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Doherty: Resignation was forced

FORMER COACH SAYS THREAT OF TRANSFERS WAS MAIN ISSUE

BY AARON FITT
SPORTS EDITOR

As former North Carolina basketball coach Matt Doherty appeared on television and criticized UNC Director of Athletics Dick Baddour for asking him to resign, Baddour moved closer to the screen in his office and turned up the volume. In an interview on the 6 p.m. "SportsCenter" with Jay Bilas, Doherty refuted Baddour's Tuesday statement that "Matt put on the table the notion of resignation" Saturday. "It was discussed (Saturday),"

Doherty said. "That was the first time it was brought to my attention, 'You're going to be fired or resign by early next week.' I'm not going to say, 'OK, I resign.' I was blown away. That was one of the lowest points of my professional life to have that presented to me."

Baddour watched the interview intently, occasionally making a comment to UNC spokesman Steve Kirschner, the only other person in the office. When the segment ended, Baddour stood up and turned off the television.

Less than an hour later, Kirschner said that Baddour never said Doherty offered Saturday to resign but that, "Matt first broached the idea of possibly resigning as one of the different possibilities. He broached that on Saturday."

Kirschner said Doherty was the first one to bring up the option of resignation Saturday.

But freshman David Noel agreed with Doherty's version of events, that he was forced to resign.

"It was my understanding that he was going to be fired," Noel said. "It's

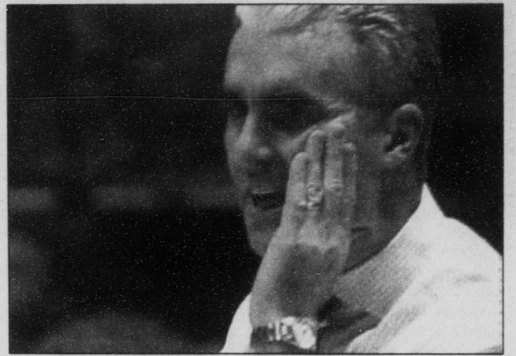
better for guys not to get fired, I guess, but choose to step down. But I don't think that was Doherty's way of getting out of here. I don't think he was just like, 'OK, I'll resign.'"

"I don't know why (Baddour) lied about the situation."

Noel said he was upset when he heard Doherty was being forced out.

"When I heard in the press conference that he was resigning, I got kind of upset because I feel he shouldn't have done it," he said. "I feel

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Above: Maj. Mary Johnson boards a bus to begin her mission overseas while her daughter, Claire, 3, watches at Pope Air Force Base on Thursday morning. Below: Mary comforts Matthew, 7, while her husband, Chris, holds Claire and Alex, 5, just after a five-minute warning call was given to prepare for departure.

Allies try to seize Baghdad airport

Troops just 10 miles south of Hussein's seat of power

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEAR BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. forces occupied part of Baghdad's airport before dawn Friday, putting them less than 10 miles from the seat of Saddam Hussein's government and closer to gaining control of a key lever of power.

Gunshots were heard from inside Saddam International Airport, and it was unclear how many Iraqi troops were there.

Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division reached the airport late Thursday, according to military reports. By early Friday, tank companies of the division had rolled in and soldiers were clearing the area building by building, according to a CBS reporter with the unit who said he heard sporadic gunfire.

The airport, which includes a military facility, is a key first objective for infantry and Marines converging on the capital from the south. Securing it will allow coalition forces to bring in more troops, military equipment and humanitarian aid.

At one point Thursday evening, it seemed like U.S. forces had control of the airport, "and then it got more confusing" with continued fighting, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday night.

The situation should be clear Friday morning, he said in a Fox News interview.

Myers also said Republican Guard divisions were moving around the outskirts of Baghdad to the east and west — though it was unclear whether they were trying to reinforce units fighting the U.S. advance, moving into more defensive positions or fleeing.

In the approach from the southeast Thursday, Marines fought in close combat in Kut, at one point firing AK-47s at a small group of Iraqis who tried a suicide charge against a tank. To the northwest, at Lake Tharthar, Special Operations forces raided one of Hussein's palaces.

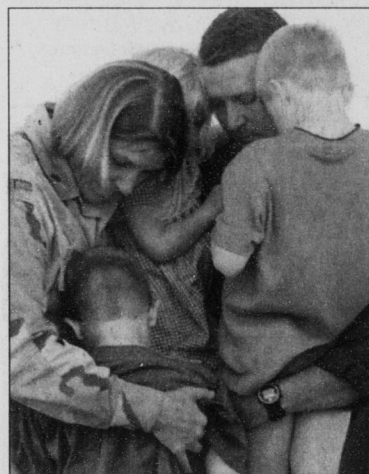
Also on Thursday, officials said U.S. forces in Iraq had four deadly accidents, three of which might have been caused by friendly fire.

Defense Department officials said they were looking into the possibility that one U.S. fighter jet was downed by an American Patriot missile and that a second jet fired on Army ground forces.

Statements on the two accidents followed word that an Army Black Hawk helicopter went down over central Iraq on Wednesday, killing six soldiers and injuring four and leaving one missing. Officials said Thursday that it was unclear what brought down the helicopter, which was hovering above a firefight between U.S. and Iraqi forces.

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ARMY MOM HEADS TO WAR



Mary Johnson's unit deployed after weeks of waiting

BY MATT HANSON ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

FAYETTEVILLE

Maj. Mary Johnson's unit waited in the barracks of Fort Bragg for eight weeks — waited for the higher-ups to give it a go sign.

During the last two months, her unit prepared to deploy several times only to have the date pushed back. For the last week, the soldiers have been on a "short leash," prepared at any minute to board a plane for an 18-hour flight to the Middle East.

Thursday was not another false alarm.

"We're ready — ready to go," said Mary, mother of three, with about 30 minutes left to say final goodbyes to her family.

She sighed. "Yeah ... it's time to go," she repeated, staring blankly at her children as they chased one another around the hangar of solemn soldiers and their families.

"He's totally oblivious," she remarked of her son Alex, 5. Matthew, 7, spent the half-hour

SEE JOHNSON, PAGE 5

Schools fall, rise in national rankings

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Some of UNC's graduate and professional schools did not fare as well overall in this year's U.S. News & World Report rankings as they did last year, but several programs improved their numbers.

The Kenan-Flagler Business School slid in the rankings this year, falling to 21st nationwide from 17th in 2002.

The School of Education showed a similar decline, dropping to 31st this year from 24th last year. The school was

ranked 18th overall in 2001.

But the School of Public Health, though not ranked each year, rose to second and tied with Harvard University for its master's and doctoral programs. It also came in second for its health services administration program.

Bill Roper, dean of the School of Public Health, said he is pleased with the school's rise in the rankings and expressed gratitude to those who made it possible. "We're delighted ... that the School of Public Health moved up in the

ranking," he said. "I am grateful to all who have made this possible."

The School of Law rose from 31st in the nation last year to 28th this year.

The School of Medicine also rose for overall research from 22nd to a tie for 21st but fell from sixth to 15th in overall primary care.

Jeffrey Houpt, dean of the medical school, said he is not surprised about the drop in the primary-care ranking. "I can

SEE RANKINGS, PAGE 5

COLLEGE RANKINGS COMPARISON

The annual U.S. News & World Report graduate schools rankings will hit newsstands Monday. The rankings are popular with students but criticized by University officials.

Business	Education	Law
1. Harvard University	1. Harvard University	1. Yale University
2. Stanford University	2. Stanford University	2. Stanford University
3. University of Pennsylvania	3. University of California-Los Angeles	3. Harvard University
21. UNC (last year: 17)	31. UNC (24)	28. UNC (31)
Medicine — Research	Medicine — Primary Care	Public Health
1. Harvard University	1. University of Washington	1. Johns Hopkins University
2. Johns Hopkins University	2. Oregon Health and Science University	2. Harvard University
(tie) Washington University in St. Louis	3. University of California-San Francisco	(tie) UNC
21. UNC (22)	15. UNC (6)	

SOURCE: U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

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Durham Bulls open 2003 season
with music and fanfare. PAGE 3



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SETTING THE STAGE
Senior drama major reinvigorates
Forest Theatre with play. PAGE 2

WEATHER

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SATURDAY Partly Cloudy, High 78, L 46
SUNDAY Mostly Cloudy, High 65, L 53

