



**BRIAN MACPHERSON**  
LEFT-HANDED SPECIALIST

## I-AA sets model for postseason

If you're not a resident of the Granite State with an interest in football, you probably never have heard of R.J. Harvey.

In case you missed it, the 5-foot-9 running back scampered for a 52-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter of New Hampshire's game against Georgia Southern on Saturday, and it turned out to be the game-winning score in the Wildcats' first-ever postseason victory.

But here's the best part — Harvey's heroics didn't ensure that his team would end perhaps its most successful season with a win. It ensured that his team's season will continue.

In an idea that makes far too much sense for it to be adopted by its wealthier cousin, Division I-AA football doesn't revolve its postseason around individual games boasting large payouts and obscure sponsors.

Instead, the best teams in the nation play each other in a tournament spanning four weeks in November and December, a tournament that will crown one legitimate champion at its conclusion.

One champion. Quite a concept. The flaws of the Division I-AA system continue to manifest themselves — up to three teams will have no opportunity to play for the national title, despite ending the regular season undefeated.

Meanwhile, the simplicity of the Division I-AA serves as a glaring reminder that there's a better way to determine a champion.

Look at it this way. The participants in this year's Silicon Valley Classic, for example, will spend four weeks in practice, rehearsing plays repeatedly with no game on the immediate horizon.

How obscure is this game? If you can even name the two teams involved in the last Silicon Valley Classic, well, you either are closely affiliated with UCLA or Fresno State or you watch entirely too much college football.

This isn't to say that the bowl system is worthless. In fact, if the sole aim of the NCAA and its members is to create an opportunity for revenue and exposure, they have accomplished just that.

But if that's the sole aim, we need to stop pretending that anything close to a legitimate champion can emerge from these games.

Wouldn't it make more sense to follow Division I-AA's lead and develop a tournament in which the nation's best teams can determine a champion on the field?

In Division I-A, rather than allowing the best teams in the nation to compete against each other, polls and computer calculations assign only two teams to compete for the national title.

It doesn't matter if three other teams have no losses, and it doesn't matter that those teams never have a chance to prove their worth on the field.

It only matters, it seems, that we preserve a system of bowl games that earns money for both schools and sponsors but does nothing to allow a clear-cut national champion to emerge.

Sure, a 16-team playoff would eliminate dozens of teams from postseason competition, North Carolina among them this year.

But the purpose of postseason play shouldn't be to create extra fund-raising opportunities for schools, and it shouldn't be to create advertising opportunities for corporations such as EV1.net and Pioneer PureVision.

The purpose of postseason play should be to showcase the nation's best teams and to allow as many teams as possible to compete for a title.

When the NCAA understands that, let me know. In the meantime, I'll be watching R.J. Harvey compete for a national championship.

Contact Brian MacPherson at [brimac@email.unc.edu](mailto:brimac@email.unc.edu).

# UNC keeps rolling in Las Vegas

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — Ivory Latta had a game-high 28 points and eight assists and Erlana Larkins added 22 points to lead No. 5 North Carolina past UNLV 84-76 in the title game of the Lady Rebel Shootout on Sunday.

Latta took home the tournament's Most Valuable Player honors, and teammate Leah Metcalf added 10 points and six assists to earn a spot on the all-tournament team.

Sheena Moore led the Rebels with 25 points, while RanDee Henry had 19 points and nine rebounds.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UNC	84
UNLV	76

UNC	63
Villanova	56

UNC Villanova 56  
play in the opening minutes. North Carolina (5-0) hit 12 of

its first 18 shots to take a 31-13 lead midway through the first half.

The Tar Heels forced nine turnovers during the outburst and scored 22 points off turnovers before halftime.

UNLV (2-3) answered with a 15-2 run, cutting the deficit to 33-28 with about six minutes to play in the half.

The Rebels capitalized on a North Carolina technical, hitting two foul shots after the Tar Heels were whistled for having six play-

ers on the court following a timeout.

On Saturday, after scoring just 25 points in the first half, the Tar Heels went on a 13-2 run to start the second and survived a late surge by No. 24 Villanova for a 63-56 victory in the tournament's opening round.

"They told us to just forget about the first half," said Camille Little, who scored 13 points for North Carolina. "We started off slow, but we knew it was a new

game in the second half."

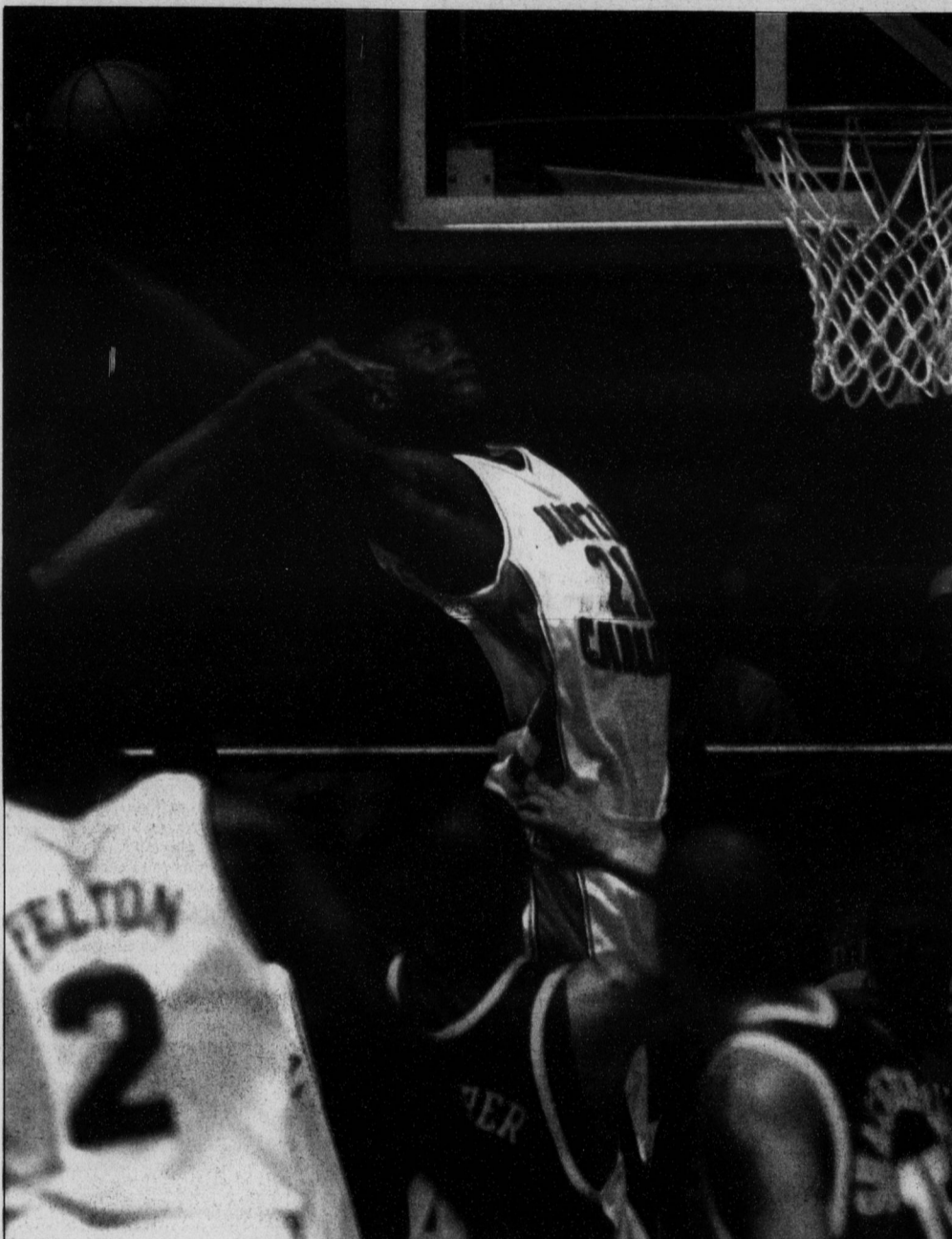
Nikita Bell scored five straight points to open the second half, and the Tar Heels held Villanova (3-1) to just six points over nine minutes.

"We just had to settle down and play our game," said Tar Heels' coach Sylvia Hatchell. "We got going in the second half, but if you look at the shot chart, we had plenty of chances on the inside in

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UNC 97 USC 65

# A SMOOTH RIDE HOME



Above: North Carolina forward Jawad Williams (21) soars for an alley-oop dunk from Raymond Felton (2) in the Tar Heels' 97-65 victory against Southern California on Sunday. Below: UNC guard Jackie Manuel (5) scored a season-high 14 points in the rout.

BY DANIEL BLANK  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

A tenacious defensive effort propelled North Carolina to an early insurmountable lead against Southern California, and as halftime neared, UNC was looking for an exclamation point to punctuate the first half.

With a little more than a minute remaining, junior Rashad McCants came down to the left baseline to swat a shot from behind. After he used a spin move to get away from one defender, McCants threw a pass to Raymond Felton, who proceeded to throw up a lob that Jawad Williams threw down with two hands.

Williams' dunk emphatically capped a 24-4 run that UNC used to put away Southern California as the Tar Heels went on to trounce the Trojans 93-65 in the team's first regular-season game at the Smith Center this season.

"Defensively, in the first half, I thought it was such a frenzy, and everybody was trying to help each other out," said UNC coach Roy Williams. "We got some double teams that helped us early and helped (us) create."

Although the Trojans (1-1) knew UNC would employ the trap, they still had no answer for it.

"We knew they were coming, we knew they were going to trap, and we talked about that, but we tried to dribble through the traps," said USC coach Henry Bibby. "We were prepared for it, but they were long, athletic, quick, and they beat us to some of the spots."

Still jet-lagged from their trip to Maui, the Tar Heels (4-1) missed easy opportunities in the game's first minute. But for the next 39, UNC thoroughly dominated.

Five Tar Heels scored in double digits, led by a game-high 23 by Jawad Williams. Their up-tempo offense led to a 28-15 edge in fouls drawn and their frenetic defense forced 28 Trojan turnovers. North Carolina capitalized on those turnovers for 23 points.

By halftime, UNC had doubled USC, 56-28. When Roy Williams emptied the bench with 5:26 left, the Tar Heels held a commanding 36-point lead.

"The first three of our first four shots were from six inches, but we missed those," Roy Williams said. "I was worried about us being a little bit stagnant, a little too casual out there, and I congratulate the kids for really being into it on the defensive end of the floor."

UNC also played an exceptional team game on offense, dishing out 28 assists. Felton led the team with 12, but nine other Tar Heels recorded at least one assist as well.

Along with the team's feverish defensive intensity, Felton's presence has been one of the biggest differences in UNC's winning streak in which it has notched four resounding victories after its shocking loss to Santa Clara in the season opener.

"We're doing a great job of distributing the ball

SEE SOUTHERN CAL, PAGE 7

## Manuel impressive in Tar Heel rout

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON  
SENIOR WRITER

Jackie Manuel needed to find a new pregame routine — and fast.

The senior missed all four shots he took against Santa Clara in North Carolina's season opener, and his offensive woes improved only slightly during the Tar Heels' run to the Maui Invitational title.

Manuel bounced back in a big way Sunday, scoring 14 points — including 10 in the first half — to spark UNC to a rout of Southern California.

And when he emerged from

the locker room after the game, he carried the secret to his success under his right arm — NCAA March Madness 2005.

"Tonight, I played video games for like three hours, just to keep my mind off the game and not think about anything else," he said. "Once it was time for us to come down here to the locker room, I told myself, 'Let's go. Let's get ready.'"

The strategy worked. On top of his season-high 14 points, he grabbed four rebounds, including three at the offensive end, and he earned four steals.

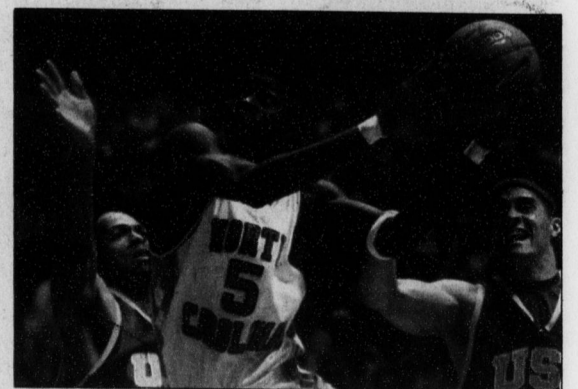
And after one first-half sequence in which he completed a three-point play after a drive to the basket and immediately drew a charge on the Trojans' ensuing possession, the crowd began to chant his name.

"I hear it," he said with a laugh. "It feels good to hear people chanting your name. But I also try to stay focused and concentrate on the game."

That focus provided a spark for the Tar Heels on both ends of the floor.

Teammates and fans alike expect a high-energy performance

SEE MANUEL, PAGE 7



DTH/LAURA MORTON

# Tar Heels' season ends despite victory

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

For the second season in a row, the North Carolina volleyball team failed to qualify for the NCAA

**VOLLEYBALL**  
UNC 3 Tournament  
S. Carolina 1 despite a 3-1 win against South Carolina on Saturday.

After being selected for the tournament every season from 1998-2002, the Tar Heels' 19-15

record failed to impress the seeding committee, which announced the brackets Sunday night.

But in her final game as a Tar Heel, senior libero Caroline deRoock broke the all-time North Carolina record for career digs as the team closed out its regular season schedule with a 31-29, 33-35, 30-21, 30-15 win against South Carolina Saturday in Columbia, S.C.

DeRoock's 29 digs against the

Gamecocks gave her 1,579 for her career, eclipsing the previous mark of 1,558 that was established by former teammate Laura Greene who played from 1999-2002.

Senior Molly Pyles added 22 kills and 21 digs to lead the Tar Heels.

North Carolina opened up a 15-9 lead only to see the Gamecocks (12-15) rally to tie the score at 24-24. After a South Carolina attack

error, Pyles put down four kills in the next seven points to give the Tar Heels a pair of game points at 29-27.

South Carolina came back to tie the game before a service ace by UNC senior Jayme Mitchell won the game.

The Tar Heels had an opportunity to take a two games to none

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