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Tuesday, November 21, 2000

Torbush Fired Despite Winning Record

Coach Declines Baddour's Offer To Step Down

By T. NOLAN HAYES
Sports Editor

On Nov. 22, 1999, UNC Director of Athletics Dick Baddour sat in the Bowles Room at Koury Natatorium and announced his support for Carl Torbush as the school's head football coach.

On Monday, 364 days later, Baddour found himself in the same place. This time, however, he was there to announce that Torbush had been fired.

"I have completed a review of the football program, and the decision has been made not to retain Carl Torbush as the head football coach at the University of North Carolina," said Baddour, who sat beside Chancellor James Moeser at a press conference. "This decision is not based on a single game or solely a single season but rather on evaluation over a three-year period."

Moeser is the man ultimately responsible for the decision, but it was Baddour who recommended the change. Baddour made his recommendation after completing his annual evaluation of the football program Sunday.

The Tar Heels improved from a 3-8 record last year to finish 6-5 this season and become eligible for a bowl game.

But it wasn't enough to save Torbush, who compiled a 17-18 record in three seasons at the helm. UNC never got off to a good start under his leadership, something that disturbed Baddour and fans of the program. The Tar Heels started 0-3 in 1998 before bouncing back to finish 7-5, stood at 1-8 last year before winning their last two games and closed out this season with three victories after being 3-5.

"It seems that the current state of the program seems to rest on a game-by-game, year-by-year, season-by-season situation," Baddour said. "That is not an atmosphere for success or potential success."

The atmosphere of Kenan Stadium on Saturdays also hurt Torbush. The Tar Heels averaged 50,500 fans at home this season, too far below the stadium's capacity of 60,000 for Baddour's liking.

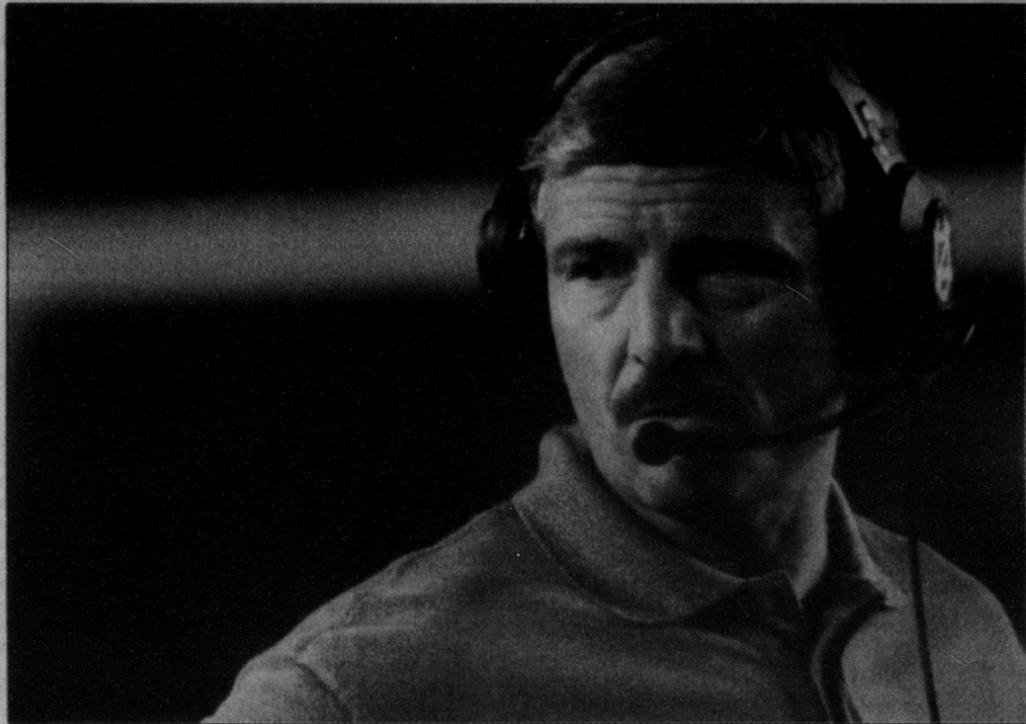
North Carolina went 3-3 at home this year but lost three consecutive ACC games at Kenan Stadium in the middle of the season. The Tar Heels were just 7-10 at home during Torbush's career.

Even with that fact, Torbush believed his program was on the way to better days. It is the reason he declined to resign when Baddour offered him that option sometime after 9 p.m. Sunday night.

Torbush emphasized all of last season and this season to his players that they should never quit, no matter how much adversity they encountered. He stuck to that principle in his own situation.

"The University has made a decision to change the leadership of this football program," Torbush said in a statement released by the University. "The decision for a change was in no way mine, and while I respect their right to make a change, I deeply hurt for the players, staff, families and friends of this program who have devoted their heart and souls to building a

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Carl Torbush was fired Monday after serving three years as head coach of the North Carolina football team. Barring a bowl appearance, Torbush will leave the Tar Heels with a career record of 17-18.

DTH FILE PHOTO

Decision Shocks Tar Heel Players

Carl Torbush told the UNC football team during a meeting in the Kenan Football Center on Monday that he had been fired.

By BRET STRELOW
Assistant Sports Editor

The team meeting on the second floor of the Frank H. Kenan Football Center started at 2:15 p.m. like it does every Monday.

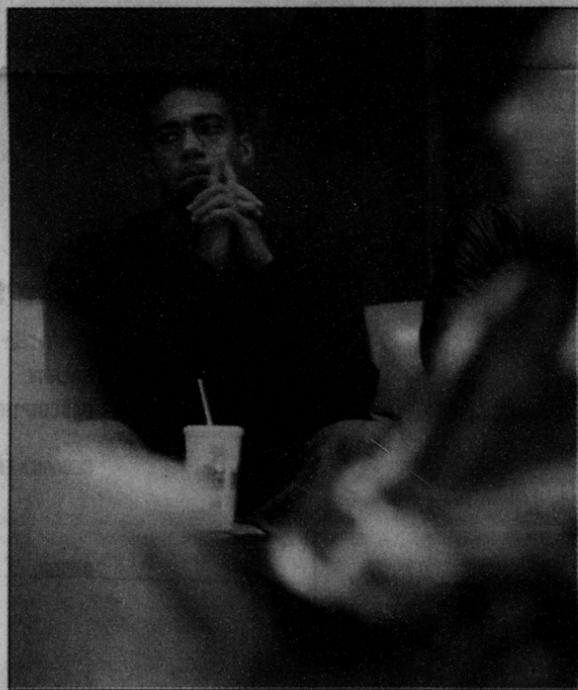
Members of the North Carolina football team watched highlight film from their victory against Duke on Saturday. The players later voted on offensive and defensive MVPs for the season.

UNC coach Carl Torbush went in front of the team to tell his players he was lobbying for a bowl berth. Torbush wanted them — when asked — to say they thought they deserved a spot in a postseason game.

Then he broke the news. Torbush, with a composed and straight-forward look, told his team that he had been fired as its head coach.

"A lot of us were stunned," UNC junior Kory Bailey said. "We didn't think that decision was even being discussed. Dick Baddour had to do what he had to do, that's his job as the ath-

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Wide receiver Kory Bailey listens as Director of Athletics Dick Baddour announces Coach Carl Torbush's firing at a press conference Monday.

DTH/JEFF POULAND

Fla. Court To Rule on Recounts

After deliberating Monday, the Florida Supreme Court could rule as early as today concerning the recounts.

The Associated Press

A transfixed nation turned its eyes to Florida's Supreme Court, where an army of lawyers for Al Gore and George W. Bush battled Monday over whether the marathon election should drag on. Weary recount workers pecked through ballots in three Democratic-leaning counties, wondering if their labor would be for naught.

After 13 days of suspended political animation, lawsuits and countersuits, "chads" and "pregnant chads," the presidential election may come down to this: Seven justices, all appointed by Democratic governors, will decide if the GOP secretary of state can certify Bush's minuscule lead without accepting votes counted by hand.

Bush's official lead stands at 930 votes. Gore picked up 154 votes in manual recounts by late Monday, which if counted would reduce Bush's margin to 776.

Gore advisers were frustrated by their relatively small gains and worried that they would not overtake Bush; Bush's forces cried foul in the county where the vice president gained the most ground.

The historic Supreme Court hearing opened with a court marshal bellowing, "God save these United States," and the justices got right down to business — peppering lawyers with questions of law in a case riddled with political landmines.

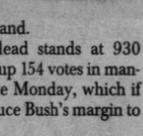
Chief Justice Charles Wells pressed both sides about how long the state might wait to certify its results without jeopardizing its 25-vote stake in the Dec. 18 roll call of the Electoral College.



Certification of GOP candidate George W. Bush's 930-vote lead is in limbo as the court deliberates.



Democrat Al Gore has gained 154 votes in Florida's manual recount, but they might not matter.

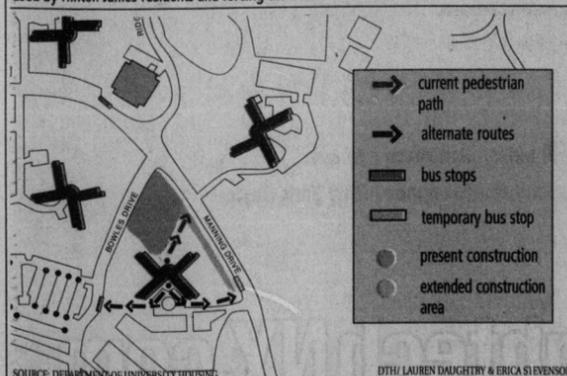


Democrat Al Gore has gained 154 votes in Florida's manual recount, but they might not matter.

Hinton James Fence to Reroute Students

Forging New Paths

Officials say new fencing will be erected within the next few days, blocking pedestrian paths used by Hinton James residents and forcing them to find alternate routes.



By RACHEL CLARKE
Staff Writer

Students living in Hinton James Residence Hall will soon have an even longer daily trek to the heart of campus.

Construction on South Campus has obstructed the path to the crosswalk on Manning Drive, prompting officials to set up a fence to encourage pedestrian safety.

But many students say the fence that is intended to reroute their path will not stop them from crossing Manning Drive where there is no crosswalk.

Within the next two days, a fence will be erected along Manning Drive, blocking access from Hinton James to the road, forcing pedestrians to take a different path.

The fence, which could be up for as long as six months, will run along the sidewalk from the stoplight at the intersection of Manning Drive and Skipper

Bowles Drive down to Hinton James Drive, the driveway leading into the Hinton James parking lot.

The current fence begins at the intersection, travels along Manning Drive and stops at the temporary walkway leading from Hinton James to Manning Drive.

Larry Hicks, associate director for the Department of University Housing, said fencing is necessary because current fencing forces students to jaywalk across Manning Drive.

"As soon as you identify the (pedestrian) risk, you have to move — good, bad or indifferent — to minimize the risk," he said.

Hicks also said the new fencing would not be necessary if a new crosswalk were created, which the housing department requested.

But the N.C. Department of See HINTON JAMES, Page 2

Accusations Mark Early SBP Jockeying

By ELIZABETH BREYER
Assistant University Editor

The annual controversies of student body elections season are beginning a little early this year — perhaps earlier than the members of one student body presidential campaign would have liked.

The Elections Board ruled unanimously Monday to dismiss a complaint filed by senior Bharath Parthasarathy on behalf of junior Eric Johnson's SBP campaign. He alleged that SBP candidate Annie Peirce violated elections rules by meeting with several student groups before the campaign period officially begins in January.

A hearing was held Sunday evening to consider the complaint, which argued

that Peirce violated Title VI, Article VII, Section 171 (A) (4) of the Student Code by visiting student groups to publicize a future meeting and to gather information about campus issues.

Elections Board Chairman Jeremy Tuchmayer ruled in favor of Peirce on a similar argument brought by the Johnson campaign on Friday, but Parthasarathy, senior adviser to Johnson's campaign, amended his complaint and brought it to the full board.

This section of the code deals with the use of surveys, which states that, "Surveys can be used prior to the posting of publicity, but under no circumstances is the potential candidate's name

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We have to move on like he would want us to.

UNC Linebacker Merceda Perry