


The Daily Tar Heel

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NCAA TOURNAMENT  **ROUND 2**
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
 UNC 71 George Washington 47

UNC cruises in ugly game

BY JACOB KARABELL SENIOR WRITER

It's doubtful that the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame will ask for a tape of Tuesday's North Carolina-George Washington matchup to preserve the game for posterity.

Yet, despite the foul- and turnover-filled 40 minutes, the top-seeded Tar Heels took care of business against the ninth-seeded Colonials, winning the NCAA second-round game 71-47 and earning the team's first berth in the Sweet 16 since 2002.

Ivory Latta led UNC with 17 points, including a 3-pointer that gave the UNC the lead for good in the middle of the first half. But for the second straight game, it was the Tar Heels' defense that ignited a first-half scoring run.

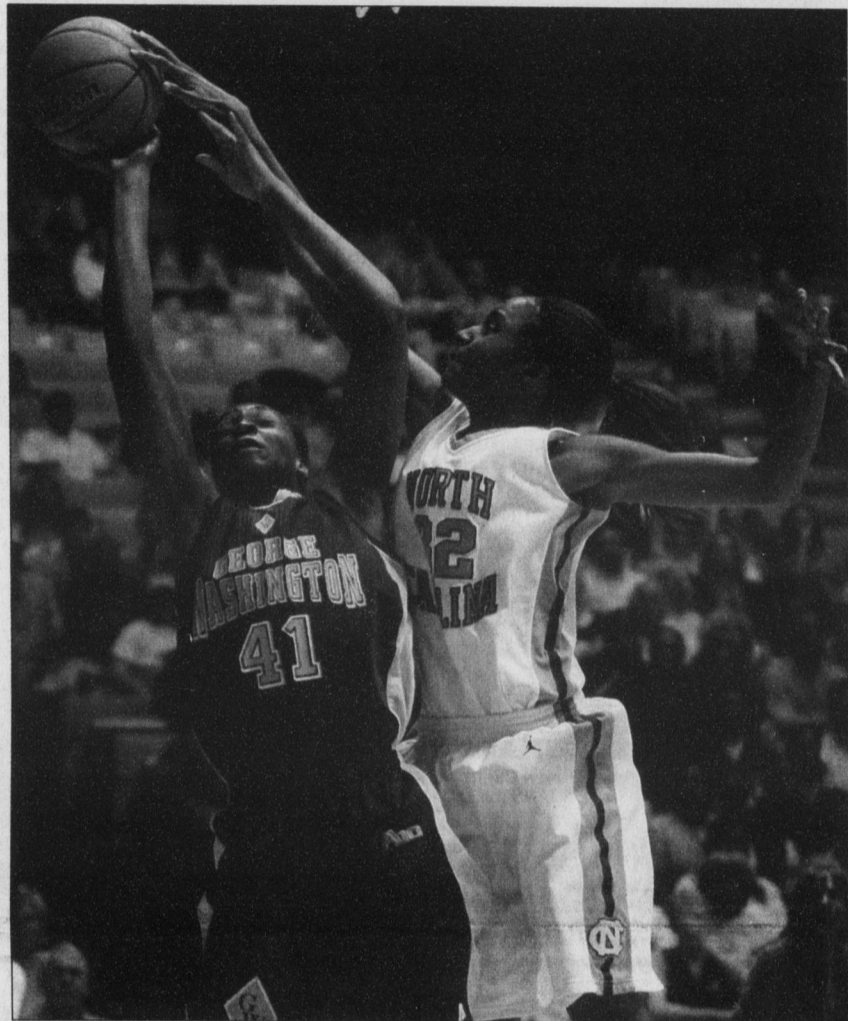
Instead of the swarming trap that caused 16th-seeded Coppin State so many problems Sunday, the Colonials struggled against UNC's half-court defense.

That effort was led by Erlana Larkins and Camille Little, who primarily kept the Colonials' post duo of Jessica Simmonds and Anna Montañana in check. The two players, who entered the game averaging 31 points between them, managed just 13 points Tuesday on combined 3-for-26 shooting.

"Camille played great defense on (Montañana)," said senior Nikita Bell. "We knew what to expect; we knew that she was the go-to player from watching film. I just give credit to Camille, and the help-side defense was there. We just tried to limit her touches."

That defensive effort helped the Tar Heels recover from a sluggish start.

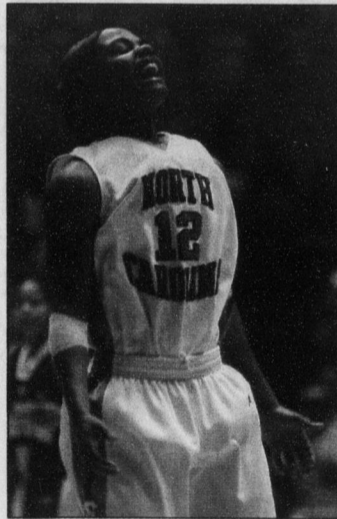
After George Washington took an early four-point lead, UNC outscored the Colonials 18-4



DTH PHOTOS/BRANDON SMITH

(Above) North Carolina forward LaToya Pringle (32) swats away a shot attempt by George Washington's Jessica Simmonds (41) during UNC's 71-47 rout of the Colonials in the Smith Center on Tuesday. (Below) Tar Heel point guard Ivory Latta celebrates UNC's first trip to the Sweet Sixteen since the 2001-02 season.

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 4



Pringle chips in off the bench

BY DANIEL MALLOY SPORTS EDITOR

The night ended all too early for LaToya Pringle.

With 7:58 to go in the game, the freshman committed her fifth foul, and she headed to the North Carolina bench. The always vivacious Ivory Latta immediately jumped up to greet her teammate as the crowd rose in a standing ovation.

For a player that only scored four points in 13 minutes, it is not a common reception.

But in a game that was a defensive war of attrition, Pringle proved her worth with a career-high six blocks.

When asked about Pringle after the game, Latta's eyes instantly lit up.

"I don't know what to say about that girl besides she's long," Latta said. "She's also a great player. All the blocks that she did, and all the help-side defense that she presents. Man, every time that girl gets in there, she plays with a lot of heart."

"Why not give her a standing ovation? She did a great job tonight."

Pringle's defense was a major factor in sending George Washington home in the 71-47 UNC win, but she disagreed with Latta's assessment of her

shot-blocking ability. "My teammates say it's because I have long arms, but it's all about being in the right position," Pringle said.

The forward — who only played 11 minutes a game in the regular season — was called into action when classmate Erlana Larkins went down with cramps early in the second half.

"(Pringle) was major because when Erlana went out, that could have been a big difference, but LaToya helped us out," said UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell.

Her tough play inside was

"Man, every time (Pringle) gets in there, she plays with a lot of heart. Why not give her a standing ovation?"

IVORY LATTA

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 4

Body rejects veep pick

Johnston rejected by full Congress

BY STEPHANIE NEWTON STAFF WRITER

In the last scheduled forum of the 2004-05 term, Student Congress rejected Adrian Johnston as the student body vice presidential nominee after extensive debate.

As of press time, Congress had vetoed Johnston's appointment by a 12-7 vote with two abstentions. A two-thirds majority vote was needed to finalize all executive branch appointments up for approval.



"The process has failed the student body," Student Body President-elect Seth Dearmin said after the ordeal.

Following the decision, Congress moved to table the discussion until March 29, when they will reconsider their vote.

Johnston's appointment, one of five Dearmin made Sunday and one of three addressed at the meeting, was unique in the contention it attracted.

Nominations of Daneen Furr and Neepa Mehta to the posts of student body treasurer and secretary, respectively, were approved without a hitch.

"I think this was a tough process on everybody," said Student Body President Matt Calabria. "It was really wrenching for everyone in the room."

Concerns about Johnston surfaced during a meeting of Congress' Rules and Judiciary Committee on Monday. The committee ultimately took a neutral stance on his appointment, leaving the decision to the full Congress.

Points of contention raised Tuesday night ranged from secrecy in the nomination process to Johnston's perceived biases.

To counter allegations that he might have behaved in a sexist manner while campaigning for Dearmin, the VP appointee, who served as Dearmin's campaign manager, introduced Congress members to two campaigners who worked with him. Both Dani Janklow and Eve Carson described Johnston as a leader and said he treated women respectfully.

"It offends everything that I

SEE NOMINATIONS, PAGE 4

System amps up pilot effort

BY ERIC JOHNSON ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The state legislature took the first step Tuesday toward granting the UNC system authority to establish its own employee health plan separate from the state's existing program.

UNC officials hope to create an initiative to provide greater coverage options and reduce premium costs for university employees and their families.

"We hope to have three or four choices that employees can select," said Leslie Winner, UNC-system vice president for human resources. "Being able to offer this range of choices is one of the big benefits of doing this."



Democratic Sen. **Tony Rand** introduced a bill Tuesday that could lead to a UNC pilot health program.

A bill drafted by the UNC-system Office of the President and introduced Tuesday by Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, would allow the university to explore different health care providers, establish its own premium rates and deductibles and create programs for preventative care and disease management.

Winner said a study by Hewitt Associates, a worldwide human resources consulting firm, prompted university officials to press for a break with North Carolina's state

employee health plan.

"What we realized is that our health care benefit really is among the worst in the country," she said.

The study found that state employees in North Carolina have been paying significantly more in out-of-pocket expenses than employees with similar coverage in other states, Winner said.

"Seeing that study in black and white was a motivation to take a look at this."

One of the most significant concerns for the university has been the cost that members of the state plan pay for coverage of spouses and dependents. Administrators on campuses across the system have complained that the comparatively high price for dependent coverage — about \$427 a month — makes

SEE PILOT, PAGE 4

Students want clarity about fees

Despite policy, 15 schools saw hikes

BY LAURA YOUNGS SENIOR WRITER

Student leaders and UNC-system officials hope to clarify student fee policies after a series of hikes at most universities, but some say now is not the time to tackle the issue.

The UNC-system Board of Governors decided last year to create a policy encouraging schools to propose fee increases every two years instead of every year.

During off years, schools can initiate inflationary fee increases without having to go through a normal review process. Leaders hoped the move would stave off proposals for larger hikes during those years.

But 15 schools, including UNC-Chapel Hill, received approval for



Brad Wilson, chairman of the system's governing board, said the fee process isn't at the top of the agenda.

much larger fee hikes this year, creating confusion as to where the policy stands.

The issue was brought up last week at meetings of the board's Budget and Finance Committee and during a gathering of student leaders from the system's Association of Student Governments.

ASG president Amanda Devore said it's important to clarify the policy so students and officials

have a solid idea of what to expect. She and other students were under the impression that 2004-05 would be an off year.

"I think what students want is to know ahead of time what the process will be," she said.

Budget and Finance Committee member Hannah Gage said she would welcome discussion on the issue. "We spend an enormous amount of time on tuition and fees, and I think what we're all looking for is a better way of doing it," Gage said.

Some officials are concerned that an every-other-year policy would leave students out of the process.

"You are really starting with nothing and with no educated student input if you do it on an every-other-year basis," UNC-CH Student

SEE FEES, PAGE 4

INSIDE

A GAS OF A TIME

State's prices hit more than \$2 — and summer is likely to bring more demand, high prices **PAGE 2**

INSIDE

THE TRADING BLOCK

Kindergartners learn the value of commerce in 'Bunnyville' **PAGE 9**

INSIDE

CATCHING A BREAK

UNC students help children in orphanages during Spring Break trip to Thailand **PAGE 7**

WEATHER

TODAY Scattered storms, H 70, L 44
THURSDAY Partly cloudy, H 64, L 42
FRIDAY Partly cloudy, H 72, L 49

