DTH SportSaturday

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During a horrid game against Florida State, wideout Jarwarski Pollack was one of the few bright spots for the Tar Heels. The UNC junior looks to build on that success.

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Delay of Game

Beneficial booing 101

By Ben Couch
SportSaturday Editor

UNC fans would do well to learn the intricacies of proper heckling

You knew it was going to happen. You just didn't know it was going to happen this fast.

It took a mere two quarters before North Carolina fans gave up on the football season.

They did give it one good shot, showing up 59,800 strong for the opener against No. 11 Florida State.

But by the end of the first half, most of the fans went incognito, leaving blue and white pompoms to fill their seats.

This wasn't beyond reason.

UNC was trailing the Seminoles by 27 points, Dan Orner had missed two field goals and the defense was more fragile than Kwame Brown's psyche.

Those are all good reasons not to cheer on a team.

But the lesson here for UNC fans is that this is not the time to leave. This is the time to boo.

I know that booing one's own team sounds a tad strange to the unpracticed boo-bird, but the art of the boo needs to find its way out of the Northeast.

Let's take a look at some examples from the booing public, starting with the stand-up fans of Philadelphia.

When the Eagles drafted Donovan McNabb in the 1999 National Football League draft, Philly fans booed quite mercilessly.

Now this may not make sense at first, because McNabb has developed, as expected, into one of the top five quarterbacks in the league.

But consider that the Philly Phanatics were not booing McNabb himself, but rather the fact that the Eagles passed on Ricky Williams, a running back so highly touted that the New Orleans Saints traded a slew of draft picks to select him.

McNabb recognized this and held no grudge, correctly using the negativity as motivation to succeed.

"All we have to do really is get everything going back the way it used to be, get back on the winning track," McNabb said at the time. "Then (the fans) will believe it was the right pick."

A look at the fans of the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees shows how good booing can occasionally force the hand of team officials.

The Red Sox signed outfielder Manny Ramirez to a 10-year contract in 2000, and despite his hitting prowess, the Fenway faithful quickly tired of his baserunning lapses and general laziness. The fans are making it hard for management to sign another such enigma because such blunders are likely to impede Boston's title run.

And the bleacher bums of Yankee Stadium were at least partly responsible for Jeff Weaver's short leash this season during his progression from potential ace to mop-up reliever.

And for an example of bad booing etiquette, let's look at the Cleveland Dawg Pound, who sent Browns QB Tim Couch over the edge last season by cheering when a concussion sent him to the sidelines.

"If fans don't like the way I'm playing or the way we're playing, they have a right to boo us or boo me," Couch said at the time, choking back tears. "But to cheer when I got hurt, that's a whole other level with me. I don't agree with that at all. I've laid it on the line for this team and city."

Couch is a man who understands. There's acceptable booing and there's a line that's not to be crossed.

What are the UNC football fans supposed to take from all this?

That booing one's own team is done not out of spite or hate, but love.

True fans want, and expect, their team to succeed, and there's no better way to remind a team or a player that they're not playing up to their caliber. It's not being mean, it's showing you care.

Contact Ben Couch at bcouch@email.unc.edu.

AP Top 25

Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Oklahoma (30)	1-0	1,566	1
2. Ohio State (25)	1-0	1,538	2
3. Miami (2)	1-0	1,482	3
4. USC (6)	1-0	1,389	8
5. Michigan (2)	1-0	1,351	4
6. Texas	1-0	1,302	5
7. Kansas State	2-0	1,241	7
8. Georgia	1-0	1,135	11
9. Virginia Tech	1-0	1,094	9
10. Pittsburgh	0-0	996	10
11. Florida State	**1-0**	**930**	**13**
12. Tennessee	1-0	883	12
13. LSU	1-0	828	14
14. N.C. State	**1-0**	**815**	**16**
15. Virginia	**1-0**	**641**	**18**
16. Purdue	0-0	533	19
17. Auburn	0-1	524	6
18. Wisconsin	1-0	512	21
19. Notre Dame	0-0	507	20
20. Arizona State	0-0	309	22
21. Florida	1-0	268	--
22. Washington	0-1	222	17
23. Nebraska	1-0	204	--
24. Colorado	1-0	188	--
25. TCU	0-0	131	25

Others recieving votes: Oregon State 78, Alabama 77, **Maryland 66,** Penn State 62, Northern Illinois 43, Karabell's Pick 36, Iowa 30, Minnesota 28, Scamper and Coda 24, Arkansas 18, Empty Seats 18, Manedit -3.

DTH Picks of the Week

The DTH SportSaturday staff and one celebrity/personality pick the winners of the biggest college football games each week. Today, Syracuse Marching Orange drum major Jackie Magnuson tries to find harmony in the world of college football as she joins the picks crew.

After last weekend's shellacking, it's time to regroup. And when we say that, we mean Chris "Grace Note" Gilfillan, who must have forgotten that the idea in this game was to pick winning teams.

Not that Brian "A-Flat Minor" MacPherson and Aaron "False Cadence" Fitt did much better, stumbling out to poor starts. We can only hope that the Syracuse band gets its formations less crossed than those two New Englanders.

Randy "Requiem" Wellington joined Ben "Crescendo" Couch and Jamie "Arpeggiated" Agin, just one game back of the leaders. We can only hope that the trio refuses to lose interest and continues the dynamic of success.

But all sections trail the dominant "Soprano Sax" Sports Assistants, who correctly pegged Northern Illinois' off-key upset last week. We'll see if the wonder boys can keep up the tempo they set — the coda to their minuet of glory may be near.

NOTE: * denotes split picks between sports staff.

	Ben Couch	Chris Gilfillan	Brian MacPherson	Jamie Agin	Aaron Fitt	Randy Wellington	Sports Assistants	Jackie Magnuson
Last Week	9-3	7-5	8-4	9-3	8-4	9-3	10-2	8-4
2003 Record	9-3	7-5	8-4	9-3	8-4	9-3	10-2	8-4
Syracuse at UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	Syracuse	Syracuse	UNC*	Syracuse
Maryland at Florida St.	Maryland	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU
N.C. State at WFU	NCSU	NCSU	NCSU	NCSU	NCSU	WF	CSU	NCSU
Virginia at South Carolina	UVa.	So. Carolina	UVa.	So. Carolina	UVa.	So. Carolina	UVa.*	UVa.
Auburn at Georgia Tech	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
Furman at Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
Western Carolina at Duke	W. Carolina	W. Carolina	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke
Wash. St. at Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Wash. St.*	Notre Dame
Florida at Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
Bowling Green at Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Bowling Green	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue
Boston College at Penn St.	Penn St.	BC	BC	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn. St.	Penn St.	BC
UCLA at Colorado	UCLA	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	UCLA