

Sports Rule Month of June

June is a great month. It would be the best month of the year, but I still haven't figured out how to squeeze my birthday or Christmas into the 30 days between May and July.

There are a lot of reasons to enjoy June. Warm weather, females wearing next to nothing, not having classes and trips to the beach are among them.

And while all of those ideas make June a good month, there's still one more thing that puts June over the top - all the sports.

Take the NBA and NHL playoffs for starters. It's basically the only time of year it's worth your while to watch. Both leagues allow more than half of their teams to advance to the postseason, rendering their regular season slate useless, except for providing us with a plethora of SportsCenter footage.

What would ESPN be without Vince Carter flying through the air, hockey players beating each other senseless and J.R./Isiah Rider acting like an idiot?

But you won't see any of that in the playoffs. V.C.'s here in summer school, the hockey guys concentrate on playing the game and Rider chills out with his bong.

What you will see is defense, a concept seldom understood by NBA players during the regular season, but embraced by title-winners everywhere.

Baseball, a sport in which only eight (and it should still be just four) teams advance to the playoffs, actually has a



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meaningful regular season. And the division races usually begin to take shape in June. Plus, with June being the middle of the season, there are about three baseball games on television every night.

Even college baseball makes a brief cameo on TV in June with the College World Series. After pretending like the NCAA doesn't sanction baseball for most of the year, ESPN and CBS wake up and promote the CWS.

If that's not enough baseball for you, the amateur draft takes place during June's first week.

And speaking of drafts, the NBA holds its player selection near the end of the month and you can see who gets doomed to Clipperland.

Even the country club sports step up in June. Golf holds the U.S. Open and the tennis world turns to Paris and the French Open.

While the French might not be the most prestigious of the four tennis Grand Slams, it's certainly the most fair. Pete Sampras, who dominates on fast-paced grass and hard courts, is

reduced to a mere mortal on the clay at Roland Garros, opening up the field for all the competitors.

Who says there's no good TV during the summer? Basketball, hockey, baseball, tennis, golf - that's quality programming.

So you're missing the NFL in the greatest month in sports? Hey, football's still in the news, thanks to a couple of guys named Rae (or Ray) who might have taken their coaches' "Get out there and kill 'em" speeches a little too far.

So while you enjoy catching some rays next to the pool, I'll be sitting on my couch, enjoying the air conditioning and a cold beverage as I watch the best month of sports unfold on 27 inches of pure pleasure.

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UNC Finishes 4th in Sears Cup

Staff Report

North Carolina finished fourth in the 1999-2000 Sears Directors' Cup standings released Tuesday, marking the sixth time in seven years that the UNC has finished in the top 10.

UNC ROUNDUP

UNC won the inaugural cup, presented annually by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics to the best overall athletics program in the country, in 1994.

For the sixth consecutive year, Stanford finished first. UCLA, Michigan, UNC and Penn State rounded out the top five.

3 Tar Heels Named All-America

North Carolina left fielder Tyrell Godwin and reliever Derrick DePriest were named second-team All-Americans by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

Godwin, a first-round draft pick of the Rangers, batted .363 with 11 home runs, 67 RBI and 24 stolen bases in 2000.

DePriest led the Tar Heels with a 2.89 ERA and 12 saves and now plays for the Expos' Class A Cape Fear.

Freshman center fielder Adam Greenberg was named to the 2000 Louisville Slugger Freshmen All-America team. He led the Tar Heels in six offensive categories.

Haywood Goes Under Knife

Center Brendan Haywood underwent successful arthroscopic surgery on

his left knee Saturday at UNC Hospitals.

Haywood's surgery involved the removal of some loose cartilage in his left knee. Head trainer Marc Davis said Haywood will be ready to resume his basketball duties this fall.

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The Daily Tar Heel

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