76ers' Iverson Agrees UNC, 'Pack Set for Offensive Battle **To Change Rap Lyrics**

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Allen Iverson will take steps to eliminate offensive lyrics from the final version of his rap album, NBA commissioner David Stern said Thursday after meeting with Iverson at

Thursday after meeting with Iverson at league headquarters. Stem did not fine or suspend Iverson but issued a statement critical of the Philadelphia guard, whose rap recording contains violent references and derogato-ry terms about gays, women and blacks. "It was a good meeting. I'm glad we had it. I'm glad he called me in," Iverson said. "It's important for me to be a professional about the whole thing. I've got to play a season. My rap album

rve got to play a season. My rap album is over. At this point, the only thing you can do is handle it like a man."

By agreeing to eliminate some of the lyrics, Iverson made a departure from his earlier stance. After a meeting with civil rights groups earlier this week, Iverson said he would not change any lyrics.

Stern released a statement. "The lyrics that have been attributed to

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Allen Iverson's soon to be released rap CD are coarse, offensive and anti-social. However, I have come to understand, unfortunately, that certain rap artists reg-ularly spew such lyrics to a wide audience at meat confit to some of America's most ularly spew such tyrics to a wide autoence at great profit to some of America's most successful entertainment companies. "Notwithstanding the music's wide popularity, Allen, by even recording his lyrics, has done a disservice to himself.

the Philadelphia 76ers, his teammates and perhaps all NBA players. However I do not believe that the NBA should be in the business of regulating artistic expression, no matter how repugnant," Stern said. Stern's statement said Iverson had

made a commitment to eliminate the offensive lyrics. "If he doesn't follow through on that

commitment, then he, along with the 76ers and the NBA, will merit whatever criticism may be leveled at us," Stern said. The album is due out in February; an

The album is due out in repruary; an edited version of one rap, "40 Bars," was released to radio stations this week. The song is peppered with violent imagery and references to women, blacks and gays.

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N.C. State comes into the game averaging 427.4 yards of total offense and 35.4 points per game this year.

Game and time: N.C. State at North Carolina. Kickoff is at 3:30 p.m. Site: Kenan Stadium.

TV/radio: The game will be tele-vised regionally by ABC. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide live radio coverage; its flagship station is WCHL 1360-AM.

Records: N.C. State is 4-1, 1-1 in the ACC. North Carolina is 3-2, 1-2. Series: UNC leads 59-24-6.

Personnel update: N.C. State – No

juries reported. UNC – LB Merceda Perry (right ankle) is out for the season. WR Kory Bailey (right hamstring) and CB Anthony Anderson (left shoulder) are doubtful. WR Danny Davis (left ham-string) and RB Rufus Brown (right

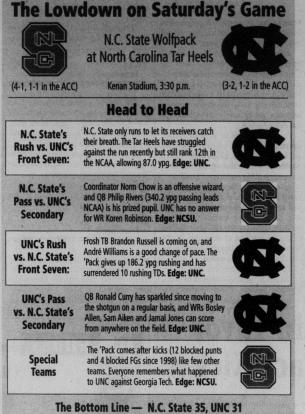
shulder) are questionable. **The key matchup:** Much is being made of the battle between Mike O'Cain and his former players on the N.C. State defense, but that matchup wort decide this grant

won't decide this game. The Wolfpack defense, as has been the case in recent years, is not the team's strength. Throwing out N.C. State's 41-0 shutout victory against Southern Methodist, the 'Pack is yielding 31.5 points per game. The Tar Heels will be good for about that many even if they don't have an outstanding game.

With that said, the real question is whether UNC can contain the Wolfpack's high-powered offense. The Tar Heels earned comparisons to dom-inant UNC defensive squads of 1996 and '97 after they shut down Tulsa and Wake Forest to open the season, but they have been anything but dominant since then.

Florida State dropped 63 points on them, and Georgia Tech drove the ball more than 60 yards for four of its six

"I will be shocked if this game is a 10-9 ballgame," UNC coach Carl Torbush said. "They have the ability to make big plays, and I think we have the ability to make some big plays.

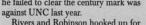


he failed to clear the century mark was

"It's going to be an interesting game because both defenses are going to have to step up to meet the challenge." The challenge N.C. State presents is formidable. The Wolfpack relies heavi-ly on 18-year-old freshman quarterback Philip Rivers, who leads the country in

Rivers gets help from The K-Rob and Ray-Rob Show, starring Koren and Ray Robinson (no relation).

Koren Robinson, the nation's No. 2 receiver at 120.2 yards per game, has



COMPILED BY T. NOLAN HAYES

Rivers and Robinson hooked up for three scores, including the game-win-ner, against Georgia Tech and comner, against Georgia bined for a 63-yard bomb against Clemson last week.

"(Rivers) gets me the ball, and you can't disike a quarterback who gets you the ball," Robinson said. "He knows where I'm going to be on certain plays, and he knows what I'm going to do in certain situations. We've got a good chemistry." chemistry." The Tar Heels cannot afford to play

Robinson man-to-man – he is simply too big and too fast. Plus, Eric Leak, N.C. State's second receiver, drops as many passes as he catches. The smart move for the Tar Heels is to doubleteam Robinson with a safety and make

Leak and No. 3 wideout Bryan Peterson beat the at them. The N.C. State ground game is much

less impressive than its passing attack, but that's no fault of Ray Robinson. Robinson gets fewer carries in Norm Chow's offense than he got in the past, but he is still a dangerous player.

Robinson averages 61.4 yards per game on the ground – or 81.7 percent of his team's total rushing yards. "They throw it a great deal, but they can run it," Torbush said. "I think if you

overlook the running game, you're get-ting ready to get in trouble. Robinson n turn a short gain into a big gain." UNC, meanwhile, has been shaky

UNC, meanwhile, has been shaky against the run recently. The Tar Heels led the nation in rushing defense after two games (8.5 ypg) but have allowed 139.3 ypg in their last three games. **Final analysis/prediction:** In light of all the attention Mike O'Cain has been getting, UNC's coaches have said all weak that this game is about the

all week that this game is about the players, not the coaches.

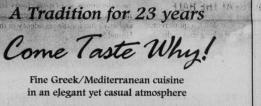
But the coaches could play a key role in the outcome. The Tar Heels take pride in being able to play bump-and-run coverage all over the field, but they can't succeed with that strategy in large doses against N.C. State. Torbush and defensive coordinator Ken Browning need to realize this and give safety help to cornerbacks Errol Hood and Michael Waddell.

The Wolfpack is not patient enough to take lots of time and run the ball down the field with Ray Robinson, so minimizing big plays is important for the Tar Heels.

"State's a great team – they're play-ing with a lot of confidence right now," Hood said. "The way to counteract that is to come out and play. We realize they are going to make big plays, but you have to get up the next play and play the next play. You can't get down on yourself, or it's over."

Torbush said the Tar Heels would mix up their defenses against Rivers to try to keep him off balance, but that's easier said than done because Rivers is so poised. In the end, the Tar Heels will probably resort to blitzing their line-backers and relying on their defensive backs to make plays on balls in the air. That strategy has not worked this season, as evidenced by UNC's two

interceptions (second worst in the ACC).



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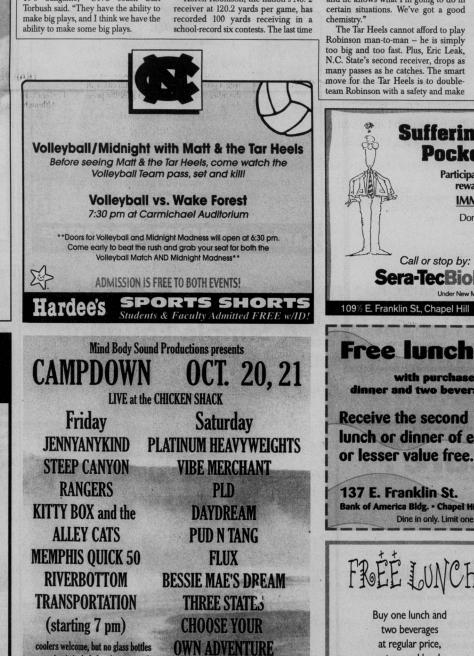
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