REACTION

Unlike in earlier festivities, dur-ing which fireworks were limited to small firecrackers, the fanfare Monday appeared to include twoinch mortars, and not all of them went straight up into the air. "They have bad aim," remarked

junior Becca Crawford after a fiery green projectile barely cleared the roofs on the north side of Franklin

While Lloyd did not know exactly how many arrests had been made, he said the crowd was mostly well-mannered. "It's a large crowd, but most of them are pretty calm," he said.

Mike Topp of Orange County emergency services reported a steady stream of injuries, mainly resulting from over-consumption of alcohol and the fires.

By 1:55 a.m., EMS had seen a total of 14 patients.

Eight minutes after, police began clearing the street, and a short time later, what might be remembered as the greatest post-game jubilee in Tar Heel history was over.

> Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.



Tar Heel fans celebrate the men's basketball team's victory in the crowning game of the NCAA Tournament. About 45,000 people packed six blocks downtown in the wake of the team's 75-70 victory against Illinois.

DEFENSE

a furious second-half run by the

The Tar Heels limited Illinois to 27.0 percent shooting from the floor in the opening stanza and held the Illini to a paltry 5-of-19 showing from behind the arc. None of Illinois' big three of Deron Williams, Head or Dee Brown shot better than 33 percent in the half.

But Head and Deron Williams opened the second half scalding hot, igniting the Illini. Deron Williams hit his first four shots after the break, three of them 3pointers, while Head nailed three of his first five from beyond the arc before clanking his last three, all taken in the final minute-and-

"I don't sit back and say, 'Oh, gosh, we're going to lose," said UNC coach Roy Williams. "You're just trying to do the best job you can do on that possession. They were making some big-time shots. They didn't go 37-1 by

"We wanted to continue running, continue pushing and maybe
at the end of the game, they might
not have their legs — they might
miss some of those shots."

UNC switched into a 1-3-1 zone

toward the end of the first half in an attempt to relieve the defensive burden on Felton, who picked up his second foul only eight minutes into the game. But the Tar Heels reverted fully to man-to-man with 10 minutes remaining in the

Illinois' inability to stop the Tar Heels prevented the Illini from taking a lead in the second half. Illinois' two big men — James Augustine and Jack Ingram — were completely ineffective

"It all boils down to what Coach has been telling us all season: Do whatever it takes."

RAYMOND FELTON, POINT GUARD

against May. The Tar Heel center forced ugustine to the bench after the Illini guard committed five fouls in just nine minutes of action.

"They play really, really good defense, especially on the perimeter, but I think they extend so much it leaves a wide gap, especially when they double down," May said.
"We noticed that they double

with the four/five, so we tried to have our four/five feed me. Our guards did a great job, and I got going, and they just kept feeding

The Illini couldn't solve May's myriad post moves. The Tar Heels managed to contest Illinois' 3-point shots and force them off-line when it mattered most.

Defense wins championships. Just ask the Tar Heels.

> Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

BASKETBALL

The Illini stormed out of intermission gunning from deep, and this time the shots started going down. Thanks to the hot shooting of Deron Williams and Luther Head — who were a combined two for 15 in the first half — Illinois all but erased a 14-point UNC lead with a 15-3 run.

May held the Illini at bay, responding with 10 points and an assist on a Jawad Williams trey as UNC opened up a 65-55 lead

"From the beginning, we knew it was tough for them to stop Sean," Manuel said of May, who scored 18 second-half points. "Their big guys were getting in foul trouble, so it would be dumb not to go into

But once again the Illini, who battled back from 15 points down with 4 minutes remaining in their regional final victory against Arizona, responded by scoring the next 10 points to level the score.

The end of the run looked to be

The end of the run looked to be the breaking point for UNC's title dreams. Raymond Felton, who had 17 points and seven assists to make the all-tournament team, picked up his fourth foul with 5:34 left, and when Dee Brown knocked down two

tying free throws, the predominantly orange-clad crowd erupted. "We didn't panic," Jawad Williams said. "We knew we'd been in tough situations on and off the court before, so we just went out there and made

On the ensuing possession, Felton silenced the crowd with a spot-up 3 from the left wing. Still, Illinois wouldn't fade and retied the score at 70 on a 3-pointer by Head, who along with Deron Williams was named to the all-tournament

But that would be the last shot Illinois would hit, as the 3s the Illini relied on so heavily to make the comeback stopped falling again. Illinois misfired on 28 of 40 3-point attempts, including its

"We fought back and tied it up, but they made the plays and we didn't," Deron Williams said. "They made the plays down the stretch, and we didn't."

Two possessions after Head tied the game, Rashad McCants, who scored all 14 of his points in the first half, drove baseline and missed a reverse layup — but freshman Marvin Williams swooped in for the tip that pushed UNC to the

"I just play as hard as I can,"
Williams said. "Good things happen
when you play hard — Coach always
tells us that — so I give it everything

UNC 75, Illinois 70

'We'd been in tough situations ... before, so we just went out there and made plays."

JAWAD WILLIAMS, POWER FORWARD

Felton, who made a crucial steal with 30 seconds left and UNC clinging to a 72-70 lead, added three free throws to clinch the national cham-pionship for the Tar Heels.

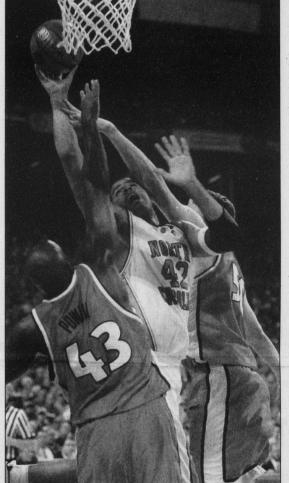
As the final buzzer sounded, May ran to embrace Roy Williams as the rest of his teammates piled on each other at center court.

Several minutes later, Scott was eagerly waiting for his chance to take the first snip at the net, and with it, the realization that North Carolina had completed the journey from 8-20 to No. 1.
"I could not wait. I knew I was

going to be the first one because number one is on my jersey, number one in the country and all that. It's a great feeling, man, just to cut these nets down," Scott said with the twine wrapped around his

"It's finally over. We finally did it. My dream has finally come true."

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North Carolina center Sean May (42) surges to the basket, despite the efforts of Illinois' Roger Powell (43) and Jack Ingram (50) in the UNC win.



