Monday, February 26, 2001

The Baily Tar Heel SPORTS MONDAY



Tar Heels Capture 2nd Place in ACCs

North Carolina's Stephen Krebs (left) finished second in 3-meter diving to help UNC take second at the ACC Championships. See Page 9

INSIDE:

■ Aggressive pitching helps Tar Heels.

■ Gymnastics defeats

the Tribe. Page 9 ■ Bucknell upsets men's lacrosse.

Page 9



T. NOLAN HAYES

Mo' Money, Mo' Problems For Baseball

t's getting to be that time of the year again.
The days are growing longer.
Soon – we hope, at least – they'll start

And the Boys of Summer have

begun reporting to their training camps You can almost smell it, can't you? Hot dogs and pretzels at the ballpark. The freshly cut grass, impossibly green for this time of year.

But not all of baseball's green is so

enticing to the game's fans.

Money, never far off baseball's radar screen, has become the topic of conversation heading into the 2001 season.

And it stinks. It would be nice to open a newspaper or visit a Web site without encountering yet another story detailing a contract squabble.

But that's not possible these days.
The reason? There's hardly such thing as a contract anymore.

A star signs a long-term deal and talks about how happy he is to get it done. Then, some other guy – sometimes a player not even as good (gasp!) as the star who just signed – writes his name for more money.

The star is immediately not receiving his "fair market value." It's not about the money, mind you. It's more about respect. That's why the star must hold out and not participate in spring drills with his teammates.

At least, that's what Frank Thomas and some of his colleagues say.

Thomas, known as The Big Hurt, is acting more like The Big Jerk these days. He has yet to work out with his team, the Chicago White Sox, because he is unhappy with his contract. His case is a touching one.

It seems that Thomas is due a base salary of only \$9.9 million per year through the year 2006. In light of the recent signings of Alex Rodriguez (10 years, \$252 million) with the Texas Rangers and Derek Jeter (10 years, \$189 million) with the New York Yankees, \$9.9 million simply isn't

enough for a great hitter.

Strangely, it was enough for Thomas last season, when he was coming off the worst two years of his career. He batted just .265 in 1998 and came back in '99 with just 15 homers and 77 RBI.

Not once in those two seasons did Thomas offer to give money back to the White Sox because he was performing poorly.

But the instant he returned to his

old form – he posted a .328 average, 43 homers and 143 RBI in 2000 – the team owed him a raise.

That's not the way things are supposed to work. Players gain financial security by signing long-term deals. In the process, they forfeit the right to the market every year.

Ít's a simple trade-off. The White Sox don't owe Thomas any more money, just as the San Francisco Giants don't owe Barry Bonds a contract extension right now, just as the Los Angeles Dodgers don't owe Gary Sheffield a trade on demand.

The bickering gets old, but it's tough to blame the players for trying. On half of the occasions they ask for the moon, the owners are dumb enough to give it to them.

One time that won't happen, how ever, is at the end of this season. Major League Baseball's labor agreement expires Oct. 31, 2001, and the owners will look to implement a way to stop each other from sending player salaries into a new galaxy each off-season.

Players like the way things are now,

of course, so another work stoppage is looming ominously on the horizon.

How will the two sides react? If the players and owners are each willing to give a little bit, next season

and the ones after it can be saved. But if they act like big jerks, one of the world's sweetest games will have

T. Nolan Hayes can be reached at

Women's Lacrosse Romps in Season Opener

Junior Kellie Thompson led the Tar Heels with five goals and three assists in a 17-3 blowout of Davidson.

By KELLY LUSK

North Carolina women's lacrosse team wanted to make a statement in its

season opener.

With a tough regular-season schedule awaiting it, UNC set out to flex its offender.

sive muscle against Davidson. In a 17-3 thrashing of the Wildcats, the Tar Heels' biceps were certainly bulging. The 14-goal win marked the largest mar-

gin of victory since March 5, 1999, when efeated Davidson3
State UNC17 UNC defeated Ohio

"Everyone was really pumped up for our first game," junior attacker Kellie Thompson said. "We've been working really hard in practice."

The Tar Heels' hard work was evident against the overmatched Wildcats. Just 2:09 into the game, Thompson opened the offensive flood gates with an unassisted score, and the Tar Heels del-



Davidson goalkeeper Becca Nussbaum (39) stops UNC midfielder Beth Ames' (center) shot on goal. Nussbaum had 13 saves.

uge of goals never stopped.

Thompson led UNC with five goals and three assists. Senior attacker Amy Havrilla and junior midfielder Lindsay

Stone both added four goals.

"The offense played really well today,"
Havrilla said. "We kept the field spread,

and everyone was in the right place at the right time. This is how we'd like to play each game: get a lot of goals in."

UNC dominated the field and out-

shot Davidson 22-5 in the first half. The See WOMEN'S LACROSSE, Page 7

Stone's Career Day **Boosts Tar Heels**

Midfielder Lindsay Stone scored four goals against the Wildcats after tallying just 11 goals last season.

By BRAD LEWIS Staff Writer

Midfielder Lindsay Stone opened her junior campaign with a bang as the North Carolina women's lacrosse team began its regular season Sunday.

She didn't let the rain stop her offen-sive fireworks as she scored four goals to

help the Tar Heels crush Davidson 17-3.

Stone responded to the Wildcats' only goal of the first half with her first goal. She rebounded a shot off Davidson goalie Becca Nussbaum and put it in the back of the net 8:40 into the first half to give UNC a 4-1 lead.

With 1:39 left in the first half and

North Carolina leading 8-1, Stone added two goals in a span of 35 seconds to give the Tar Heels a 10-1 advantage heading into the second half.

Stone scored 11 goals last season and is now off to a blistering pace to open

"Lindsay had a good season last year, but she was more of a role player in her mind," UNC coach Jenny Slingluff Levy said.

Stone showed she has re-evaluated her role in UNC's attack.

She doubled her previous game-high total of two goals, which she achieved last season against James Madison,

Johns Hopkins and Georgetown.
Stone's solid performance against the
Wildcats was well supported by her fellow teammates, junior Kellie Thompson
and senior Amy Havrilla, who scored five and three goals respectively.

See STONE, Page 7

Cavaliers Drain Baskets, Tar Heels

UVa. finished 11-of-22 from behind the 3-point line as North Carolina lost for the second time in three games.

By WILL KIMMEY

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. Virginia guard Donald Hand dribbled around the 3-point line midway through the second half. The shot clock ticked down to one second. Hand hurled a wild shot toward the goal.

It hit the backboard and caromed in.

Three points the Cavaliers. That's the kind of day it was for No. 9

Virginia.

The Cavaliers made 11 of their 22 attempts from behind the arc as they blew out No. 2 North Carolina 86-66 at University Hall.

Virginia led by 14 at the half and never let the Tar Heels trim the lead to

single digits after intermission.

"Give Virginia a lot of credit for playing with a lot of energy and emotion,"

UNC coach Matt Doherty said. "They had more energy and emotion than we had not that they are all impropriation to had and that was real disappointing to me. I don't know why we didn't show more fight today. I don't mind losing, but I do mind when you don't fight

The Cavaliers built their lead with nine 3s in the first half. Sharp-shooting Keith Friel nailed three. Virginia's leading scorer Roger Mason Jr. added two. And Donald Hand, who had been struggling with his shot and missed practice time to see his ill grandfather, drilled

"By statistics, they're not a real good 3-point shooting team," Doherty said of the Cavaliers, who were hitting 36 per-

cent of their triples coming into the game. "But they were tonight."

Hand finished with 17 points (just behind Mason's team-best 18) and a

game-high six assists.
"Donald Hand, he had a great game today," Virginia coach Pete Gillen said. "And when he plays well our team goes up another level."

After trading leads with Virginia six times in the first half, North Carolina dropped a level when Ronald Curry picked up his third foul on a charge with 8:17 left before intermission.

Virginia led 29-28 at that point, but

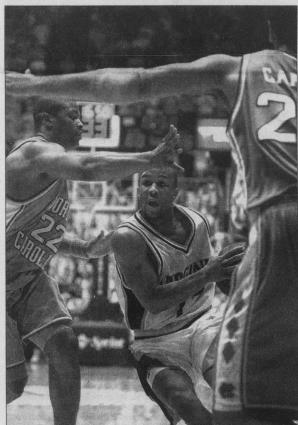
when Curry sat down, Virginia took off. The Cavaliers outscored the Tar Heels 27-14 the rest of the half to grab a 56-42 advantage. It marked the most points allowed in the first half and largest halftime deficit faced all season by the Tar

"It started slipping when Ron came out of the game," said Brendan Haywood, who totaled 20 points, seven rebounds and five blocks. "When he went on the bench, we had to put in freshmen in a tough role."

Freshmen Adam Boone, still recovering from an ankle injury, and Brian Morrison couldn't get the job done against Virginia's aggressive full-court oressure.
The press forced 15 UNC turnovers

and even when the Tar Heels (22-4, 12-2 in the ACC) controlled the ball, they were forced out of their offensive sets. North Carolina then forced up bad shots, especially in the second half when

See MEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 9



DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

Virginia point guard Donald Hand (center) troubled North Carolina's defense and finished the game with 17 points.

Balanced Offense Paces UVa.

By MATT TERRY

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – Thursday against Florida State, Joseph Forte took 24 shots from the floor and scored 36 points, and North Carolina won by 28.

Virginia let Forte put up similar num-bers (27 shots and 28 points) Sunday, but the Cavaliers had a response that the Seminoles did not.

Each of the Cavs' starters tallied double-digit point totals in their 86-66 win, proving that old axiom about the sum of

he whole being greater than the parts.

Roger Mason Jr. led UVa. in scoring with 18 points, and the starters contributed 75 of the Cavs' 86 points.

The Tar Heels in stark contrast had The Tar Heels, in stark contrast, had

two players – Forte and Brendan Haywood, who chipped in 20 points – account for 72.7 percent of their scoring.

"They're tough to guard because Haywood kills you inside, and Forte kills you outside," Virginia coach Pete But luckily for Gillen and his

Cavaliers, they didn't really have to worry about anybody else.

Jason Capel scored just eight, Kris Lang four, and Ronald Curry laid a

See BALANCE, Page 9

Third Sets Frustrate Men's Tennis Twice

When matches came down to the wire this weekend, the North Carolina

team couldn't Men's Tennis The third proved particularly fatal for the

Tar Heels.
UNC fell 5-2 against Tulsa on Saturday at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center after drop-ping a 6-1 decision to South Florida on Friday. Saturday, the Tar Heels' first close

match came during doubles play.

Freshman Nicholas Monroe and sophomore Marcio Petrone teamed up

at the top-seeded position against the Golden Hurricane's Dane McGregor and Shiranga Sudhaker.

UNC claimed the victory at No. 2 doubles, and Tulsa had just won the No. 3 match. And it looked as if the Tar Heels would come back and steal the doubles point out from underneath Tulsa's No. 1 tandem.

Monroe and Petrone were down 7-4 when they broke and held serve to rally and tighten the score to 7-6.

But Tulsa denied the Tar Heels' comeback attempt and held serve to win

See MEN'S TENNIS, Page 7

"We were just trying to grind it out, and it didn't happen," Monroe said. "We both missed a couple opportunities Both Monroe and Petrone bounced



Freshman Scott Manshack (center) gave up a two-run home run Sunday in the first against Seton Hall.

Baseball Rolls Past Pirates

By RACHEL CARTER

Sports Editor

Standing on Boshamer Stadium's grass Saturday, Seton Hall assistant coach Rob Sheppard said he knew why his baseball team wasn't winning.

"No timely hitting," said Sheppard, who took over at the helm for his ailing father, Mike, who stayed in New Jersey for the weekend series

Sheppard's crew had just suffered 3-0 loss at the hands of North Carolina - its second in as many days. The Pirates stranded seven batters Saturday, five of which were in scoring position.

The Pirates didn't suffer the same problem Sunday, but the

Seton Hall 0 UNC 3

See BASEBALL, Page 7