

# Breaking down Late Night

## KENNY SMITH ★★★★

Smith, as the event's host, was funny and engaging with the crowd, without the annoying schtick of former host Stuart Scott. He hyped up the Smith Center well by mentioning former players and demanding the spotlight go back on the championship banner one more time. He also got into the act himself, participating in a 1-on-1 contest. His "J" was suspect, however. Smith didn't quite capture the wit he displays alongside Charles Barkley on TNT. And he was plagued by minutes of annoying dead time during the teams' costume changes. The only tactic Smith could muster to fill the void was calling out former players in the stands.

## TEAMMATES SKIT ★★

This one had some funny moments. Apparently no one likes to room with Tyler Hansbrough, Danny Green "ain't got no girl" and Byron Sanders cannot spell the word "girl." But the skit quickly — or, rather, slowly — turned into something resembling one of those bad SNL skits that runs waaaaay too long. Roy Williams put it best: "The first one I liked, but it just went so long. I was about to fall asleep over there." A special shoutout is deserved to Sanders and Reyshawn Terry, though, for getting all their answers correct. For clearly knowing each other as teammates, they get five stars.

## QUENTIN THOMAS' "SOPHOMORES" SKIT ★★★★★

Good to see the Tar Heels can mock themselves. Thomas — now the team's only sophomore — came out with a cardboard cut-out of former UNC star Marvin Williams with "Just the Two of Us" playing, drawing a big laugh from the crowd as he tried to pass Marvin a basketball and pal around with his now-departed buddy. Thomas then danced by himself — showing off some graceful ballet-style moves — to the song "Lonely" and mocked his own sorrow at the loss of his former running mate. Maybe he can ask Marvin for some of that sweet NBA paycheck to ease his pain. Overall, very funny stuff.

## DANCING WITH THE ACC SKIT ★★★★★

This was the one that brought down the house. It had everything. Bobby Frasier wore an American Express sandwich board to mock Coach K's famous self-promotional advertisement. They brought out the legendary Chris Paul and punch and Wes Miller did an Ol' Roy routine to near-perfection. Would have loved to see a "frickin'" and a "dadgummit" in there, but otherwise hilarious. Noel and Miller displayed some nice moves to the Destiny's Child classic "Bootylicious," with Noel — as usual — stealing the show. As Williams put it: "David Noel may go down as the greatest Late Night performer ever."

— Compiled by Daniel Malloy

## FIELD HOCKEY FROM PAGE 12

UNC headed into Friday's game riding a wave of momentum and with high hopes of upsetting the three-time defending national champs. Wake (14-0, 3-0) came out firing, as freshman phenom Christine Suggs recorded the first goal of the game at the seven-minute mark. But UNC quickly fired back with a freshman goal of its own, when midfielder Britt van Beek took advantage of a free hit and a Rachel Dawson shot to tip the ball into the goal. Then, early in the second half, the Tar Heels hit another gear. With six minutes elapsed, senior goalkeeper Katy Tran fully extended — body

and stick — to redirect a ball that would have put the Deacons ahead on one of its 11 penalty corners. "When you put that much effort and you sheerly use your will to stop the ball, it's like this rush of adrenaline," Tran said. "You know you just pulled out a save that you should never have gotten just because you made yourself do it. And that has to be inspiring." It was. The Tar Heels fed off Tran's intensity, and within the next minute launched a series of impressive passes that ended with junior forward Laree Beans, who weaved through the circle and ripped a shot into the right side of the goal, putting UNC ahead, 2-1. "Then my teammates see (my

save), they see me like using sheer force of will to stop the ball, and I just feel like that it has to transfer to them somehow," Tran said. "They have to have this feeling that we can will the ball into their goal if I can will it out of ours." But Tran couldn't will the ball out of her goal forever. And after the Tar Heels stopped Wake on several penalty corners, the Deacons tied the game, 2-2, while UNC was shorthanded to send the rivalry to overtime for the fourth time in two seasons. Minutes into the 7-on-7 extra period, Dawson got UNC's second yellow card, taking her out of action for five minutes. But her team persevered and stopped all five Wake

shots to force a second OT. "It's a matter of doing the exact same things that you've been doing the whole time," said senior Naomi Weatherald. "You don't change your whole game plan because one person went out." But the Deacons, who entered Friday's game outscoring opponents 44-12, were too much. All-ACC midfielder Lauren Crandall scored on her eighth shot of the game in the 92nd minute to give Wake the win. "On another day, we can beat Wake Forest — and I think they know that," Shelton said. "(But) we're seeing glimmers of what's possible."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

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## LATE NIGHT FROM PAGE 12

worked all the way up until last night," Thomas said. "Nobody was really shy because we've got so many characters on the team that nobody's really afraid of making themselves look like a fool." In another skit, the team made others look like fools, parodying CBS announcer Billy Packer, Mike Krzyzewski and Chris Paul's infamous punch to Julius Hodge's groin. It ended with Noel reprising his role as the pink-wigged "Divine" while dancing provocatively with dead-on Ol' Roy impersonator Wes Miller. As Williams, who is not known as a big supporter of hyperbole,

put it, "David Noel might go down as the greatest Late Night with Roy performer ever." "It's always fun to come out and put on a show other than basketball for the fans," Noel said. "They get a chance to see us do silly things, so that's always fun." Fans also got to see Thomas make all five of his shots in the freshmen versus non-freshmen scrimmage, a 27-19 win by the vets in which rookie big man Michael Copeland hurt his leg and will be out two to three weeks after undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery Sunday. They got to see players on the women's team back their collective hang up by stuffing their jerseys

and shorts with balloons. And finally they got to see how Tyler Hansbrough throws down a two-handed, two-footed, wrong-way 360 dunk (answer: quite nicely). But Late Night wasn't just helpful for the fans to get to know the players; it was helpful for the players to get to know each other, too. For instance, during the men's first skit three teammates were asked who they'd least like to room with on the road. All three answered Hansbrough. No reasons were given, but it could be that he'd try to teach them how to dance. And that would be bad. A few minutes later, Byron Sanders wrote that Reyshawn

Terry prefers to "Stay @ home w/ gurl!" on Saturday nights. Noel, though, apparently likes to stay home and watch Muhammad Ali tapes on Saturday nights. Because when the smoke swirled and the lights dimmed and this year's Tar Heels bounded out of the tunnel one by one for introductions, Noel emerged last, wearing a ridiculously oversized belt and belting out, "The champ is here! The champ is here! The champ is here!" Noel and the other four returnees might be champs, but freshmen Marcus Ginyard, Danny Green, Copeland, Frasier and Hansbrough aren't — and don't even figure to challenge for a title

until next season at the earliest. So when emcee and legendary UNC point guard Kenny Smith told the crowd, "I want you to remember me as I was, not as I am" at the start of the evening, he might as well have been speaking for the entire team. And an hour and 58 minutes later, as Sanders and Noel strutted onto the floor for the final dance number of their careers, the '70s classic that blared over the speakers seemed eerily fitting, a tribute, perhaps, to both this year's team and its fans. "I Will Survive."

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## VOLLEYBALL FROM PAGE 12

The athletes put together a solid performance against the Yellow Jackets on Friday in front of 4,435 powder-blue-blooded fans in the Smith Center, as the opening act for Late Night with Roy Williams. The Tar Heels rolled 30-23, 30-28, 30-10 for their first win against the Jackets since 2002. "It'll put the scare on Maryland the way we handled Georgia Tech in three games," said middle hitter Amy Beaver. "In the first game we got a big lead and shut them down. From there, it was smooth sailing. Well, the second game was a little up and down." In the latter part of the second game, the Tar Heels had to overcome seven ties. They were able to send the Yellow Jackets to the locker room with two strong sweeping kills by outside hitter Lauren Prussing. The third and final game was just a flash of lightning quick kills by Dani Nyenhuis, Camilla Ihenetu and Prussing as UNC dominated from start to finish. Back in the confines of Carmichael Auditorium on Saturday, North Carolina handled Clemson 30-17, 30-19, 30-25, holding the top Tiger outside hitters to a mere nine kills apiece. "Two wins in three games both is awesome," said defensive specialist Taylor Rayfield. Strong defense Saturday enabled the Tar Heels to shut down the Tigers. UNC had 75 digs, with Rayfield claiming 24 of them. North Carolina also held Clemson to a measly .085 attacking percentage, while the North Carolina offense boasted a .259 percentage. What really helped UNC to dominate the weekend, though, was coordination. "Everybody played together, for each other and that contributed to the wins," Rayfield said. The Tar Heels hope that coordination continues as they close out their remaining conference schedule. "Our goal is to win all of our ACC games," said Ihenetu. "We want to ride this as long as possible." North Carolina now takes that momentum on the road, for a four-game stint away from Chapel Hill. "I think being on the road is a big challenge," said Nyenhuis. "(But) we're well prepared."

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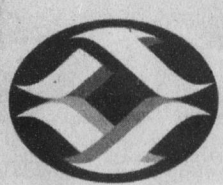
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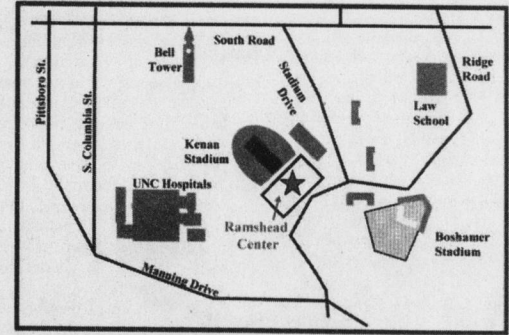


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