

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 111, ISSUE 76

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

www.dailytarheel.com

Notre Dame denies ACC interest

FIGHTING IRISH PREFER INDEPENDENT STATUS IN FOOTBALL

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Contrary to reports that Notre Dame would consider becoming a football member of the ACC, an official in the school's athletic department said Thursday that the Fighting Irish do not intend to relinquish their independent status.

According to a report in The Charlotte Observer on Thursday, ACC Commissioner John Swofford and Notre Dame officials had reached an agreement that gradually would integrate the Fighting Irish football team into the conference, pending approval from ACC chancellors and presidents.

But John Heisler, associate ath-

letic director at Notre Dame, specifically and forcefully denied the report.

"(There was) one story in particular that I saw in the Charlotte paper," he said. "I can tell you that we are not rethinking our position to keeping our football program independent."

"The suggestion that there was some manner in which Notre Dame might join the ACC as far as football is concerned — that's something that's not been considered in any way, shape or form."

Dick Baddour, North Carolina director of athletics, said no such overtures had been made as far as he knew.

"I have no knowledge of that," he said. "I read the article just like you did."

Notre Dame is a member of the Big East in all sports except football. Its status as an independent in football, though, is a lucrative one — its contract with NBC is unique in college sports.

Any expansion deal between the school and the ACC likely would require eventual full membership, which would include football.

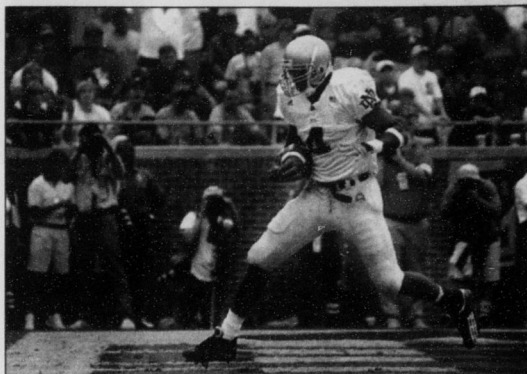
"I know most of the discussion that's been centered around Notre Dame has been as a full member," said Beth Miller, UNC senior associate athletic director for Olympic sports. "I'm sure (the ACC) would

take into consideration the final (financial) impacts."

Officials in the North Carolina athletic department said that although they are not aware of any ongoing discussions between the two parties, Notre Dame would be an ideal first option if the ACC does choose to add another team.

"I think that Notre Dame is certainly a good fit for the conference," said John Blanchard, UNC senior associate athletic director. "It's whether we want to support a 12th team or not. ... If we were to add a 12th team, Notre Dame is certainly the type of team we'd like to

SEE ACC, PAGE 4



COURTESY OF THE (NOTRE DAME) OBSERVER/NELLIE WILLIAMS

Notre Dame running back Ryan Grant scores a touchdown during the Fighting Irish's 34-24 victory at Florida State during the 2002 season.



DTH/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

Sophomores Kathryn Idol (left) and Erin Wrenn shop for UNC clothing Thursday in Student Stores. UNC officials expect a decrease in licensing revenue next fiscal year.

RETAIL SALES TAKE HIT

BY JOSEPH SCHWARTZ
STAFF WRITER

Although UNC-Chapel Hill has led all universities in licensing revenue for the past three years, sales of its merchandise appear to be taking a downward slide.

During the past few months, sales have been declining. Rut Tufts, deputy director of auxiliary services, said he expects lower revenue totals for the 2004 fiscal year. This decline comes after UNC-CH set a record for producing the most licensing revenue for three consecutive years.

"In recent years, UNC has been earning revenues at a rate much higher than a school its size normally would," Tufts said. "We believe that this is in part due to fashion trends." He also said the popularity of UNC-CH head wear and the Carolina blue color is declining. About 88 percent of UNC-CH's royalties come from apparel.

Nelson Schwab, chairman of the UNC-CH Board of Trustees Finance Committee, addressed the issue at the board's meeting Thursday. "There are some dark clouds on the horizon," he said. "It's a combination of a poor economy and our less-than-stellar performance on the field."

Tufts briefed the Finance Committee on the issue during its Wednesday meeting.

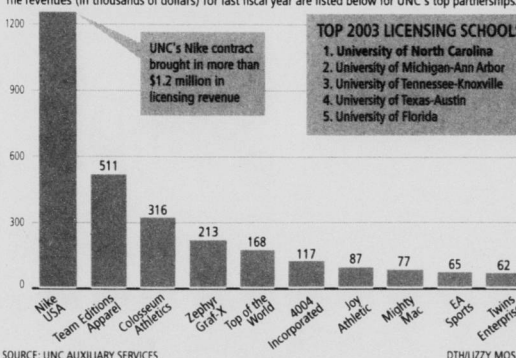
Last fiscal year, the University netted about \$3.5 million from licensing agreements. Seventy-five percent of that total goes to fund General College scholarships, with the rest earmarked for athletics.

Shirley Ort, director of scholarships and student aid, said student grants would be most affected by a decrease in revenue. "Trademark licensing revenue is about 10 percent of all grant funding that we have

SEE LICENSING, PAGE 4

BRAND LOYALTY: UNC'S TOP LICENSING PARTNERSHIPS

To combat a projected decline in licensing revenues, UNC is looking to partner with new companies. The revenues (in thousands of dollars) for last fiscal year are listed below for UNC's top partnerships.



SOURCE: UNC AUXILIARY SERVICES

TOP 2003 LICENSING SCHOOLS

1. University of North Carolina
2. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
3. University of Tennessee-Knoxville
4. University of Texas-Austin
5. University of Florida

DTH/LIZZY MOSER

Town might offer relief

Possible sister-city reeling from Isabel

BY BEN BALDNER
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill area avoided the brunt of Hurricane Isabel last week, but coastal communities still are recovering from its effects.

In response, Chapel Hill might adopt the small coastal community of Edenton, which was devastated by the hurricane.

Former Chapel Hill resident Katherine Kopp, who now resides in Edenton, petitioned the Chapel Hill Town Council on Monday in hopes of establishing a sister-city relationship between Chapel Hill and Edenton.

Edenton sustained significant damage from the storm, and most of its population of 6,000 still is without power, Kopp said.

Only a few businesses are open in its downtown area, and those only for limited hours. Schools have been closed for a week, and trees fell on houses, cars and businesses.

Since the town is located on the Albemarle Sound and Chowan River, extensive flooding also occurred.

Kopp said county officials estimated that more than three-fourths of the town's houses were damaged.

In addition, water was unavailable for several days and now is unsafe to drink, so residents have to rely on bottled water, Kopp said.

The proposition to provide relief to Edenton is not a new concept to the town. After Hurricane Floyd struck in 1999, Chapel Hill adopted the town of Speed and helped coordinate relief efforts. Nick Didow, former director for UNC's Carolina

SEE EDENTON, PAGE 4

"None of them have proven themselves to be incompetent. ... There's not enough room for everyone."

JAMES CEASER,
UVA PROFESSOR

Democratic hopefuls sound off in N.Y.

BY MARGAUX ESCUTIN
STAFF WRITER

The 10 Democratic candidates for the U.S. presidency aired their views on the economy, Social Security and Iraq on Thursday in a televised debate at Pace University in New York City.

James Ceaser, professor of political science at the University of Virginia, described the Democratic candidates as "fairly accomplished and smooth."

"None of them have proven themselves to be incompetent," he said.

Ceaser said the candidates brought out the issues when criticizing their opponents. Sometimes the candidates answered a question directly or contrasted their positions with the other debaters, often asking them to explain their stances.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., criticized for-

mer Vermont Gov. Howard Dean's refusal to trade with countries whose environmental standards are not on par with those of the United States.

"(Rep. Dick) Gephardt and Kerry have a certain interest in pulling out Howard Dean, and there's not enough room for everyone," Ceaser said.

He said retired Gen. Wesley Clark, the newcomer to the race, largely went unchallenged by the other nine candidates. Clark demonstrated that he is a strong Democrat because, among other things, he is pro-choice and pro-environment.

"I wouldn't say he proved himself, but he didn't disprove himself," Ceaser said.

He added that Clark appeared as smooth and as articulate as the candidates

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 4



DTH FILE PHOTO/GILLIAN BOLSOVER

U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., participated in Thursday night's debate in New York City.

Supporters flock to size up Clark

BY ALEXANDRA DODSON
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — The ink hadn't even dried on campaign signs hanging throughout the Wild Turkey Lounge as supporters gathered to watch a televised debate including retired Gen. Wesley Clark and nine other Democratic presidential candidates.

Moments earlier, the signs in the lounge of the Angus Barn

steakhouse had read "Draft Wesley Clark." But thanks to a Magic Marker, "draft" was crossed out and the official Web address of the newest 2004 Democratic presidential candidate was added. This spontaneity seems to characterize the presidential campaign of Clark, a retired four-star Army general who officially announced

SEE SUPPORTERS, PAGE 4

ONLINE

- Purple castles offer ailing children comfort
- Author speaks on "humanist environmentalism"
- Look for more stories on www.dailytarheel.com

SPORTS

RIVALRY ON THE ROAD
The Tar Heels travel to N.C. State on Saturday **PAGE 5**



INSIDE

RESIDENT SEES RED
Local resident speaks out against the town's usage of red light cameras **PAGE 7**

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, H 83, L 60
SATURDAY T-storms, H 80, L 61
SUNDAY Partly cloudy, H 76, L 51

