



BRIAN MACPHERSON
NOT IN CHARGE

Golf world not alone in suffering

Between the business cards and dollar bills in my wallet, I keep a small card depicting a cross, an eagle and an "In Memoriam" plaque.

When I heard about Bruce Edwards' death on Thursday, I once again pulled out that card to read my uncle's name inscribed on the back and the psalm underneath.

I knew, in the slightest way, how Tom Watson felt.

Hours before his first-round tee time at The Masters on Thursday, Watson found out that Edwards, his caddie for 30 years, had died at 49 due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — Lou Gehrig's disease.

Just months removed from a diagnosis of a disease that has no known cure, Edwards inspired the nation at the U.S. Open in June when he walked up the 18th fairway with Watson, a scene incomparable in its poignancy.

"If I go in a year or less, I've had a wonderful life," Edwards said at the time. "I've been lucky. I had one of the greatest golfers in the world. I've had a wonderful ride, a lot of wins, a lot of great moments."

When I first heard about Bruce Edwards, I couldn't help but think about Uncle Mark.

I never really knew him as the lanky lifeguard my dad's sister married years ago. Mark Malconian was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in 1985 — his son wasn't yet six months old.

Doctors gave Uncle Mark five years to live, and he survived for 17. He died seven months shy of his son's high school graduation.

ALS is a horrific disease, causing the body of the victim to fall apart excruciatingly slowly.

In the case of Uncle Mark, I can barely even remember when he had use of his arms — I can only picture him shuffling from his bedroom to his living room, his arms dangling at his sides, courageously emerging to face the world for another day.

He learned to use a computer with his feet, and he kept in touch with the rest of the world even when he couldn't leave home.

My aunt turned the pages for him as he read my newspaper articles in high school, and she took a camcorder to record videos of his son dominating the New England prep school water polo league.

He loved Drew Bledsoe, and he never forgave Bill Belichick for the trade with Buffalo.

Uncle Mark even kept his sense of humor to the end. When a doctor conceded in November 2002 that he had little time left, he pointed out that if he died soon enough, "At least I won't have to spend Thanksgiving with the MacPhersons again."

I'll never forget the phone call from my father that Monday afternoon — three days before Thanksgiving. Uncle Mark had passed away peacefully in the night.

He was taken away from us far, far too soon.

More than 5,000 Americans are diagnosed with the disease every year. Only half of those diagnosed survive more than three years beyond their diagnosis, and 10 percent live for 10 more years.

There is no cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, but organizations around the country are working to find one.

Contributions to the ALS Association can be made at www.alsa.org.

Bruce Edwards and Uncle Mark lived full lives, and even though their time was cut short, they both profoundly impacted the world around them.

In that way, each person who knew them was the luckiest on the face of the earth.

Contact Brian MacPherson at brimac@email.unc.edu.

Softball bounces back after loss

Seniors provide leadership, bats for Tar Heels' wins

BY BRANDON COWARD
STAFF WRITER

With three wins and a controversial loss this weekend, the North Carolina softball team left the field feeling confident going into the season's home stretch.

The Tar Heels defeated Maryland twice on Sunday, 1-0 and 5-3. On Friday, they faced N.C. State, losing the first game 5-2 and winning the second 3-2.

"It really meant getting back on track and readjusted," said senior Dionne Streete. "It meant a lot to bounce back and win after losing the first game. This weekend gives us a firm base going into the toughest conference games against

Georgia Tech and Florida State."

Despite leadoff hits in every inning, the Tar Heels (35-15, 5-1 in the ACC) were unable to score in Sunday's first game until Streete

slapped a home run over the left-field fence for her eighth home run of the season.

Coach

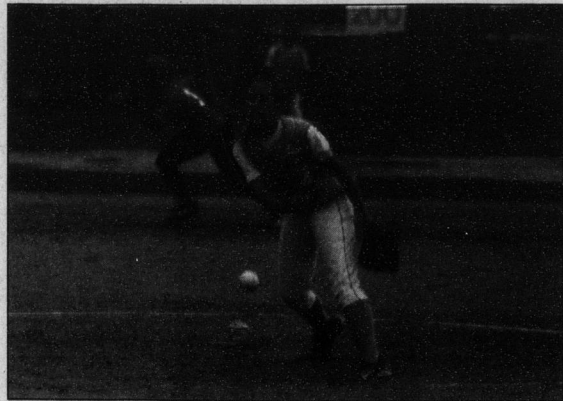
Donna Papa credited Streete and fellow seniors Emily Price, Jessica Graziano and Natashalyn Snipes with providing the leadership and poise that were crucial to a successful weekend.

(Streete), Jessica Graziano,

Emily Price and Tash (on Sunday) have really stepped up," Papa said. "As seniors, they've been there before, they know the pressure, they know what's on the line. They've all come through for us."

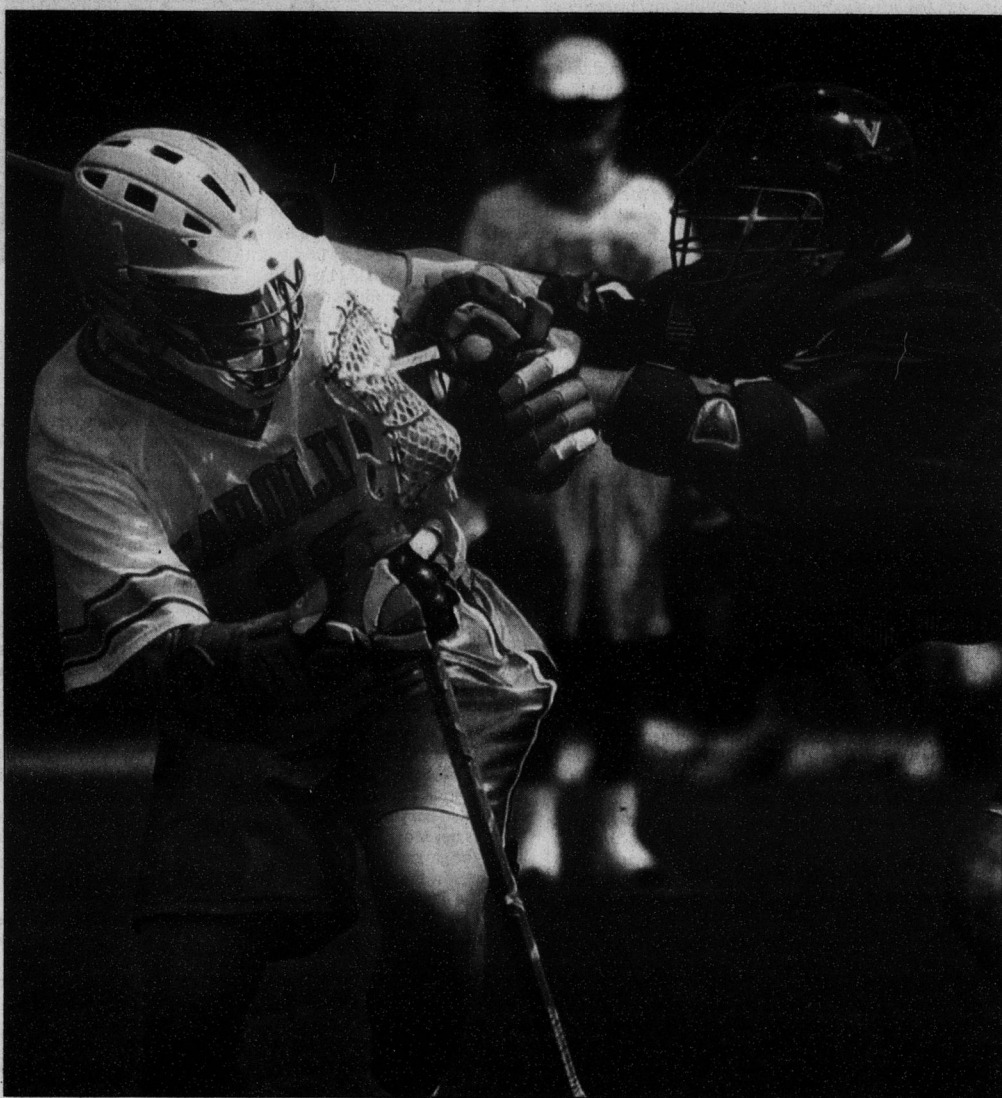
In the second game against the Wolfpack, Snipes gunned down a runner at home plate from center field. Against the Terrapins, she tripled in the sixth to start a rally that won the second game against Maryland (21-17, 1-3).

"Tash had a clutch hit," Papa said. "We talked about if we scored that run in the sixth inning, then Crystal would come in and shut



North Carolina pitcher Crystal Cox struck out 10 Maryland batters in 8.2 innings of work Sunday. The Tar Heels swept the Terps, 1-0 and 5-3.

NORTH CAROLINA 11 VIRGINIA 9



Virginia attacker Eric Pittard (right) checks North Carolina defender Ronnie Staines during UNC's 11-9 win against the defending champion Cavaliers on Saturday at Fetzer Field. The Tar Heels improved to 2-1 in ACC competition this season with the victory.

UNC EARNS WIN WITH LATE RALLY

BY RANDY WELLINGTON
STAFF WRITER

At halftime of its ACC clash with Virginia on Saturday, the North Carolina men's lacrosse team trailed by a goal, and every Tar Heel knew why — goalie Paul Spellman's game was off.

In response, his coaches used a hodge-podge of pressure and advice that erased Spellman's traumatic first-half memories.

The goalie, with his newly spotless mind, stifled the defending champions in the second half of an 11-9 Tar Heel win at Fetzer Field.

"Everybody else was blowing it out," Spellman said. "They were giving the best effort they could possibly give, and I wasn't in that first half."

He had allowed six goals on 15 shots and had just four saves. But Virginia's lead was only 6-5, and UNC would have been ahead if not for several great saves by UVA. goalie Tillman Johnson.

In the first half, the No. 5 Tar Heels (6-3, 2-1 in the ACC) took more shots, won more faceoffs, completed more clears and committed less turnovers than No. 15 Virginia (3-6, 0-2).

At intermission, UNC coach John Haus switched the defense from zone to man-to-man. In front of the team, he told his goalie he had to play better. Then assistant coach Pat Olmert, as he warmed up Spellman during halftime, offered some advice.

"Coach Olmert got in my head a lot at halftime," Spellman said. "He said, 'Tune it out. Turn everything else off. Just worry about yourself.' So I ... just zoned in as best as I could. As a captain and three-year starter, you don't want to let anybody down."

The only players let down in the second half were the UVA. attackmen and midfielders. After a goal with 9 minutes, 6 seconds left in the third quarter to give them a 7-6 lead, the Cavaliers were scoreless until 2:25 remained in the entire game, a 21-minute, 41-second drought during which Spellman made nine saves.

SEE MEN'S LACROSSE, PAGE 7

Cavaliers shut down Prossner

BY BRIANA GORMAN
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina attackman Jed Prossner would spin left and find himself face-to-face with Virginia's Michael Culver. He would then spin right, but once again Culver would be there, getting in his way.

This constant battle continued the entire game, and Prossner never could find an opening against his opponent. The Tar Heels' leading scorer was held scoreless on Saturday against the Cavaliers.

In fact, Culver was Prossner's shadow, following his every move to prevent the Tar Heels' top attackman from touching the ball. The only job for the sophomore defenseman the entire game was to guard Prossner and make

SEE PROSSNER, PAGE 7

Clemson takes ACC win from Tar Heels

Mojzis shuts down two ranked opponents

BY ANDY WALES
STAFF WRITER

After every point won by North Carolina's Lee Bairos, she listened to most of her teammates and fans cheer "Let's go!"

Upon winning her own points, Bairos' opponent, Clemson's Daniela Alvarez, heard her teammates screaming the Spanish equivalent: "Vamos!"

Alvarez was just one of three Spanish-speaking players on Clemson's women's tennis team. In fact, of the nine players on the team, only one hailed from the United States.

Despite its foreign contingent, Clemson felt right at home at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, defeating UNC 6-1. The defeat came on the heels of a 5-2 victory against Georgia Tech on Friday.

No. 28 Aniela Mojzis cruised to victory in both matches by defeating No. 57 Lindsay Shosho of Georgia Tech 6-2, 6-0 and No. 8 Julie Coin 6-1, 6-3.

With the wins Mojzis has won six of her last seven after losing five straight. She attributed her recent play to a surge in confidence.

"My head's coming together," she said. "I love the ACC Tournament and this time of year when the weather's warm. Today was the first time I felt my game come together."

Saturday was Senior Day for Bairos and Kendrick Bunn, but Bairos lost both of her matches in three sets, and Bunn lost to Clemson's Karen Rombouts in straight sets.

There was a bit of controversy about the seeding of Rombouts. Clemson head coach Nancy Harris placed Rombouts in the sixth position, a position she hadn't played all season.

Some thought she had been underseeded, a rules violation. Tar Heel coach Brian Kalbas originally questioned the seeding, but then thought that perhaps those ahead of her had been playing well in practice.

Kalbas found no need to pursue the matter further. Bunn said she had also heard the rumor, but wasn't certain it was true either.

The weekend was also eventful for freshman Sara Anundsen. She gutted out a 7-5, 6-3 victory against Georgia Tech's

SEE WOMEN'S TENNIS, PAGE 7

INSIDE

MEN'S GOLF

The Tar Heels finish in ninth place at The Intercollegiate in Cary **PAGE 10**

SOFTBALL

UNC's Dionne Streete emerges as a leader, hitting .348 this season **PAGE 9**



TRACK

Tar Heels win 14 events at the Carolina Fast Times meet on Friday **PAGE 7**