



JACOB KARABELL  
FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

## Not OK to forget the NBA

Minus 26 days until basketball season in Chapel Hill.

On Nov. 19, as many fans are aware, the North Carolina men's basketball team will begin its title defense against Gardner-Webb. For some members of Tar Heel nation, the season will even begin a night earlier, when the UNC women's team takes on Davidson.

Despite much sentiment to the contrary, however, basketball season actually begins in a mere eight days.

No, that's not the date of the Tar Heels' first exhibition against Fayetteville State.

It's the first night of the 2005-06 NBA campaign. That's National Basketball Association, not National Burglary Association for those convinced the league exists merely to rob the collegiate ranks of its top talent.

Indeed, for perplexing reasons, the NBA in Chapel Hill seems to have to have a fan base on the level of ESPN2 staples such as bass fishing and bull riding. But if the region's hoops junkies would give professional basketball a chance, they likely would enjoy several aspects of the pro game.

Undoubtedly, college basketball does have superiority compared to its adult counterpart. The atmosphere at many college arenas is simply unmatched, and the NCAA Tournament makes for the greatest three weeks of the American sports calendar.

But professional basketball actually has some (gasp) advantages set against the product played at the Smith Center.

First, like any professional sport, the NBA has more parity than college basketball, which makes for a more intriguing product on a nightly basis. Last year, the NBA's worst team — the Atlanta Hawks — managed to win a game at Detroit, the team that was a Robert Horry 3-pointer away from winning the league's championship.

Compare that to how the bottom half of Division I teams (according to the RPI) fared against UNC a year ago.

The Tar Heels played against five of those teams, and their closest margin was a 28-point romp against Oakland in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Their average margin of victory in those games was 39 points.

Another reason to watch the NBA is the league's phenomenal athletes. Superstars such as LeBron James, Kevin Garnett, Dwyane Wade and Allen Iverson are worth the price of admission to any game and certainly merit flipping over to TNT once in a while.

For better or worse, that amazing display of individual abilities generally does not trickle down to the collegiate level.

While it's interesting to see five players average between 11 and 17 points as UNC did last year, there's something dazzling about watching someone such as Iverson become unguardable and score 60 points like he did against the Magic last February.

If the most ardent NBA haters remain unconvinced, there's always the direct link from college to the pros: last year's Tar Heel draft class.

Surely, Sean May and Raymond Felton did not morph from beloved student-athletes to egotistical monsters in the span of one night in June. Better yet, they happen to play for the Charlotte Bobcats, a team 140 miles away that will have a majority of its games broadcast in the Triangle.

Maybe some fans will tune in to the Bobcats this season and give the NBA a chance.

At the very least, it will give basketball enthusiasts something to pass the time before Nov. 19 rolls around.

Contact Jacob Karabell at karabell@email.unc.edu.

# GETTING DEFENSIVE

## Heels shut down Cavalier attack

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON  
SENIOR WRITER

Gone are the days when a porous North Carolina defense would waste touchdown after touchdown by the North Carolina offense.

Gone are the days when double-digit deficits regularly would force the offense into a single dimension — force the quarterback to shoulder the load and the tailbacks to accept a complementary role in a come-from-behind attack.

Newly arrived are the days when the Tar Heels can win games on defense and defense alone.

In North Carolina's 7-5 victory against No. 23 Virginia on Saturday at Kenan Stadium, the defense held the Cavaliers to a single field goal only two weeks after it surrendered a school-record 69 points to Louisville.

"We gave up a big one, but that's not going to hold us back from being that great defense that we



DTH/WHITNEY SHEFFE

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North Carolina DBs Cedrick Holt (13) and Trimane Goddard team up to take down Virginia WR Kevin Ogletree during UNC's 7-5 win Saturday.

# Rushing game thunders past UVa.



DTH/WHITNEY SHEFFE

North Carolina RB Ronnie McGill carries the ball Saturday in his second game back since tearing a pectoral muscle in June. He rushed for 118 yards.

BY DANIEL MALLOY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Barrington Edwards wants to call it "Thunder and Lightning."

Ronnie McGill thinks Edwards is too slow to justify "Lightning."

"It's thunder and lightning, get it right," Edwards shouted back to McGill after North Carolina's 7-5 — no, it wasn't a baseball score — victory against Virginia on Saturday.

So McGill offered a compromise: "Mighty Thunder and Cloud."

They still aren't sure what to call it, but the Tar Heel running game is back.

With McGill finally healthy, UNC has a formidable backfield duo, and both chewed up yards — and all-important time of possession — during the Tar Heels' smash mouth victory.

McGill thundered his way to 118 yards on 23 carries while Edwards clouded the field for 57 yards to give the Tar Heels their biggest rushing output of the season.

It was a far cry from McGill's lackluster 29 yards in UNC's 69-14 loss at Louisville two weeks ago.

"That was my first game back, I'm not really sure what

was going on," said McGill, who missed the first four games of the season after tearing his left pectoral muscle in June.

"I knew the plays and everything, but just not being out there, not getting any contact is a lot different."

McGill battled injuries last season as well, playing in only seven games. But with the loss of Chad Scott and Jacque Lewis to graduation, he was expected to take the bulk of the carries this year.

And on Saturday, the junior displayed that potential. He used his size to move the pile and churn out positive yards in situations where smaller true freshman Cooter Arnold, who filled McGill's spot early in the season, probably would have lost ground.

"He runs on, as I call it, three legs, because he's got his legs pumping and he's got one arm down and he's just scrambling with the ball, and he gets like four yards," said senior defensive lineman Chase Page. "He's an incredible running back,

great player, and I'm so glad he's back."

McGill also picked up five first downs in a tight game where field position was essential.

But Edwards wasn't to be outdone. Besides being more of a speed rusher, he broke a few tackles of his own, giving another dimension to the two-back attack.

"We could run the ball all day long — I'm perfectly happy with that," said quarterback Matt Baker, who threw

24 times and handed off on 36 snaps.

"It's good to have both of them in there. Ronnie back to gain those hard yards and Barrington to break some and bounce some outside."

Both backs were vital to the Tar Heels 78-yard touchdown drive — the only points of the game for UNC. The duo combined for 48 rushing yards on that possession, taking up nearly six minutes of clock in the pro-

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## Tar Heels squeak by 'Pack

BY DANIEL MALLOY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Maybe it was because it didn't have stars Lori Chalupny and Heather O'Reilly on the field.

Maybe it was because it underestimated the opponent.

Whatever the explanation, the No. 3 North Carolina women's soccer team played like it was on Fall Break in a 1-0 victory against unranked N.C. State at Fetzer Field on Thursday.

Besides not blowing out the Wolfpack (6-10, 2-6 in the ACC), the Tar Heels failed to display their usual dominant play by not controlling the ball as effectively as usual.

Part of that can be attributed to the loss of Chalupny, who sat out with a concussion, and of O'Reilly, who was playing in a U.S. National Team exhibition match. Both are scheduled to return for UNC's next game, Friday at Wake Forest.

But head coach Anson Dorrance refused to use the loss of his stars as an excuse, saying he was frustrated by his team's maddening up-and-down play.

"At our best we're not bad, but at our worst we are horrible," he said.

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ANSON DORRANCE, UNC COACH

Junior forward Jennifer Perkins and sophomore midfielder Robyn Gayle took Chalupny and O'Reilly's spots in the starting lineup, but the stars' skill certainly was missed.

"They are the premier players in the country, and any time you don't have them it definitely hurts," said midfielder Kacey White.

"We have a ton of good players, but we lose that spark of Heather on the front line, getting behind defenses. Even if she doesn't get the ball, it's scary for other teams, and they mark her. ... And Chalupny's our workhorse in the midfield, and that definitely hurts not to have her."

But head coach Anson Dorrance refused to use the loss of his stars as an excuse, saying he was frustrated by his team's maddening up-and-down play.

"At our best we're not bad, but at our worst we are horrible," he said.

"It's probably the widest range of performance of any team that I've coached. Some of the stuff we do is some of the best stuff we've ever done. And some of the stuff we do is some of the worst stuff we've ever done. And that's rather shocking."

The only score of the night was pretty much handed to the Tar Heels, as a foul inside the box gave White a penalty kick. Since White's PKs are some of the Tar Heels' best stuff — she's now 4-for-4 on the season — UNC (16-1, 8-1) took the lead in the 31st minute.

She aimed for the right side of the goal, and even though Wolfpack goalkeeper Kim Selz dove that way, she had no chance. The ball snuck just inside the post.

"I don't know if there's a secret," White said. "Luckily I've made a few, and now you just try to do

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## Terrapins take down UNC

BY AL KILLEFFER  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

When the No. 4 North Carolina field hockey team lined up in front of the stands at Henry Stadium to do its traditional post-game alma mater sing-a-long Sunday, the players' displeasure was painfully apparent.

As they straggled into formation and halfheartedly put their arms around one another, you could tell immediately what their thoughts on the game were.

In a word, the players were frustrated. Frustrated they'd just lost, 2-1, to No. 3 Maryland. Frustrated they'd fallen to 2-3 in the ACC. And frustrated they never seem to be able to bring their A-game against top competition.

"I accept responsibility," said Coach Karen Shelton. "I'm the head coach, and I've got to get them to play better, because I don't think that there was a lot

of difference talent-wise between the two teams."

"But I felt that they clearly outplayed us in every phase of the game, except for the offensive penalty corner."

The box score for the game reflects Shelton's analysis.

Although the Tar Heels were 1-for-4 in penalty corners while

the Terrapins (16-2, 4-1 in the ACC) were 1-for-1, that stat is the only

bright one on the page. After registering 10 shots in the first half, Maryland took another 10 in the second. UNC (12-4, 2-3), meanwhile, managed only seven shots in the entire game.

And while North Carolina goalie Katy Tran made eight saves, Terrapin keeper Kathryn Masson had to make only one.

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