

SPORTS MONDAY

Monday, March 6, 2000

The Daily Tar Heel

UNC Baseball Beats WVU For Sweet 16

Senior Chris Elmore (left) pitched UNC to a 6-0 win against West Virginia on Sunday. The Tar Heels set a school record with their 16th straight win to open the year. See Page 8.



INSIDE:

- UNC crew defeats Duke. Page 7
- Gymnastics team beats Yale, falls to Towson. Page 7
- Men's lacrosse rallies to sink Navy at home. Page 9

14

Tar Heels Can't Catch Blue Devils

The UNC men's basketball team turned the ball over a season-worst 23 times Saturday against Duke.

By BRIAN MURPHY
Senior Writer

DURHAM — There would be no heroics Saturday. No 3-pointer to force overtime. No eight points in 17 seconds. No lore to add to North Carolina's legend.

No, it was a day for Duke. A day to honor the winningest player in ACC history. A day to cap Duke's

Men's Basketball	
UNC76
Duke90

fourth consecutive ACC championship in style. A day to reaffirm its current dominance in college basketball's fiercest rivalry.

So when UNC freshman Joseph Forte drained a 3-pointer with 5:15 remaining to cut the Blue Devils' once 20-point lead to nine, it appeared that maybe — just, maybe — the day would be turned around.

Less than a minute later, order was restored.

Chris Carrawell, the aforementioned winningest player in conference history and the Blue Devils' lone senior, scored on a driving layup, pushing the lead to 11.

Blue Devils Steal Ball, Game In Cota's Absence
See Page 9

Then, Duke forward Shane Battier stole the ball from UNC point guard Ed Cota — the Tar Heels' 22nd of a season-high 23 turnovers. On the ensuing possession, with the shot clock at 1, Blue Devil guard Nate James hoisted a rainbow 3-pointer from the left corner and hit nothing but net.



Duke senior forward Chris Carrawell tallied 21 points, seven rebounds and four assists in his final home game.

"Nate made an unbelievable shot," said Battier, who scored a game-high 30 points. "I didn't know if he was aware of

the shot clock. When I saw him put it up, I just tried to get position, but the way Nate shoots it, I knew it was going in. It's kind of funny."

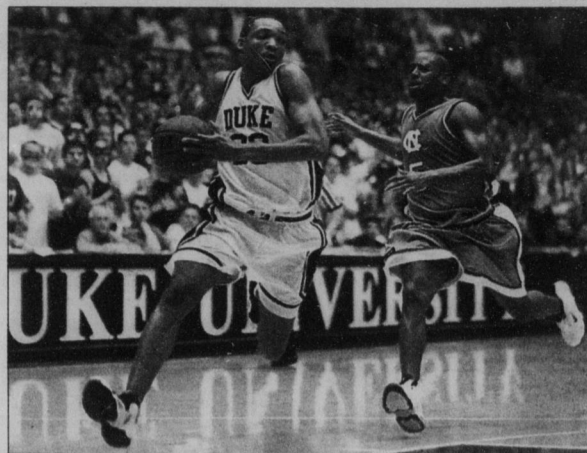
Not if you were a Tar Heel fan. Or player for that matter.

Just like that the lead was 14 — again. Despite shooting 69 percent in the second half, UNC would get no closer as Duke coasted to a 90-76 victory in the regular-season finale for both teams.

"They were just matching us," said Forte, who scored a team-high 24 points in his first game at Cameron Indoor Stadium. "Every time we made a little run, they just matched it."

The Tar Heels (18-12, 9-7 in the ACC), who battled back from 19 down to force overtime in the teams' first

See MEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 9



Duke senior Chris Carrawell beats UNC point guard Ed Cota to the basket for two of his 21 points in the Blue Devils' 90-76 win Saturday.

Wrestlers Bring Back ACC Crown

North Carolina outscored ACC regular-season champ N.C. State by 12 points for its fourth consecutive title.

Staff Report

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Four North Carolina wrestlers captured individual weight-class titles Saturday at Cole Field House as the Tar Heels won their fourth consecutive ACC championship.

UNC tallied 91 points in its victory. ACC regular-season champ N.C. State finished second with 79 and was followed by Virginia (59.5), Maryland (59) and Duke (21.5).



UNC freshman Skyler Holman won at 125 pounds and was named the ACC Tournament's Outstanding Wrestler.

"We weren't favored to win it, but everyone knew if they wrestled hard we would," UNC freshman Skyler Holman said. "Things just worked out for us."

Holman was named Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament after pinning Virginia senior Steve Garland in the title match of the 125-pound division. Holman, ranked seventh in the nation in his weight class, pinned fifth-ranked Garland at the 2:16 mark.

"Skyler did an outstanding job in a huge match," UNC coach Bill Lam said.

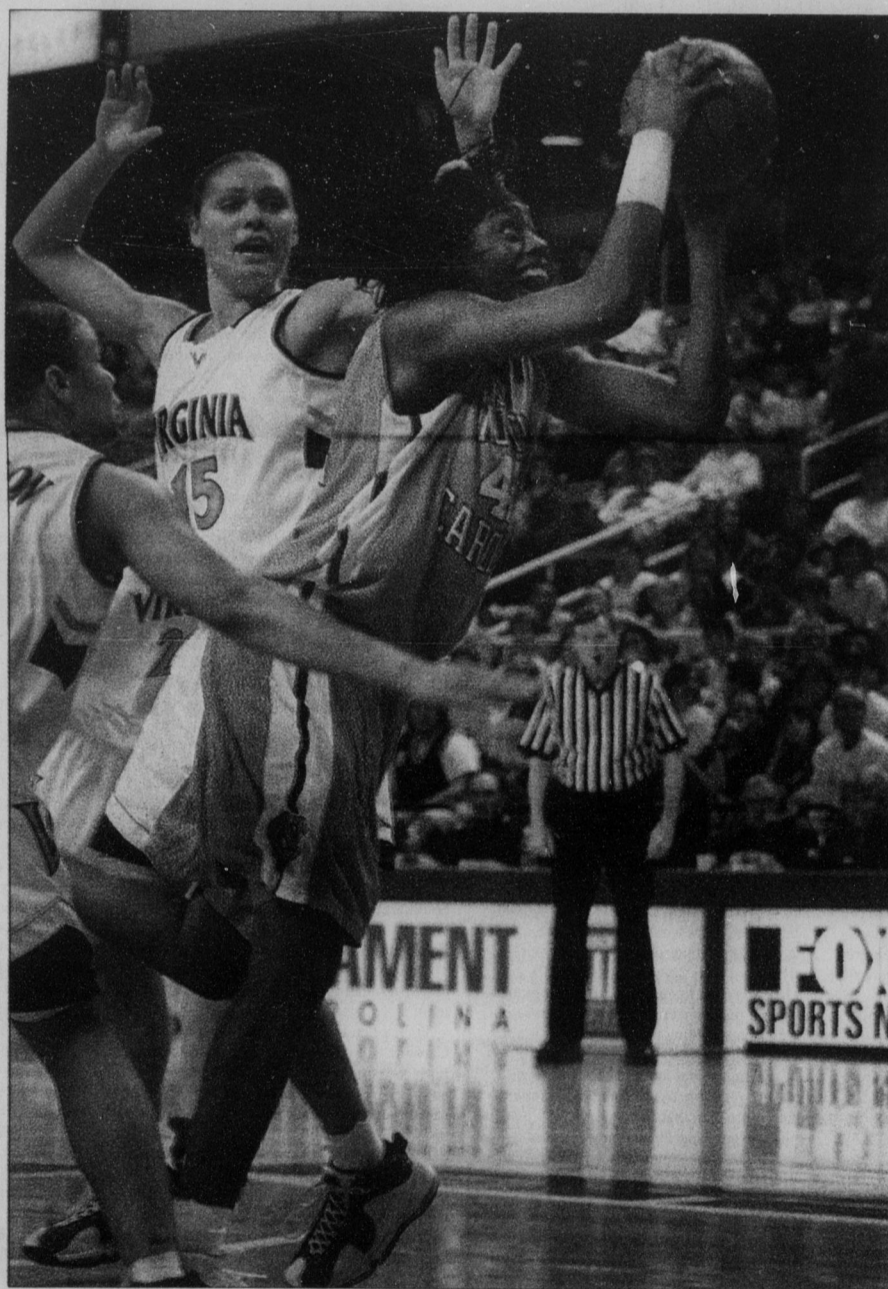
"I was happy with my performance," Holman said. "I wrestled pretty good and ended up winning it."

Other individual winners for the Tar Heels were junior Corey Bell (174 pounds), sophomore Clint Osborn (197) and sophomore Matt Kenny (heavy-weight).

Bell defeated N.C. State's Kevin Boross, the ACC defending champion at 174 pounds, by a 12-2 major decision. The victory marked Bell's second league title overall and his first at 174 pounds.

See WRESTLING, Page 7

UNC Women Advance to ACC Finals



UNC point guard Nikki Teasley scored 17 points, grabbed eight boards and handed out seven assists against UVA.

Fifth-seeded UNC knocked off No. 4 Clemson and No. 1 Virginia to set up a 7:30 p.m. showdown with No. 2 Duke.

By BRET STRELOW
Assistant Sports Editor

GREENSBORO — The North Carolina women's basketball team entered play at this weekend's ACC Tournament unsure of what its future held.

But in a matter of 48 hours, the Tar Heels cleared up many NCAA uncertainties and can now refocus their attention on another goal: winning the ACC title for the third time in four years.

Fifth-seeded UNC advanced to tonight's final against Duke with a 67-63 victory against No. 1 seed Virginia on Sunday. The win almost assures a spot in the NCAA tournament for North Carolina, which needed a strong showing to prove worthy of making the field.

"I tell them, you've got to relish pressure," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "It's got to be something you want. It's good, you've got to use it in a positive way."

The Tar Heels (18-11) handled late-

game pressure against the Cavaliers as well as they handled the pressure of controlling their destiny this weekend.

Virginia point guard Renee Robinson tied the contest at 63-63 on a 3-pointer with 1:11 left, but she was victimized on a defensive switch on UNC's subsequent possession.

UNC junior LaQuanda Barksdale received a pass on the right block, turned toward the center of the lane and fired in a turnaround jumper over Robinson with 51.8 seconds left to provide the game-clinching bucket.

"We had not run that the whole game, and we set it up especially to get the ball to Barksdale for that shot," Hatchell said. "They switched it, and Renee was on her, and it was divine intervention to make that call."

Barksdale scored 15 of her 17 points in the second half and atoned for her previous two performances against UVA. She made 4-of-28 shots in those two games and failed to reach double figures in either contest.

"I think it might have been a mental thing," Barksdale said. "I missed some way."

See WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 11

Teasley's Wise Spending Pays Dividends for UNC

By WILL KIMMEY
Assistant Sports Editor

GREENSBORO — Nikki Teasley reacquired her shooting touch for just \$6.98, plus tax.

After missing 12 of her 14 field goal attempts Saturday in North Carolina's 56-54 win against Clemson in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament, the junior point guard knew she had to work on her shot.

So later that night she bought two basketballs from a nearby Wal-Mart. Then she shot on a court adjacent to the team hotel for about an hour with her brothers Sherrrod and Michael.

Teasley's extra practice paid off in Sunday's 67-63 win against Virginia. The 6-foot guard came out firing in the first half and was on target. She hit 7-of-11 shots in the first half and chalked up 14 points with 4:40 remaining before intermission.

"In the first half I was very, very aggressive," said Teasley, who finished with 17 points, eight rebounds and seven assists. "That's the only thing I could think about was my shooting percentage from (Saturday)."

Teasley used her combination of height and quickness to shake any

See TEASLEY, Page 11



North Carolina midfielder Amy Havrilla fights off two Maryland players during the Tar Heels' 14-13 victory against the top-ranked Terrapins.

Lacrosse Topples Top-Ranked Terrapins

By MATT TERRY
Staff Writer

In a showdown between two of the more dominant women's lacrosse programs, it's only fitting that Sunday's match between top-ranked Maryland and No. 5 North Carolina would need overtime to decide a victor.

Women's Lacrosse	
Maryland13
UNC14
Johns Hopkins	..6
UNC14

In fact, the teams were battling in a fourth overtime period at Henry Stadium when Kristin Off scored to lift UNC to a 14-13 win against the

Terrapins. Her goal with 1:30 left in the second period of sudden death sent the euphoric Tar Heels parading around Henry Stadium in celebration.

"We know what it feels like to beat them," UNC goalie Melissa Coyne said. "And it's the best feeling in the world."

After ending the two regular overtime periods tied 13-13, neither team scored in the third OT — the first frame of sud-

den death.

But in the fourth overtime, Off, positioned in front of the net, was able to shake free from her coverage. Erin McInnes found Off from behind the net, and Off deposited a shot low and to the left of Maryland goalie Alex Kahoe.

"It was a total team effort, and I just put the ball into the net," said Off, whose game-winning goal was her third score of the game. "I don't deserve the credit. All of my teammates supported me."

Maryland, the five-time defending national champions, had won 28 in a row dating back to 1998. Over their last 42 matches, including Sunday, the Terps have won 39 times. Their only three losses have come to the Tar Heels.

"Maryland's a great program," UNC

coach Jennie Slingluff Levy said. "We like to play against them because they're the best, and if you want to be the best, you have to measure yourself against that."

The Tar Heels (2-1, 1-0 in the ACC) almost measured a hair short. Jen Adams and Meredith Egan scored to give Maryland a 13-11 lead with only 1:31 remaining in the second OT.

However, Off cut the lead to one 17 seconds later after receiving a pass from Kellie Thompson. With 45 seconds on the clock, Thompson — who also scored four times — again played the set-up role. She found Julie Kickham alone in front of the cage, and Kickham's goal sent the game to another overtime.

See WOMEN'S LACROSSE, Page 8



UNC senior Kristin Off netted three goals Sunday against Maryland, including the game-winner.

DTH/LAURA GIOVANELLI