

# Barclay to test UNC defense UNC will host first 2 rounds

BY DANIEL BLANK  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina just finished its brutal stretch of facing seven ranked teams in its last eight games, which culminated with a last-minute loss to No. 16 Virginia Tech.

Although no top-25 teams remain on the schedule, UNC could be facing its most pressure-packed two-game stretch of the season.

If the 4-5 Tar Heels can win their final two games, they'll be bowl eligible and could play in their first postseason game since the 2001 Peach Bowl.

But before UNC wins two games, it must first win one, and that will be a challenge as the Tar Heels head to Winston-Salem to face a tough Wake Forest team.

"Last time we went over there, we were pretty much embarrassed," said UNC coach John Bunting of Wake's 31-0 thrashing of the Tar

Heels in 2002. "So there's tremendous motivation for all of us, there's a lot to play for, and we know what we're up against — a very physical team that has a lot of talent."

The Demon Deacons (4-4) are also a very rested team as opposed to UNC, whose last two games have gone down to the last minute. Wake is coming off a bye week.

"They've had a week off, they'll have something extremely new for us, I'm sure, some deviation off of a formation or a motion," Bunting said. "If you're able to line them up, post motion, they're basically going to come off and hit you in the mouth and play rough-and-tumble football."

Bunting said he is anticipating that Wake will run a lot of misdirections, the type of plays that gave the UNC defense fits against Virginia Tech.

The Tar Heels gave up a school

record 243 rushing yards to Hokie back Mike Imoh.

Wake features its own star running back in junior Chris Barclay.

Barclay, who ran for 160 yards and a touchdown in last season's 42-34 loss to UNC, is third in the ACC in rushing with 89 yards per game.

He'll be going up against a rush defense that has sunk to the bottom of the conference by allowing 234.9 rushing yards per game.

"The guy that probably is as tough as any of the backs (in the ACC) is Barclay," Bunting said. "That guy is tough, and he's strong, and he's quick, and he's explosive."

On the offense, Bunting said he will continue to ride the hot hand of RB Chad Scott, who was the first Tar Heel to run for 100 yards in consecutive games in seven years.

Both Ronnie McGill and Jacque

Lewis are now healthy.

## 5 seniors selected for bowls

Madison Hedgecock, Jonas Seawright, Gerald Sensabaugh, Darian Durant and Jason Brown have been chosen to participate in postseason exhibition games.

Hedgecock, a fullback, will play in the Hula Bowl. Seawright, a defensive tackle and Sensabaugh, a strong safety, were selected in the Las Vegas All-American Classic.

Durant will be taking the snaps in the Gridiron Classic and Brown, a center, will represent UNC at the Senior Bowl.

Said Bunting, "I'm thrilled to be able to help those kids get into those all-star games because they are great kids."

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu).

## Nothing faaan-tastic at Bobcats' opener

I was bumming around my room Thursday afternoon when my boy Phil presented me with an intriguing last-minute activity — attending the inaugural game of the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats.

I had several other plans but immediately knew I would cancel them and go to the game.

It's the kind of irrational thing you do when you actually enjoy watching the NBA.

Three hours later, the boys and I arrived at the Charlotte Coliseum to watch the Bobcats play the Washington Wizards, a squad my friend Colin, a lifelong fan, described as a perennial expansion team.

About 7:15, the lights went down and laser logos began to crisscross the court. The Jumbotron showed a computer-generated monster of a bobcat tromping around Charlotte before mascot Rufus Lynx came onto the court riding a motorcycle as pyrotechnics flashed into the air.

Rufus hyped up the crowd as the Bobcats were introduced, with hometown hero Steve Smith and rookie Emeka Okafor garnering the loudest cheers.

Seeing Charlotte's starters — Okafor, Gerald Wallace, Jason Kapono, Brevin Knight and Primož Brezec — made me wince. World beaters, they're not.

Smith and owner Bob Johnson then gave short speeches thanking the fans.

"The NBA has come back to Charlotte," Johnson announced. "And we'll never leave."

Yeah, as long as he doesn't alienate his fans to the point that they stop coming to games.

Focus shifted to center court as Charlotte lost its first tip-off.

However, the Bobcats quickly got the ball back, and Brezec dropped in a layup for the first bucket (and lead) in team history.

To spare you the gory details of a painful game, here's the Cliffs Notes version:

■ The Jumbotron showed the "Bojangles Chicken Coop" — a group of fans sitting placidly, unaware they were on camera — for 30 seconds during a time-out with no evident connection to Bojangles.

Colin then quipped, "This is going to be the first franchise to fold after one game."

■ Gerald Wallace is a walking turnover.

■ A white guy won the "Shake it for your shoes" dance contest.

■ Okafor used an up-and-under move to get free for a thun-



**BEN COUCH**  
VIEW FROM THE COUCH

derous one-handed dunk, likely the game's best highlight.

That kid's the truth — he put up 19 points and 10 rebounds by playing in the flow of the game. The "Okafor in '04" campaign is officially under way.

■ The ubiquitous "Kiss Cam"

promotion provided high comedy when it focused on two referees. One was staring away from the camera and was taken by surprise when the other ref violently snogged him from behind. After being released, the ref threw his arms up and shrugged. A good sport, that guy.

■ My boy Stevie wondered where Brezec was during crunch time.

"Wheezing on the sidelines," Phil answered. "He's never played more than five minutes in his life."

■ With the game tied at 85 late in the fourth, the Wizards

scored six straight points to open a lead they wouldn't relinquish on the way to a 103-96 victory.

When the game finally ended, I was exhausted. I had witnessed the worst basketball game I'd ever seen live and faced three hours in Colin's cramped car.

But I got to see the first game in Bobcats history. I'm one of only 23,319 people who can claim that.

The NBA. It's faaan-tastic.

Contact Ben Couch at [bcouch@email.unc.edu](mailto:bcouch@email.unc.edu).

## THE Daily Crossword

By Josiah Breward

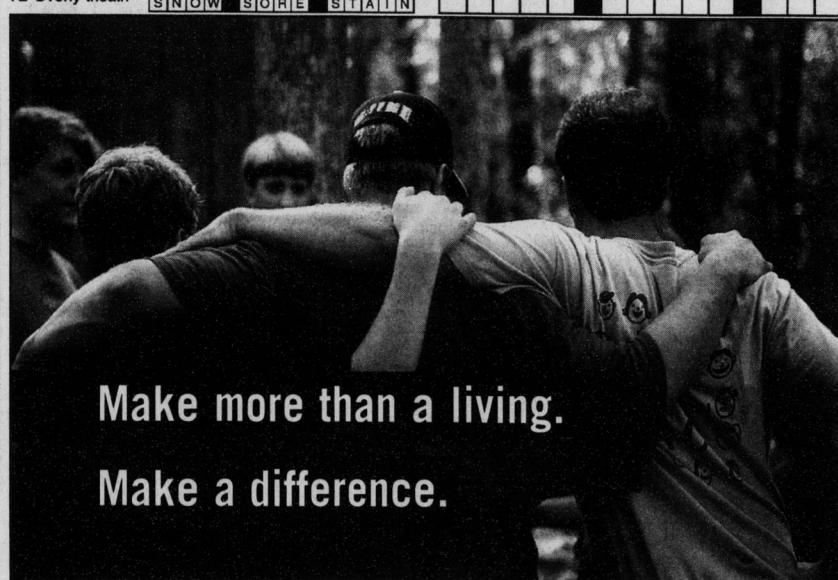
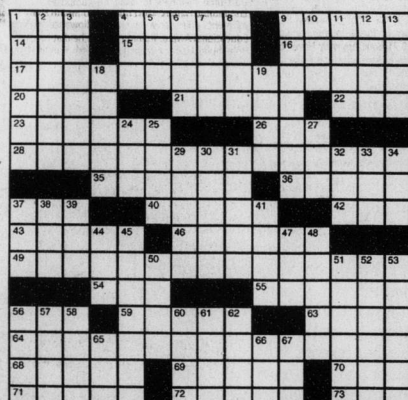
- ACROSS**
- Cavity
  - Eagle's pad
  - Birth sacks
  - Miss. neighbor
  - Viscous
  - Brightened
  - Idol
  - Essence
  - German industrial city
  - Fell, as trees
  - Native Alaskans
  - Chest bone
  - Ideal
  - Highest-ranking
  - Masters champion of '49, '52 and '54
  - Slightly askew
  - Roper and Lincoln
  - Ninnyhammer
  - Haughty
  - Virgil's hero
  - Idyll
  - PGA prop
  - Type of sleeve
  - Veneration
  - Terribly timid
  - Posterior
  - Idle
  - Lots of land
  - Dutch city, with The
  - Rocky out-crop
  - Soft rustling sound
  - Overly theatri-

- DOWN**
- Papaya: var.
  - Philippines seaport
  - More pungent
  - Gray shade
  - New Haven alum
  - Fit for picking
  - Little devils
  - Only thing I have for you?
  - Medical facilities
  - Goal
  - Sundance Festival state
  - Racing sled
  - Spit out
  - Closes
  - Bruce or Laura
  - Tryon novel, "\_\_\_ Other"

cal  
73 Pedro's Mrs.

25 "Auld Lang \_\_\_"  
27 Open container  
29 John Wayne's widow  
30 Juliet's boyfriend  
31 Actor Jeremy  
32 Shell-game sphere  
33 Vegas opening?  
34 Harris and Begley  
37 Rower's need  
38 Grippe  
39 Because of  
41 Crystal-gazer  
44 Feed-bag tidbit  
45 Language of Flanders

47 Group of shrinks  
48 Spectacle  
50 Lowly laborer  
51 T.S. and George  
52 Frankness  
53 "Bewitched" grand-mother  
56 Sorrowful exclamation  
57 Baylor University city  
58 Neutral hue  
60 Inarticulate grunts  
61 Swing at  
62 Exercise discipline  
65 Beer container



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