

Tennis Tops Yet Another Ranked Team

Marlene Mejia (left) and the rest of the No. 10 women's tennis team beat 12th-ranked Northwestern 4-3 on Sunday at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center. See Page 7.



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Expansion Excitement Hits ACC

With the North Carolina men's basketball team mired in a tie for last place in the conference, perhaps Director of Athletics Dick Baddour should press the ACC to follow the NFL's example — expand.

After all, no one is happier about the conception of the Houston Texans than the Jacksonville Jaguars, which will doubtless be spared a last-place finish in a difficult division.



AARON FITT
LIKE A GLOVE

So maybe if Baddour could convince the ACC to expand, the Tar Heels could avoid their first-ever last-place finish.

But who should be the new doormat? Who will willingly put themselves in position to get stomped on by Duke and Maryland week after week?

It will have to be a school that currently doesn't have a basketball program. A school that is ready to make the leap to the big-time. A school like Fayetteville Technical Community College. Where better than Fayetteville — a city filled with strip clubs and crime, the laughingstock of North Carolina — to be the host of the laughingstock of the ACC?

With the NFL's expansion draft today, ACC teams might start thinking about who they'd want to leave unprotected should expansion fever strike.

Clemson would surely leave coach Larry Shyatt unprotected. Shyatt's angry outburst at Duke's Dahntay Jones last month was further evidence of his instability. Maybe UNC coach Matt Doherty can call a timeout in the middle of Shyatt's farewell press conference — to "savor the moment."

N.C. State would choose not to protect guard Anthony Grundy. Sure, he's the team's leading scorer and rebounder. But if State wants anyone to start taking it seriously, it needs to shed its social-miscreant image. With the cloud of charges that he assaulted a woman last winter still hanging over Grundy's head, he simply does not fit that new, clean-cut Wolfpack mold. He's out.

Florida State would make center Nigel "Big Jelly" Dixon available. Why? Quite simply, there aren't enough donuts in Tallahassee for Dixon and FSU football coach Bobby Bowden to co-exist.

Duke would leave Dick Vitale unprotected. The ABC/ESPN sportscaster must be annoying Blue Devil point guard Jason Williams by spraying him with spittle in his many excited ramblings about how Williams is as good as any point guard in America, college or pro. But even more than that, Duke wants to prove that it can, in fact, recruit quality players without the huge publicity machine that is Vitale. Sorry, Dickie V. You're heading to Fayetteville.

Georgia Tech would leave Australian center Luke Schenscher unprotected. The Yellow Jackets just want to nip controversy in the bud — they know very well that it's only a matter of time before it is discovered that Schenscher didn't actually serve as the mayor of Sydney, like he stated in his biography.

Virginia would make head coach Pete Gillen available because, let's face it — there is no coach in college basketball that gets fewer results out of a talented team than Gillen. They're quick, athletic and strong, but the Cavaliers will undoubtedly cave in the first or second round of the NCAA's like they do every year. Gillen is the one constant in UVa's annual collapses, so he's got to go.

Finally, North Carolina would ask one question — is it still possible to leave Neil Fingleton unprotected? No? Then the Tar Heels could expose just about anyone on their roster to the draft. With so many underachievers to choose from, there remains just one obvious candidate: Bill Guthridge.

The man who wreaked havoc on the UNC basketball program with two horrendous recruiting crops is still on the payroll, raking in \$87,748 a year. That's a pretty expensive advisor for an athletic program that already employs the legendary Dean Smith as a consultant.

So we offer one piece of advice to Guthridge to prepare him for Fayetteville: don't pick fights with drunken GIs, and you'll do just fine.

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Suspect Defense Hurts UNC

The UNC baseball team was plagued by untimely errors in its opening weekend and dropped 2 of 3 to the Pirates.

By JAMIE AGIN
Assistant Sports Editor

Perhaps members of the North Carolina baseball team should trade their 2001 Diamondbacks-Yankees World Series videos for a set of Tom Emanski Defensive Drills tapes.

Heroic endings are sweet, but defense produces wins consistently.

Offering proof, No. 19 UNC beat Seton Hall in dramatic fashion Friday to

win its fifth-straight season opener. Then, the team forgot its fundamentals and lost its next two games, including a 4-3 defeat Sunday, failing to record back-to-back wins against the Pirates for the first time since 1998.

On Sunday, Pirate Garrett Weir led off the top of the seventh with a double and advanced to third on a Scott Manshack wild pitch. Manshack walked the next two batters before giving up a single to Todd Crawford, scoring two

Baseball

Seton Hall	4
UNC	3
Seton Hall	4
UNC	2
Seton Hall	5
UNC	7

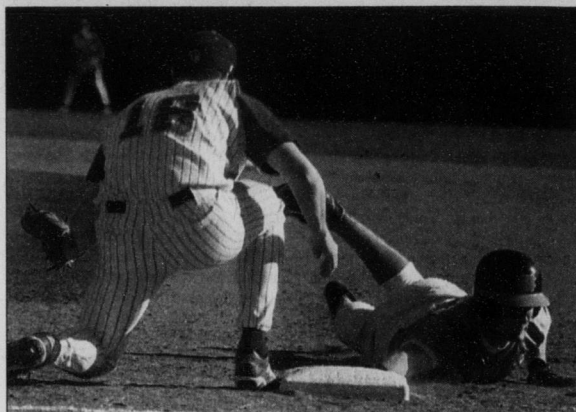
runs and tying the game at three.

With one out in the ninth and the game still tied, the Pirates had runners on first and second. Ed McDonnell hit a hard grounder to UNC second baseman Chris Maples, who bobbled the ball and was unable to turn the double play. UNC reliever Scott Senatore threw a wild pitch the next at-bat, allowing the winning run to score.

Saturday, behind four UNC errors, the Pirates (2-1) downed the Tar Heels (1-2) for the first time in 12 tries.

Mike Bascom walked to lead off the eighth for Seton Hall. He was sacrificed to second base, stole third and came home on a throwing error by catcher Ron Braun

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UNC's Sean Farrell dives back to beat the tag of Seton Hall first baseman Tim Pahuta in Saturday's 4-2 loss to the Pirates at Boshamer Stadium.

Inspired Tar Heels Break Streak

After a visit from 12 former UNC players, the men's basketball team beat a struggling FSU team Sunday at the Smith Center.

By MIKE OGLE
Senior Writer

North Carolina's burden had grown heavier with each loss. As the Tar Heels waved goodbye to their traditional streaks while falling down a seemingly bottomless pit of record lows, they started to worry.

Having been repeatedly beaten over the head with the UNC record book that so many past players had eloquently written, the young Tar Heels had begun to feel a bit orphaned this season. They wondered if the old Tar Heels were embarrassed or even ashamed. Perhaps they would disown their juniors, leaving them on a lonely doorstep.

Instead, 1981 graduate Al Wood and 11 other alums flocked upon the Smith Center to give the youngsters a reassuring pat on the back. The inspirational pregame visit moved the Tar Heels. The ghosts of basketball past said they supported them through the tough times. But the Tar Heels decided enough was enough and won their first game since Jan. 27 and their first home game since Dec. 30, a 95-85 victory against Florida State on Sunday.

"Ah, that was great. I could just see it in those guys' eyes, the pride," said freshman Melvin Scott. "They're there for us, and that meant a lot to us. They really touched us, and we went out and not only tried to win it for them, but win it for ourselves with some pride."

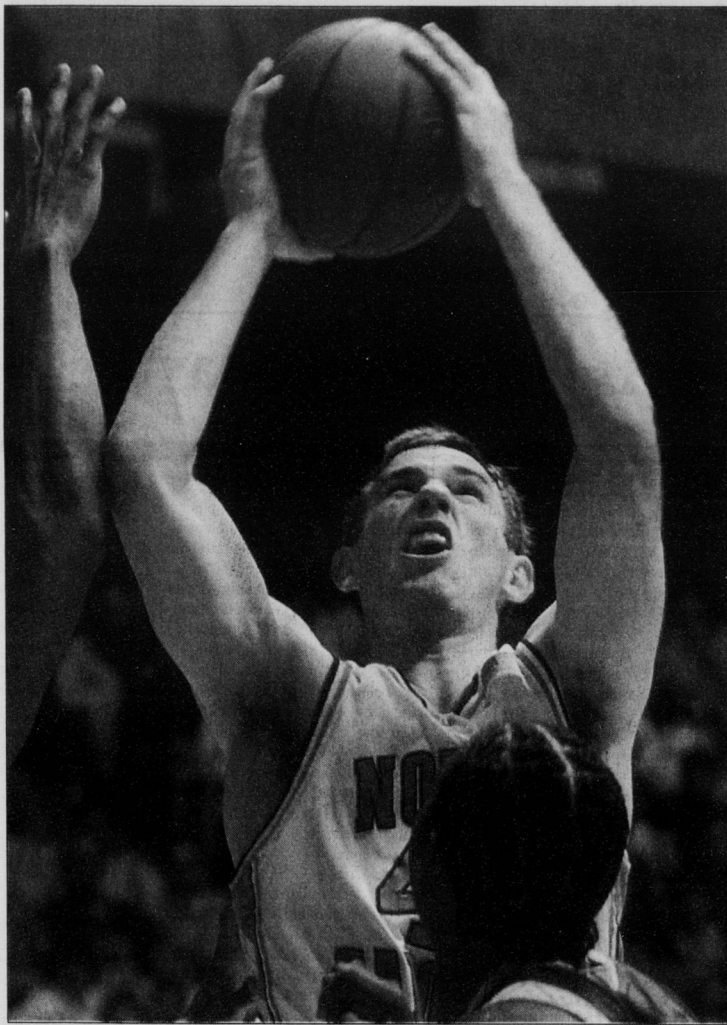
Mike Cooke, who played on Dean Smith's first three teams at UNC, related his experiences as a player to the current struggles. But Wood's speech, which borrowed from Isaiah 40:30-31, carried the most weight.

"He came at us spiritually," Scott said. "He gave us a little quote. The quote really meant for us to spread our wings. An eagle goes into a storm. The baby eagle is about to get put out there to fly. And he doesn't turn around because a storm's coming. He just spreads his wings and goes straight to the heart of the storm."

Adam Boone flew the highest, reaching a career-high 28 points. Boone, who scored 20 in the second half, knocked down three 3-pointers in a 2:43 span shortly after the break that jumpstarted a UNC offensive surge. His afternoon topped his previous career high of 23 set at Clemson — the last time North Carolina (7-16, 3-10 in the ACC) won.

"I just felt if I had a step or a step and a half, I was going

See MEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 7



North Carolina forward Will Johnson puts up a contested shot Sunday in the Tar Heels' 95-85 win against Florida State. Johnson finished with four points in 14 minutes.

UNC Keeps Composure Against FSU

By BEN DESANTIS
Assistant Sports Editor

As the final seconds of Sunday's 95-85 win against Florida State ticked off the clock, North Carolina coach Matt Doherty gave each of his bench players and team managers a fist bump.

When the horn sounded, he turned toward the student risers section and gave the fans an I'm-not-worthy bow as he walked off the court.

At times this season, Doherty has been doing other things with his hands, once breaking a clipboard in a team huddle and often violently clapping to get the attention of his youthful squad.

But on Sunday, Doherty had much with which to be pleased, as UNC won for the first time this season after trailing at halftime. His team also won its first home game since Dec. 30 against Texas A&M.

"They were on their own," Doherty said of his players. "It was fun to watch, fun to sit back and watch our guys play with confidence."

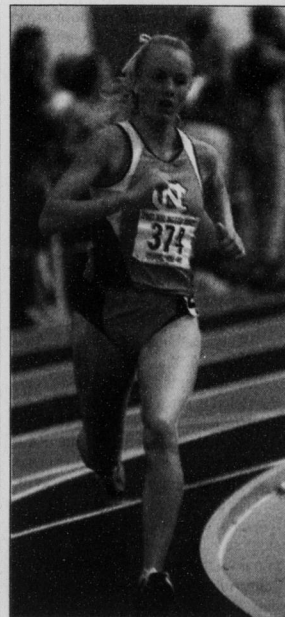
After being somewhat stumped by Florida State's zone defense in the first half, North Carolina tore apart the zone in the second half. The Tar Heels made nearly 70 percent of their shots and hit 7 of 10 from 3-point range.

"The zone put us on our heels in the first half," said Adam Boone, who scored a career-high 28 points. "We were able to attack a little better in the second half, after we made some adjustments at halftime."

Boone, whose previous career-high of 23 came at Clemson on Jan. 27,

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Tech Dethrones Tar Heels in Championships Upset



UNC's Shalane Flanagan won two events at this weekend's ACC meet.

The UNC women's track team took second place and the men finished fifth at the ACC Championships on Saturday.

By GAVIN OFF
Staff Writer

When the 1,600-meter relay finished, the entire team exploded, pumping their fists, jumping off the ground and hugging each other.

Then the chant began, "Whose house?"

But the familiar reply of "Heels' house!" didn't answer.

Instead, a thundering "GT's house!" followed.

And minutes later the official results sounded over the loud speaker.

"For the first time in 10 years, we have a new ACC championship team," the voice said.

Georgia Tech's women upset the Tar Heels 122-113 at this weekend's ACC Indoor Track and Field Championships, held at UNC's Eddie Smith Fieldhouse.

UNC's men placed fifth with 77 points, trailing first-place Clemson by 55 points.

But the down-to-the-wire ending of the women's competition didn't come without controversy or disappointment for the Tar Heels.

Leading by five points heading into the 1,600-meter relay, Georgia Tech false started, which means immediate disqualification in collegiate track and field.

"We had to hope to win and that other teams came in between us and Georgia Tech," said UNC coach Dennis Craddock.

"At the beginning there was a false start by Georgia Tech and I thought, 'How much luckier can we get?'"

But North Carolina's luck never panned out. Meet officials said a door near the starting area had slammed shut, causing the runner's confusion and the false start.

The officials allowed the Yellow Jackets to compete. Georgia Tech took first in the relay and claimed the cham-



UNC thrower Sal Gigante won the weight throw and placed fourth in the shot put at the ACCs Saturday.

ampionship.

"I was very upset," Craddock said of the officials' decision. "Those are the rules. If everybody else has to abide by the rules, so does the relay."

Despite the turmoil, UNC did have its share of outstanding performances. North Carolina placed first in four events, all of them distance or middle distance events.

The Tar Heels also placed third and fourth in the mile and third in the 800-meter run.

"Gosh, what a great effort by middle distance and distance," Craddock said. "Event after event they just did a super job."

"We have to hope that other people step up to that level, too."

Sophomore Shalane Flanagan, who captured her second straight ACC championship in the mile, also won the 3,000, pulling UNC within 5 points of the Yellow Jackets.

With roughly 400 meters left, Flanagan began her kick, passing N.C. State's Kristin Price just meter's before the finish line.

Flanagan's time of 9:19 qualified her for nationals.

"If we were ahead by a lot I wouldn't run, and if we were down by a lot I would," said Flanagan, who also ran for

UNC's first-place distance medley relay team.

"And if it was close, like it was, I'd run too."

But by the middle of Saturday, it was never close for the men. Despite a strong showing in the jumps and throws, Clemson's dominance in the sprints and hurdles was too much for the Tar Heels to overcome.

North Carolina's Adam Shunk and Blair Woodward grabbed first in the high jump and long jump, respectively, while Brent Callaway placed second in the pole vault.

Senior Sal Gigante, who placed fourth in the shot put, also won the weight throw, despite fouling on his last toss.

His throw of 67 feet, 2 and 1/4 inches set a new ACC record.

But, like the rest of UNC's weekend, disappointment filled Gigante's competition.

"It feels good to set the record, but it was a sour victory because a foul was called on my last throw," Gigante said.

"I am going to nationals, but if I would have gotten that mark that they called a foul on, I'd definitely be going."

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