



RANDY WELLINGTON  
BANKING ON SENIORITY

## A lesson in football forecasting

This column's doubly purposed: first, a challenge to one Steven Rushin, who has written columns for Sports Illustrated since I started reading it.

Sometimes, he rhymes his columns, thinking that he's writing poetry. And once, he wrote a column using only anagrams. Those feats are difficult but not as hard as it would be to write a cogent piece in verse that gives some good advice.

I want to teach you all how to prognosticate and, in the process, celebrate my knack for picking college games.

My record's 36 and 12. I'm in first place; my colleague Jamie Agin's two behind.

This week, my magic touch picked upsets like the Washington State Cougars strolling into Autzen Stadium and beating Oregon.

I also knew that Minnesota wouldn't lose in Happy Valley to the Penn State Nittany Lions. Though you might not know your college football, be assured that picking two road 'dogs is nothing less than brilliant.

They didn't let me pick these games until this year, my fourth in working for this paper. Call it what you will: a travesty, a hazing ritual or just a vast conspiracy.

But now, I've seized my opportunity. In coming weeks, I could just use a coinflip to determine all my picks. Results of heads or tails would direct me whom to choose.

But that would be a little arrogant and not the way to go. I'll stick with using all my football acumen and understanding of the trends in order to select my teams.

I will be wrong at times, that's true. I picked the Alabama Crimson Tide to beat the Razorbacks of Arkansas on Saturday. When Alabama took the lead by 31 to 10, I thought the game was over. Done.

But then, the 'Backs came storming back and won the game in overtime. Oh well. I cannot pick them all.

At least I'm better than the so-called experts, giving their opinions on TV or in a magazine.

A guy called Dr. Z, Sports Illustrated's NFL authority, has useful tips as long as you are reading what he says and doing just the opposite. Thank God they finally have started showing us his stats. He's wrong more than he's right and doesn't even have to pick against the spread.

These guys don't know a thing of which they speak. They're jocks or talking heads who do not have opinions of their own.

The only ones with any precision are the sharks and bookies spread across the land. These guys can pick a game much better than an analyst. Their livelihood is based on it, so it does make sense that they are skilled.

And that's my only tip for anyone who wants to pick like me. You have to check the spreads and see how much a team is favored by. You have to know an upset's far more likely when the favorite's on the road.

That how I picked Wake Forest shocking N.C. State when all my other colleagues picked the Pack. I knew that State was ripe and looking forward to their game against Ohio State.

I guess you have to have a feel. It isn't something I can teach. It's something I was born with, something quite intangible. I wonder if my mom would let me be a handicapper, using all my skill to make a living. No. I'll stick to doing this for fun and taunting those I beat.

I hope this column has informed you all, and I hope it's challenged Steve. He probably could write a better column, yes, but could he write it all in iambs, alternating weaks and strongs, the way I have for you today?

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# Tech cruises to volleyball win

## UNC's 24-game home winning streak ends

BY JACOB KARABELL  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After North Carolina's thrilling five-game home victory against Georgia Tech last season, Georgia Tech coach Bond Shymansky said that the Tar Heels were simply a better team.

After Sunday's game, there is no doubt that in 2003, Georgia Tech is the better team.

The No. 5 Yellow Jackets dominated UNC from start to finish, winning 30-21, 30-16, 30-23. The match ended North Carolina's 24-game winning streak at Carmichael Auditorium.

The loss came a day after UNC's intense 3-2 victory against Florida State, which

the Tar Heels won by scores of 30-14, 28-30, 27-30, 30-22, and 15-9.

Sunday, though, was all Yellow Jackets, all the time. In all three games, Tech (13-0, 2-0 in the ACC) went on an early run and coasted from there.

### VOLLEYBALL

Ga. Tech 3  
UNC 0

Florida State 2  
UNC 3

The low point for UNC (10-5, 2-1) came in game two. After a Tech net violation brought the Tar Heels within one at 5-4, the Yellow Jackets went on a 12-0 run behind server Kele Eveland to put the game away. The run was filled with Tar Heel errors and miscues; on a couple of plays, UNC appeared bewildered

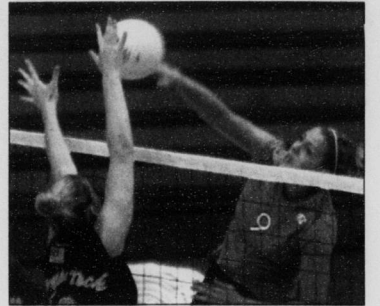
and allowed routine Tech hits to turn into kills.

"We were confused, we didn't have a good rhythm offensively, we didn't pass well, we made bad sets," said North Carolina coach Joe Sagula, citing a laundry list of mistakes during the 12-0 stretch. "There wasn't one thing that was going well."

Though the third game was slightly more competitive, sparked by UNC outside hitter Molly Pyles' 10 kills, the outcome never seemed in doubt. The Yellow Jackets played the game with grins on their faces, knowing that they had come to Chapel Hill and won for the first time since 1997.

"It's fantastic," said Tech junior Lauren

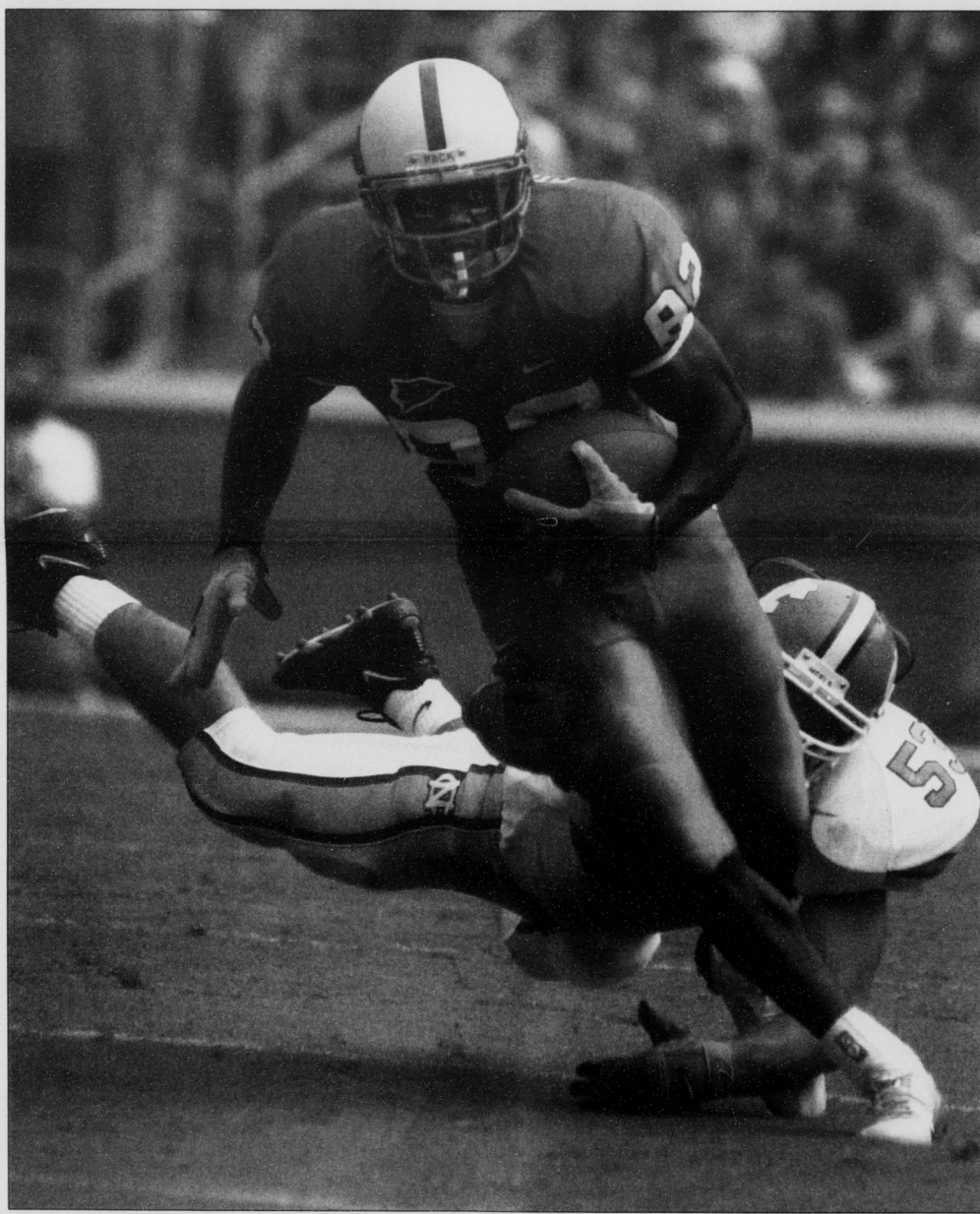
SEE VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 10



DTH/GABI TRAPENBERG

Outside hitter Katie Wright tries to slam the ball past a Georgia Tech blocker Sunday. UNC struggled against the No. 5 Yellow Jackets.

"One of these days, we're going to win a game. I'm looking forward to that day." JOHN BUNTING, NORTH CAROLINA COACH



DTH/GREG LOGAN

N.C. State wide receiver Jerricho Cotchery (82) evades a tackle by UNC linebacker Doug Justice in the Wolfpack's 47-34 win Saturday.

# OVERWHELMED AGAIN

BY JAMIE AGIN  
SENIOR WRITER

RALEIGH — Of course there was N.C. State quarterback Philip Rivers, who put on a 23-for-30, 423-yard, three-touchdown bonanza, becoming the ACC's all-time leader in total offense in the process.

### FOOTBALL

UNC 34 There was also N.C. State 47 receiver Jerricho Cotchery, who finished with nine catches for a career-best 217 receiving yards.

And there were the three reserve Wolfpack running backs, who amassed 158 rushing yards and 98 receiving yards filling in for the injured T.A. McLendon.

Yes, as has been the case in each of the Tar Heels' four losses, there were multiple players performing like Heisman candidates during N.C. State's 47-34 win Saturday at Carter-Finley Stadium.

Lost in all the statistics, though, was that for exactly one half, the Tar Heels (0-4, 0-2 in the ACC) had a chance to avoid their first loss in Raleigh since 1991.

Early, it sure didn't seem that the game would be close.

After Dan Orner kicked a field goal on

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 10

BY THE NUMBERS

11

Receptions by WR Jarwarski Pollock, a career high

615

Total yards allowed by the UNC defense, a season high

13

Seconds elapsed before State's 1st TD after halftime

## Cotchery TD catch turns tide for State

BY AARON FITT  
SENIOR WRITER

RALEIGH — For the second consecutive week, the North Carolina football team was hanging around at halftime when it really had no business doing so.

Again, the Tar Heels had improbably stolen momentum before the break, turning blowout into eyebrow-raiser.

The mood of the small UNC contingent in the visitors' seats had transformed from dreary to cautiously hopeful, maybe even a little rambunctious.

But just like Wisconsin a week ago, N.C. State wasted little time putting down the uprising in the third quarter Saturday. It took the Wolfpack all of 13 seconds.

State quarterback Philip Rivers found a wide-open Jerricho Cotchery for an 80-yard touchdown on the first play of the second half, extending the Wolfpack's lead to 30-21 and effectively quelling the Tar Heels' little rebellion.

"Like Mike Tyson used to say, 'Everyone has a game plan 'til you hit 'em in the mouth,'" Cotchery said. "In the second half, they came out ready to turn it on, and that play kind of took some wind out of them."

UNC followed that up with a three-and-out, and the Wolfpack responded with another touchdown. And that's all it took. State went on to an easy 47-34 win.

N.C. State coach Chuck

SEE COTCHERY, PAGE 10

# Deacons overcome Tar Heels in thriller

## No. 1 Wake Forest keeps streak alive

BY JEREMY BORDEN  
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — Shadows began to creep over Kentner Stadium on Friday as North Carolina's field hockey team somberly finished its cool-down routine. The end of a long, hot day saw tears in many of the Tar Heels' exhausted eyes.

No. 2 North Carolina lost a hard-fought battle with No. 1 Wake Forest 2-1 in overtime.

Wake Forest 2 North Carolina (9-1, 0-1 in the ACC) 1

had hoped to snap Wake Forest's streak of 27 consecutive victories. The defending national champion Demon Deacons (8-0, 2-0) also have not lost at home since 2000.

Aggressive play seemed to be North Carolina's mantra in the first half — the referees stopped the clock at one point to chastise some overzealous UNC midfielders.

The aggressive play came to a head when Tar Heel freshman Laree Beans decked a Deacon as Wake Forest was about to regain control. She was promptly issued a green-card warning.

Despite North Carolina's spirited and aggressive play, Wake Forest controlled the first half with superior ball-handling and efficient passing inside the Tar Heel's zone.

"I think we were playing very timidly," said North Carolina coach Karen Shelton. "We looked like we were a little scared."

Goalkeeper Katy Tran did well to thwart Wake's offensive attack. "My defense was really working hard," Tran said. "They were giving me shots I could handle."

Tran was quick to give her defense credit, but her stellar play kept the Tar Heels in the game. The sophomore finished with 13 saves.

The Deacons' efforts would pay off, however, as they earned their fourth penalty corner with just over six minutes remaining in the half.

Pushed back deep into their own circle, North Carolina defenders

SEE FIELD HOCKEY, PAGE 10

### INSIDE

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY  
Shalane Flanagan wins race, but the Tar Heels place 2nd PAGE 10

MEN'S SOCCER  
North Carolina wins defensive struggle against Harvard PAGE 9



### ONLINE

UNC field hockey goalie Katy Tran excels against Wake Forest  
Georgia Tech volleyball justifies No. 5 ranking against Tar Heels