

# UNC prepares to face Johnson

BY BRIANA GORMAN  
SENIOR WRITER

Last weekend, Notre Dame's All-America wide receiver Jeff Samardzija burned the North Carolina secondary for six catches, 177 yards and one touchdown.

And Wednesday after practice coach John Bunting said the Tar Heels will face another wideout who is in a different class from Samardzija when they go against Georgia Tech's Calvin Johnson on Saturday.

"He's a guy who is a big time playmaker," Bunting said. "He's a difference-maker. The quarterback and him work extremely well together."

Johnson, who is 6-foot-5 and 235 pounds, leads the ACC with 49 receptions for 795 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also ranks No. 13 in the nation with 88.33 yards receiving per game.

Last year Johnson torched the Tar Heels for six catches for 114 yards in Ga. Tech's 27-21 win. Still, cornerback Jacoby Watkins said Johnson can be defended.

"Definitely just play the ball," said Watkins, who leads the team

with five pass breakups. "The ball ain't got no height on you. You just got to use your vision, your field playing ability and just go up and adjust the ball to your own ability, not his."

Johnson not only has great hands but he is one of the most athletic wide receivers in the country. His size allows him to make plays others can't, and he also presents match-up problems for the UNC secondary where no one stands taller than six feet.

"Pretty much it's body position," Kareen Taylor said. "If he's 6-5, I'm 6-foot, he presents the advantage. I can't let him get in front of me, I can't get behind him. I have to have perfect position on him to play the ball as well."

Bunting said the Tar Heels will probably double-team Johnson to slow him down, but Taylor said there is no way to completely shut him down.

"Calvin, he's gonna make some plays," Taylor said.

"He's gonna make his plays, you can't take nothing from him. We just gotta hold him to certain things."

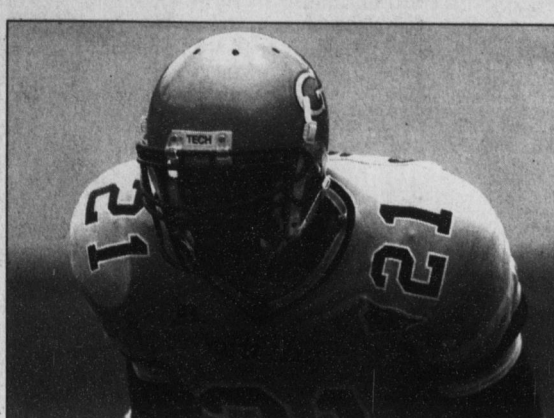


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ACC

Ga. Tech wideout Calvin Johnson is one of the premier receivers in all of college football. He has amassed 795 yards and 11 scores via the air.

## Larry Edwards could return

Senior linebacker Larry Edwards, who suffered a broken collarbone on Oct. 14 against South Florida, could play Saturday.

He practiced Monday and Tuesday in a green, no contact jersey and Bunting said Edwards

participated in contact drills Wednesday.

"Fingers crossed he's doing well," Bunting said. "If he practices again (Thursday) he will (play Saturday). We'll see how he does overnight."

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu).

# Time to give the NBA another try

Put Michael Jordan's name on a pair of sneakers, a T-shirt, a bottle of cologne, even a Nissan dealership, and the product — whatever it might be — is sure to sell.

If Michael strapped on his Nike's for another season, even at 43, you would be hard pressed to find a seat in any arena.

But what happens when you take MJ out of the equation? Simple. You've got the NBA.

To be quite honest, since His Airness hung 'em up, I've enjoyed the League That Michael Built about as much as spending a Friday afternoon at the DMV.

But, sparked in large part by the fact that I actually found 10 other human beings who were willing to participate in a fantasy basketball league, I'm giving it another try.

Call me crazy, but here are a few things that led me to a change-of-heart:

1. The Rookies.
- With the implementation of the NCAA regulation prohibiting entry into the NBA draft until a calendar year after a player graduates from high school, most top brass recruits are going to a place they likely never imagined — college.

That puts NCAA Tournament stars on the floor, where I can watch them play, and I never have to think to myself: "What if (insert super-star that didn't go to college) had gone to Carolina?"

Maybe the Tar Heels' four lottery picks last year helped vest my interest, I don't know. But I do know that I didn't have much of a chance to watch guys like Kobe, LeBron or Jermaine O'Neal until they showed up on the NBA hardwood.

2. Drama.

Whether you try to talk to Allen Iverson about practice or you rush to Best Buy to cop Ron Artest's rap album (maybe you'll do a two-fer and get A.L.'s as well), you never know what tomorrow will bring in the NBA.

Just don't sit within cup-toss-



BRANDON STATON  
WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK THE LEBRONS

ing range of the floor. If you do, don't get so drunk that you hurl your empty beer cup toward a raging baller who raps on the side.

4. The new ball.

See drama.

5. No more tights. I don't know about you, but I wouldn't wear those things, on television no less, if you told me they were magic pants that would guarantee me 25 points per game.

So when NBA commissioner David Stern put the tomahawk on the tights, he got me listening.

6. Good versus evil.

No sport is fun without someone to love and someone to hate. And the NBA is chock-full of both.

Like the good guys? Maybe Dwayne Wade will swing through the park and drop off about 80 basketballs, pull out a bicycle and jump-shoot you the keys to a brand new Lincoln. Or, perhaps Shaq will take all the kids in your neighborhood to Wal-Mart so they can put check marks on their Christmas lists.

The bad guys? The league can really deliver here — even without Anthony Mason.

7. The toupee.

Two words baby. Marv Albert.

Who else could make every bounce of the ball seem so life-or-death, all the while his synthetic hair shimmering in the camera light? At least he isn't Dickie V.

8. The Bulls are good again.

"Who cares," you ask? When the Bulls are good, that means one thing — all the Michael Jordan marathons you can handle.

I'm in.

Contact Brandon Staton at [bkstaton@email.unc.edu](mailto:bkstaton@email.unc.edu).

# Rumors of Davis circulate

UNC officials decline comment

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Butch Davis, former coach of the University of Miami and the Cleveland Browns, reached an agreement with North Carolina to inherit head coach John Bunting's position, according to a article posted on the Web site of the Winston-Salem Journal Wednesday.

University and Athletic Department officials declined to comment about Davis. And a phone call to Davis' agent, Marvin Demoff, was not returned.

Shortly after The Daily Tar Heel tried to reach Demoff at his home, though, a story posted in the San Jose Mercury News quoted Demoff as saying that nothing is "really going to happen" until next week and that the reports suggest-

ing otherwise were inaccurate.

"I think there's interest in both parties," Demoff told the Mercury News. "We look forward to continuing discussions with that, but there is no agreement."

Chancellor James Moeser also acknowledged the rumors.

"I've heard the same things you've heard," he said regarding a possible agreement with Davis.

Moeser said that he is working closely with Athletics Director Dick Baddour to find a replacement for Bunting, and that he would not comment on the search.

But he did reiterate the general characteristics that they are looking for in a potential coach.

"I think Dick has expressed very well, we're looking for a coach with



Former U. of Miami coach Butch Davis is a candidate for the UNC football coach position.

a proven record," Moeser said.

"And one who adheres to the same standards of academic integrity and values as this university."

Both Baddour and Moeser must approve of the candidate and the University Board of Trustees has to approve the contract.

Demoff's comments about the alleged agreement suggest that the announcement of the decision will not be made until after the Tar Heels' Homecoming game, which is Saturday at noon against No. 19 Georgia Tech.

# Tar Heels drown Duke in duals

First ACC wins for UNC teams

BY POWELL LATIMER  
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina men's and women's team opened ACC dual meet competition in an impressive fashion Wednesday against Duke.

UNC won every single swimming event in both men's and women's competition — and placed second in all but two — en route to 61 and 56 point victories, respectively.

"It's definitely exciting to be able to win every event, especially against Duke," said Kristin Oxford, a senior transfer from Florida State.

Oxford won the 500- and 1,000-yard freestyle to lead the UNC women to a 145-89 win against the Blue Devils.

For the men's team junior Philip Owen won the 200-yard butterfly and took second in the 500-yard freestyle, helping the men defeat Duke 149-88.

Jon Fox won the one-yard diving event, and Lauren Karatanevski won the three-yard dive for UNC.

"This meet shows the character of our team," Owen said. "We had a lot of concentration and discipline, and we kept it the entire meet."

Underclassmen continued to play a critical role in the Tar Heels' success. Freshman Chip Peterson won the 1,000-yard freestyle with a time of nine minutes, 19 seconds and placed fourth in the 200-yard butterfly.

Peterson was the headline freshman this year as the reigning national champion in 5K



DTH/KEVIN TSUI

North Carolina's Taylor McFarlane makes quite a splash during the women's 500-yard freestyle. The sophomore finished second in the event.

open-water freestyle and gold medalist in the 10K open water event at the 2006 Pan Pacific Championships.

For the women, freshman Ashley Howard placed second in the 1,000-yard freestyle and fourth in the 500-yard freestyle while fellow freshman Emily Reardon won the 200-yard backstroke.

In the 50-yard freestyle UNC's top three finishers (Megan Steeves, 1st; Sarah Stankavage, 2nd; Kim Davis, 3rd) were all underclassmen.

"I don't worry a whole lot about what class they're in, it's whether they're improving," said head coach Frank Comfort. "They bring a lot of excitement and newness, and they're challenging the upperclassmen day in and day out."

The upperclassmen on the team

were appreciative of their younger teammates' contributions in the meet as well.

"It seems like our freshman class wins all their events," Oxford said.

Freshmen also played a huge role in North Carolina relays.

All but two of the men's relays and all of the women's relay teams featured at least one freshman.

"We have a great freshman class," Owen said. "They help strengthen our team and give us a lot of depth."

Following the win against Duke, the women's team is now 3-1 overall and 1-0 in the ACC, while the men's team went to 1-2 overall and 1-0 in ACC competition.

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu).

## National and World News

### Ortega regains spot as Nicaragua's head

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega tried to calm critics shaken by his return to power, holding back-to-back meetings Wednesday with Nicaragua's president and business leaders worried about a chilling effect on investment and the influence of leftist allies.

Congratulations poured in from around the world after Ortega won Sunday's election. Cuba and Venezuela welcomed the former Marxist into a growing club of Latin American leftists who see themselves as a counterweight to U.S. dominance in the region.

Ortega's rivals said they would pressure him to maintain close U.S. ties, and State Department spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos said cooperation with Ortega and his Sandinista colleagues will be "based on their action in support of Nicaragua's democratic future."

### Malvo sentenced to life for six murders

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — Sniper Lee Boyd Malvo was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison for six murders in Maryland that were part of a three-week shooting spree that terrorized the Washington area in 2002.

In a brief statement, Malvo apologized and said he was a different person than the impressionable teen who killed at the command of John Allen Muhammad, his accomplice and mentor.

"I'm truly sorry, grieved and ashamed for what I've done," said Malvo, his voice breaking.

Despite the contrition and Malvo's cooperation with authorities in their case against Muhammad, Montgomery County Circuit Judge James Ryan gave Malvo the maximum six consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole.

### Law might violate rights

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge on Wednesday blocked enforcement of a ballot measure designed to crack down on sex offenders, ruling the law was unconstitutional a day after voters approved it.

The so-called Jessica's Law prohibits registered sex offenders from living within 2,000 feet of a school or park, effectively banning parolees from many California cities.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston ruled that the measure "is punitive by design and effect" and probably unconstitutional.

### Bomb kills at least 42

DARGAI, Pakistan (AP) — In the deadliest suicide attack on the Pakistani military, a man with explosives strapped to his body ran up to soldiers doing calisthenics Wednesday and blew himself up, killing at least 42 troops and wounding 20.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion fell on pro-Taliban militants who have vowed revenge for an airstrike that killed at least 80 people at a Muslim school the government said was being used to train Taliban militants.

### Activist again under arrest

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Activist Cindy Sheehan was arrested Wednesday as she led about 50 protesters to a White House gate Wednesday to deliver anti-war petitions she said were signed by 80,000 Americans.

The Berkeley, Calif., woman, whose son was killed in Iraq more than two years ago, was arrested along with three other women on the sidewalk outside the White House gate, said Lt. Scott Fear, a U.S. Park Police spokesman. They were charged with interfering with a government function, he said.

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