mutarelli at 134 pounds, followed by senior 142-pounder Khalil Abdul-Malik's 17-4 thrashing of Adrian Miles.

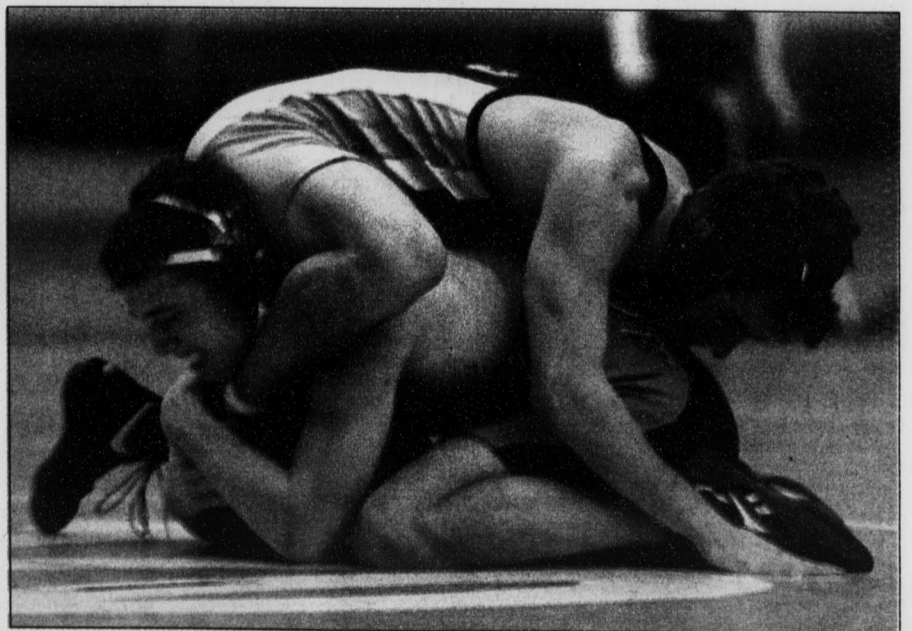
After a loss at 150 pounds, though, the Tar Heels took over with wins by freshman Tom Bogan in overtime at 158 pounds and senior Jason Driggers at 167 pounds.

Those two matches, combined with LaMotta's upset win, made the difference for UNC.

"Really, we won three matches, one in overtime and two by one point," Lam said. "At 134, they've beat us before; we ended up winning by one point. At 158



UNC heavyweight JUSTIN HARTY pinned UVA's Jason Majestic in the first period.



North Carolina's Frank Nocito wrestles with Virginia's Steve Garland during the Tar Heels' 29-7 win Saturday. Garland defeated Nocito by one point in the 126-pound division

we won in overtime. At 167, they've beat us before; we won by one point.

"If those three go the other way, (the score) is real tight."

Bernstein said after the meet that he had been counting on winning at least a few of those middle weight matches in order for his team to be victorious.

"There were so many matches that were close, but none of them went our way tonight," he said.

Senior Louis Pelsang put the match out of the Cavs' reach with a 9-6 win at 177 pounds, followed by another overtime win for Scott Stay at 190 pounds. Senior All-American Justin Harty,

currently ranked No. 5 in the country, put the icing on the cake, pinning Jason Majestic in the first period of his bout.

The victory was Harty's first since dropping two matches at the National Duals in Lincoln, Neb., on Jan. 18-19.

"The two losses were to people who were really good and they were close matches," Lam said. "I was glad to see (Harty) get the pin, but I wasn't too worried about the losses."

The 22-point margin over the Cavaliers — a team many expected to challenge for the ACC tournament crown — was something of a surprise for Lam.

But with three more league meets and the ACC tournament remaining on the schedule, he wasn't making any predictions.

"The most important time to be ready is at the end of the year, for ACCs and nationals," he said.

"All of our ACC matches are important."

Bernstein, for his part, was confident that the team the Tar Heels saw Saturday was not the one they would see at tournament time.

"We're a lot better of a team than this," he said. "Come ACCs, I think it'll show."

SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

Women's basketball at Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., TBA

WEDNESDAY

Men's basketball at Duke, Durham, 9 p.m.

Men's tennis vs. Davidson, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, 2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Women's basketball at Georgia Tech, Atlanta, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Women's tennis vs. Kentucky, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, 2 p.m.

Gymnastics in Florida Invitational, Gainesville, Fla., 7 p.m.

*Games will be broadcast on DirectTV in the Student Union

SATURDAY

Men's basketball vs. Middle Tennessee State, Smith Center, 4 p.m.

Women's tennis vs. Tennessee, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, 10 a.m.

Wrestling vs. Maryland, Carmichael Auditorium, 3 p.m.

Swimming and diving vs. Maryland, Koury Natatorium, TBA

Fencing in Brandeis Duals, Waltham, Mass., All day

SUNDAY

Women's basketball at Wake Forest, Winston-Salem, 2 p.m.

Wrestling vs. Citadel, Carmichael Auditorium, 3 p.m.

Indoor track in ACC-SEC Challenge, Gainesville, Fla., All day

Fencing in Brandeis Duals, Waltham, Mass., All day

Men's tennis vs. Notre Dame, Richmond, Va., 1 p.m.