



CHRIS GILFILLAN
BORN 'N' BRED

Celebrating Durham's voice, value

Dear Woody: I know you never had a face for me until I shook your hand, but your voice long has been ingrained in my memory.

The Voice of the Tar Heels. Man. My grandfather, a UNC alumnus, still mutes the television to listen to you instead of those darn commentators.

Quite an honor, I must say. I think he would swoon on the spot if he ever met you in person.

When you left me a message on my answering machine, I saved it.

Matter of fact, I still have it, and I don't plan on retiring it for weeks although my friends are really getting tired of hearing it because I play it to them so frequently.

And now you've been inducted into the N.C. Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

I know, honors are secondary, and there are too many highly regarded people that haven't been recognized.

When the ceremony ended, a line formed that seemed to span as far as your voice has carried across North Carolina.

You humbly stole the show from broadcasting giants like Carl Kassel or Cullie Tarleton.

During the reception before you were inducted, UNC legends like Dean Smith and Phil Ford wanted to shake your hand.

Although you schmooze with the big names, it's the hometown North Carolina fans that appreciate you the most.

Dean Smith calls your following cult-like.

And it takes a lifer to help you understand. I think we were born under the same moon.

Small-town high schools, big-time football and a fever for all things Carolina blue.

Your flawless work meets the standards of your high school football coach — he never turned anybody away as long as they worked for him.

My hometown of Conover can't be that far from Ablemarle. Heck, our high schools may have played each other.

Values were instilled in us from an early age. And like you can't drop your Southern accent on your show, I can't stop listening to it.

My first North Carolina basketball experience was with you over the airwaves.

I have "Carolina is going to win the national championship!" engraved in my memory.

The only thing that rivals your love for UNC was your love for UNC athletics.

You won't let North Carolina's thousands of athletes and coaches go by without thanking them for giving you the opportunity to blast the airwaves.

As we sat in Coach John Gutekunst's office talking for an interview, I couldn't help but nervously smirk with the secret knowledge that I know that you know that North Carolina is the best.

You sat there, bright eyes behind silver spectacles juxtaposed against silver hair. You talk with your hands, but no one can notice when you're on the radio.

Still though, there's something in your voice that's inspiring even if I can sit and talk with you in person.

Perhaps it's the fervor. Perhaps it's the professionalism. Perhaps it's the responsibility with which you hold your listeners over the airwaves.

Suffice it to say, your voice is my hero.

I know my grandfather will swoon when I tell him that I talked with you.

Woody, you are North Carolina, and you are as much of an institution as the Old Well.

Just wanted to tell you.

Contact Chris Gilfillan at cgilfill@email.unc.edu.

Secondary shines in spring game

Freshman Mitchell impressive in scrimmage

BY DANIEL BLANK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In one half of North Carolina's Blue and White football scrimmage on Saturday, the Tar Heel secondary had more interceptions than it had all of last season.

The Blue team's Kareen Taylor had two first-quarter picks, and the two teams combined for four in all — eclipsing last year's total of two, both of which came in its loss to Wisconsin.

But despite Taylor's interceptions and four tackles, the White team defeated the Blue team 17-7 in the annual spring football game at Kenan Stadium.

"(Taylor's) got great football instincts," said Coach John Bunting. "He's a fierce competitor, and what I liked today is that there were a couple deep balls thrown and

he was right there with the receiver and was able to cover him and turn his head, get the timing down and knock the ball down, along with making a couple of interceptions."

Taylor looked comfortable despite playing at a new position. The coaching staff is attempting to shift him from safety to cornerback.

The secondary showed vast improvement overall. Although four Tar Heel quarterbacks combined to complete 26 of 48 passes, they were limited to just 190 yards.

"As a defensive coach, that's a real positive," said co-defensive coordinator John Gutekunst. "We've gotten our hands on some balls, and done a good job that way."

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North Carolina cornerback Kareen Taylor (27) wraps his arms around UNC running back Ronnie McGill in the Tar Heels' annual spring football game Saturday. Taylor earned four tackles and a pair of interceptions, but the White team won by a score of 17-7.

DTH/LAURA MORTON

DEJA VU: TAR HEELS FALL SHORT OF NCAAS

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

RALEIGH — They stood in a group, blank expressions on their faces, grey duffel bags on their backs, watching nothing in particular on the Reynolds Coliseum floor.

UCLA 197.325
UN 196.375
UNC 196.350
WVU 195.275
UMd. 194.575
NCSU 194.375

All season they'd cheered together, trained together, fought together, taped ankles together.

But now, all they could do was stare in disbelief together as Coach Derek Galvin confirmed that this season — the most remarkable season in the history of North Carolina gymnastics — officially had come to an end.

And the painful scenario was all too familiar.

A year after missing qualification to the NCAA championship meet by 0.05 points, the Tar Heels once again fell short by a margin bordering on ridiculous.

No. 1 UCLA won the NCAA Southeast Regional on Saturday with a score of 197.325, and No. 13 Nebraska earned the second coveted bid to nationals with 196.375 points — the last 0.075 coming after the Cornhuskers submitted an inquiry to raise their team vault score.

It was just enough. No. 12 North Carolina finished at 196.350 — a difference of 0.025 points.

The margin of defeat was as close as it could possibly

get. No technical deduction in the sport is worth as little as 0.025 points.

"We just keep getting closer, but we never get there," said sophomore Courtney Bumpers, who qualified for

the NCAA championship meet as an individual. "That's so frustrating, to be so close every year and just keep missing it.

"It's like, 'What do you want us to do? What more do you want us to do?'"

The meet came down to floor exercise and vault, with the Tar Heels in third place after two events.

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Above: Freshman Christine Robella earned a 9.90 on beam at the NCAA Southeast Regional on Saturday. Below: (left to right) Maddy Curley, Amanda Smith and Lisa Tegethoff react to their season-ending defeat.

DTH PHOTOS/LAURA MORTON

NCAA dream slips out of seniors' reach

Wilson, Curley led team's historic rise

BY GABRIELLE DEROSA
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

RALEIGH — Anna Wilson sat alone amid a sea of disheveled folding chairs, reflecting on her three-year ride on the wave that was North Carolina gymnastics.

The crescendo of that ride had come minutes earlier.

The senior's UNC career came to a screeching halt just 0.025 points shy of a team bid to the NCAA championships.

"You know that it can sometimes come down to margins like

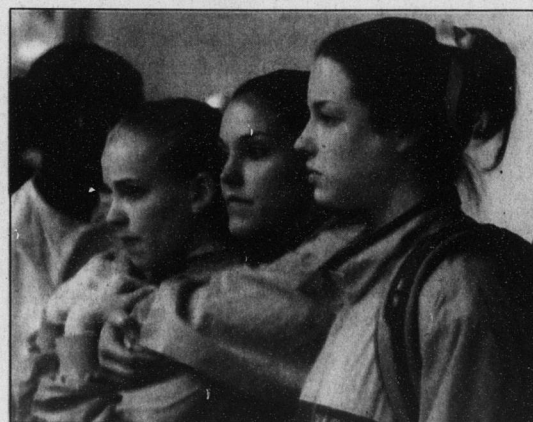
that," she said. "It's very frustrating."

Wilson's arrival after transferring from Pennsylvania was the catalyst for the most successful run in the history of UNC gymnastics.

Even before Wilson provided a dramatic boost in talent, fellow senior Maddy Curley infused the team with optimism from the moment she stepped on the mats her freshman year.

At that time the Tar Heels' goal had been to qualify for the regional competition. Curley urged the team to set its sights on nationals regardless of past performances or

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Baseball smokes Wake in sweep

Tar Heels overcome 5 errors in victory

BY DANIEL BLANK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

WINSTON-SALEM — It is said that walking the leadoff hitter will come back to haunt you.

It certainly made for a nightmare of a first inning for Wake Forest starter Kyle Young, whose

walk to Greg Mangum was compounded by a hit batter and two Demon

UNC 11
Wake Forest 3
UNC 7
Wake Forest 3
UNC 9
Wake Forest 7

Deacon errors. North Carolina pounced on the miscues and scored five runs in the inning.

The five runs proved to be more than UNC starter Andrew Miller would need as the Tar Heels picked up an easy 11-3 win on Sunday at Hooks Stadium.

The win completed a weekend sweep for the Tar Heels (23-6, 7-2 in the ACC), their first against Wake (11-17, 1-8) since the ACC switched to three-game series in 1997.

UNC beat the Demon Deacons 7-3 on Saturday and 9-7 on Friday.

The first two games were hard-fought victories — UNC had to score one run in the eighth and four in the ninth to win Saturday.

But on Sunday, the outcome was never in doubt after the top of the first.

"Five runs in the first, they kind of gave up after that," Miller said. "I think we came out and had more confidence than them (Sunday)."

Pitching in difficult windy conditions, Miller rebounded well from his last start on March 28 when he served up four home runs to Florida State.

Miller yielded only three hits and three runs, two of which were earned, and struck out five batters in 5.1 innings to earn his first win since March 9.

After Miller ran into trouble in the bottom of the sixth, Whitley Benson came in and dominated the Wake lineup to get the save.

In 3.2 innings, Benson struck out six and allowed no hits or walks.

Miller and Benson received plenty of run support from an offense that has started to produce consistently high run totals after struggling early in the season.

Four Tar Heels had multi-hit games, including Blair Waggett, who went 2 for 3 with a triple and two RBI, picking up his first hits of

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