



DANIEL BLANK
BLANK EXPRESSION

New York fans worth emulating

Hideki Matsui had just slammed a line drive off the right-field wall for a bases-clearing double, and the 55,000-plus fans crammed into Yankee Stadium had the House that Ruth Built rocking. Literally.

New York was pounding Curt Schilling — the man Boston had acquired in the offseason for the sole purpose of beating the Yankees in October and who had vowed that he was going to make 55,000 people shut up.

After Matsui's double ran the score to 5-0 in just the third inning, the stands in the upper deck started shaking up and down under the raucous crowd.

But it was two batters later that things got really rowdy. As Schilling was about to deal his first pitch to Jorge Posada, the fans exploded in a perfectly synched chant that moved across the stadium like a tidal wave of sound.

"WHO'S YOUR DA-DDY!"

The chant, inspired from Pedro Martinez's now infamous comment, "What can I say — just tip my hat and call the Yankees my daddy," made after a September defeat became the crowd's chant of choice, replacing the standard "Let's go Yankees!"

Then in the seventh inning, as if the game had been scripted by someone who watched a few too many North Carolina basketball games last season, the Sox starting hacking away at what seemed to be an insurmountable lead.

By the eighth inning, the 8-0 lead was now 8-7 with the tying run 90 feet away.

But just when it seemed New York would complete its disastrous choke job, the Yankee Stadium crowd approached the same decibel level it had reached after the Matsui double.

One note of Metallica's "Enter Sandman" had escaped the speakers, but from the second note on, the song was engulfed by the cheers of fans who knew exactly what the song meant.

The bullpen door opened and out walked Mariano Rivera — who had been in Panama mourning two dead relatives that day — striding calmly onto the field and then proceeding to put any hopes of a Boston comeback to sleep.

Although it took just two innings for the Yankee lead to disappear, the fans never removed themselves from the game.

During the Boston rally, the crowd still rose to its feet each time a New York pitcher got two strikes and again as the Yankees started to piece together a rally in the bottom of the eighth.

This type of fan effort is something that has been sorely missing from many North Carolina games the last couple of years — including a number of those late-game basketball collapses and just about every home football game.

Rivera acknowledged the importance of the fan support, and energy from the crowd almost always has a bigger impact in the college game than it does on the professional level.

It is the job of the student section to create that difference — particularly in a place like the Smith Center where old, stodgy alumni have all the seats in the prime heckling locations.

And it's easy to do that when the team is up by 20 or if the football team is holding a lead on N.C. State. But it is when the teams are trailing that they need the crowd to get vocal.

UNC fans hold their teams to the same high standards that New York fans hold to the Yankees — and just like few had left by Frank Sinatra's closing rendition of "New York, New York," there should be few empty seats for the Marching Tar Heels' rendition of "Hark the Sound."

Contact Daniel Blank at danblank@email.unc.edu.

Tar Heels show comedic flair

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON SENIOR WRITER

You might have expected Roy Williams to boogie in the middle of the court. You might have expected the bald Dick Vitale wig and the Duke jokes. You even might have expected David Noel in drag once again.

But you never could have expected Melvin Scott pirouetting in pink knee socks, fluttering his eyelashes for the Smith Center crowd.

The ballet number, featuring seniors Scott, C.J.

Hooker, Jackie Manuel and Jawad Williams, capped an evening of creative skits and wild costumes — but questionable dance moves — during "Late Night with Roy" festivities Friday.

"Some of those guys have got two left feet, I'll say that," Noel said.

"A lot of us can dance, but a lot of us can dance more hip-hop style. What we were doing out there, that choreographed stuff — people had a hard time with it."

The most entertaining skit might have been the dead-on Roy Williams impression from sophomore Wes Miller.

Trailed by David Noel and a

three-piece "Eye of the Tiger" band in a parody of a Starbucks commercial, Miller knelt on the sidelines, screamed at two players, pounded the press table and threw his jacket into the crowd.

He then limped off the court with both his gray wig and glasses askew.

"That was 100 percent great," Noel said. "I was having a fun time laughing behind him during the Roy skit, but that thing was funny. He did that the best I've ever seen."

Miller's target couldn't contain his amusement during the sketch, tearing off his glasses and rolling with laughter.

"I've never seen that guy in my entire life," Roy Williams told the crowd. "But we start practice tomorrow, so I'll get him back."

Oh, right. Practice. Even as the players — and coaches — showed off their dance moves and comedic abilities, the beginning of basketball season was never far from anyone's mind.

ESPN personality Stuart Scott, who hosted the event, made sure of that.

"Let's be clear," he told the boisterous crowd early in the evening. "We're going to win the national championship this year."

A neutral observer might have needed some convincing, though, after watching the Tar Heels.

The team struggled through a scrimmage that began once Friday night gave way to Saturday morning.

A White team led by Jawad Williams and Sean May defeated the Blue team 45-41, but every player had just one objective in mind — don't get hurt.

"I kept watching the clock run,

SEE LATE NIGHT, PAGE 11



North Carolina seniors Jawad Williams (left) and Jackie Manuel (right) perform a pirouette as part of Friday's "Late Night with Roy" festivities at the Smith Center. DTH/LAURA MORTON

SALT IN THE WOUND: UTES OVERPOWER UNC

Tar Heels allow record 669 yards

BY JACOB KARABELL
SPORTS EDITOR

SALT LAKE CITY — The game's first play from scrimmage served as enough of an omen.

North Carolina starting tailback Jaque Lewis suffered a back contusion after a 6-yard gain, becoming one of seven UNC players injured in the first half.

The injuries served as the salt in the wounds, as No. 11 Utah's option-laden offense further

pained the Tar Heels for a UNC-record 669 yards in a 46-16 victory in front of a sold-out crowd of 45,319 at Rice-Eccles Stadium on Saturday night.

The walking wounded also

included tailback Ronnie McGill, who reinjured the sprained ankle that forced him to miss the previous three games, on a power run near the goal line early in the game.

Quarterback Darian Durant also left the game with a sprained right elbow, which he incurred with just two minutes remaining in the first half on an incomplete pass to Jarwarski Pollock.

Of the seven injured players, only defensive tackle Kyndraus Guy returned to the game after leaving with a bruised quadriceps.

"I've never seen (anything like) it in my life," said UNC coach John Bunting. "It was mind boggling. I didn't think I was going to have a team by the end of the first half."

Even with a completely healthy lineup, though, UNC (3-4) likely would have struggled to contain the quick-striking Ute attack, which put together a performance Utah fans could savor for years to come.

The Utes (6-0) gained 669 yards, eclipsing UNC's previous yards-allowed record of 659 against Arizona State on Oct. 5, 2002.

Senior Utah quarterback Alex Smith was responsible for 396 of Utah's yards Saturday. He completed 29 of 37 passes for 341 yards and four touchdowns in addition to running for 55 yards and a score.

But it was the Tar Heels who took the early lead, scoring a touchdown on their first drive sparked by two key conversions.

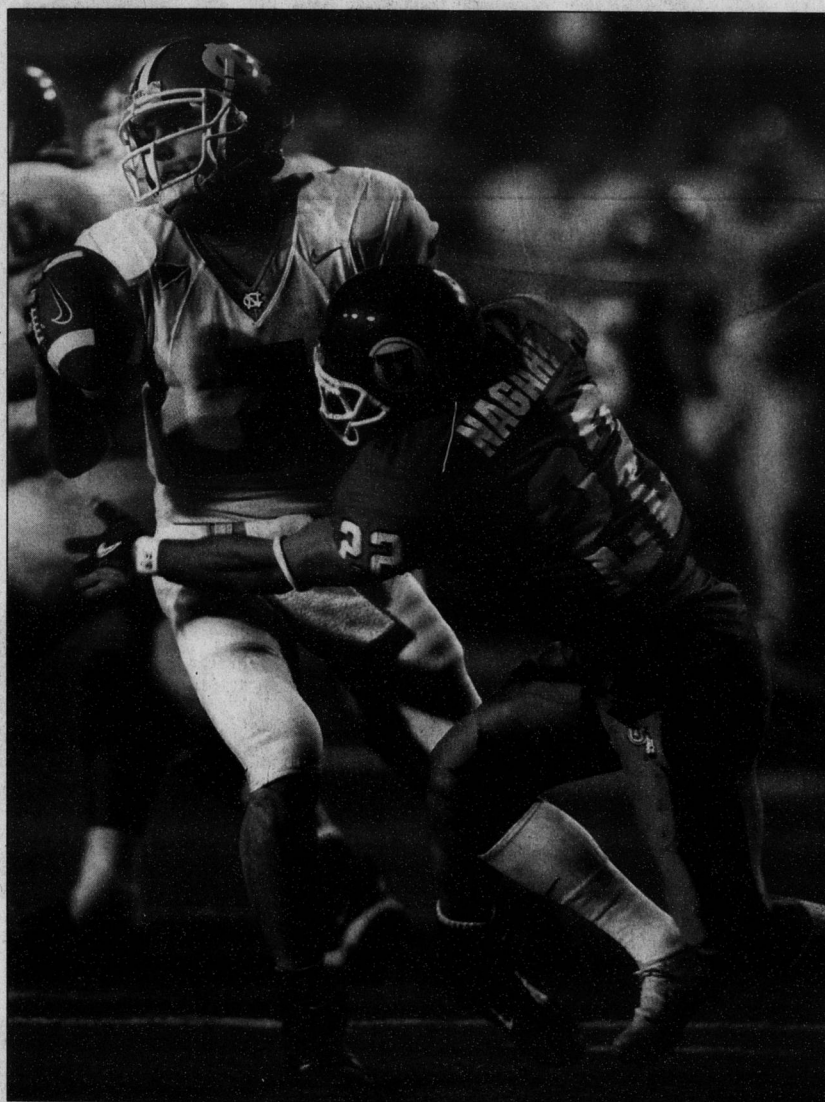
On third-and-9, Durant narrowly avoided a sack by running away from blitzing Ute defensive back Ryan Smith and completed a floater to a wide-open Derrelle Mitchell for an 18-yard gain.

Then, on fourth-and-2 at the Utah 5, McGill charged forward for four yards to set up a Madison Hedgecock touchdown on the next

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 11

UNC cornerback Lionell Green (left) wraps up tailback Quinton Gantner, who rushed for 65 yards and caught a TD pass Saturday.

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 11



North Carolina QB Matt Baker (7) avoids cornerback Bo Nagahi (22) in the Tar Heels' 46-16 loss to Utah on Saturday. Baker replaced starting QB Darian Durant after he sprained his right elbow late in the first half. COURTESY OF THE DAILY UTAH CHRONICLE/KEVIN BUEHLER

Tar Heels squeak by UVa.

BY BRIANA GORMAN
STAFF WRITER

With North Carolina clinging to a one-goal lead, UNC senior Anne Morrell was shoved to the ground in the box by a Virginia defender.

Despite protests from the fans, the UNC 2 referee didn't blow his

whistle.

Yet, No. 2 North Carolina toughed it out and emerged with a 2-1 victory against No. 4 UVa. at Fetzer Field on Sunday.

The Tar Heels win was no easy accomplishment because UVa. challenged UNC both offensively and defensively the entire game.

"I made that long run, and

SEE SOCCER, PAGE 11

"They have talent all over the field, they are well organized, and they are having an absolutely wonderful year," said UNC coach Anson Dorrance. "I'll be completely honest — I am absolutely ecstatic to be standing here after the game with a win against a really fine Virginia side."

The Cavaliers (11-2-1, 3-2-1 in the ACC) played tough defensively and allowed just eight shots.

The Tar Heels (14-0-1, 7-0-0) didn't score until the 34th minute, when junior Kacey White slipped a pass behind a UVa. defender to Sara Randolph, who one-touched the ball into an empty net.

"I made that long run, and

SEE SOCCER, PAGE 11

Kacey played an absolutely perfect ball through," Randolph said. "And it was kind of slo-mo, thinking, 'If I don't put this in, I'm going to shoot myself.' It was a gimme, one of those that you have to finish for your team."

Randolph's goal lifted the Tar Heels to a 1-0 halftime advantage. But North Carolina couldn't capitalize on its numerous scoring chances again until the second half.

In the 50th minute, UVa. defenders tied up Morrell 30 yards from the goal. She tapped the ball to her right, where Lori Chalupny came streaking through, splitting the defense and setting up a one-on-one with

SEE SOCCER, PAGE 11

Randolph works her way back after injury

BY DANIEL BLANK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina midfielder Kacey White fed a perfect cross on the ground to the far post, and all fellow midfielder Sara Randolph had to do was run onto the ball and chip it into the empty net.

But it was a run that Randolph might not have been able to complete just a month and a half ago.

The senior underwent surgery in April on her right patella to realign her knee cap, fixing a chronic injury that had plagued Randolph since late in her sophomore year. Randolph couldn't run until June. She didn't start regaining full mobility and making cuts until July.

SEE RANDOLPH, PAGE 11

"The first week of the season, I just wanted to shoot myself," she said. "I had only touched the ball for about a month, I wasn't in my best shape and still in a lot of pain. I tried to be patient. ... You just have to realize it's a long season."

It also helped that Randolph had the support of teammates who had successfully rebounded from major knee surgeries.

"When you come off a knee surgery, you've lost fitness, you've lost speed and your muscles aren't in the condition they need to be," said midfielder Amy Steadman, who has had four knee surgeries. "That's a hard

SEE RANDOLPH, PAGE 11