

SCOREBOARD

■ **MEN'S LACROSSE** UNC 8 Maryland 14

■ **ROWING** UNC V8 6:54.4 Georgetown V8 7:05.3

■ **WOMEN'S TENNIS** UNC 6 Maryland 1

WOMEN ASSASSINATE GEORGE WASHINGTON

TAR HEELS ADVANCE TO ELITE EIGHT AGAIN

BY GRAY CALDWELL
SENIOR WRITER

The Tar Heels made sure Sunday night that history didn't repeat itself.

Ten years ago, the fifth-seeded George Washington Colonials upset No. 1 seed UNC to go to the Elite Eight.

Sunday, the fifth-seeded Colonials (29-4) were faced with the same opportunity, but this time the Tar Heels (33-3) emerged victorious, 70-56, to advance to the Elite Eight for the third straight season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

GW	56
UNC	70

"This team, they would love to be back in the Final Four and actually do better than they did last year,"

UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "In the locker room it's like, 'OK, we got this one out of the way, let's get ready for the next one.'"

"We're happy to be where we are, but we know that we've got our work cut out for us with Purdue."

All week the focus was on the point guard battle that would decide the matchup — UNC's Ivory Latta versus George Washington's Kimberly Beck, both finalists for the Nancy Lieberman award presented to the nation's top point guard. In reality, neither guard shone in the game, and the spotlight was more on the play in the paint.

Erlana Larkins shook off a six-point performance from last week against Notre Dame by scoring 14 points, adding six rebounds and six assists. The story of the game was North Carolina's dominance on the boards. The Tar Heels outrebounded the Colonials 45-22, with 21 offensive rebounds.

"I think we were just being relentless going to the boards," UNC forward LaToya Pringle said. "We know that in order to win a championship we have to rebound, so we just took it personally on ourselves to rebound and win the board battle."

Pringle had an outstanding game, notching 16 points and 14 rebounds (a new career high) in addition to her four blocks in the first half, which helped her break the single-season record at UNC. Pringle has 116, two more than the previous record held by Dawn Royster.

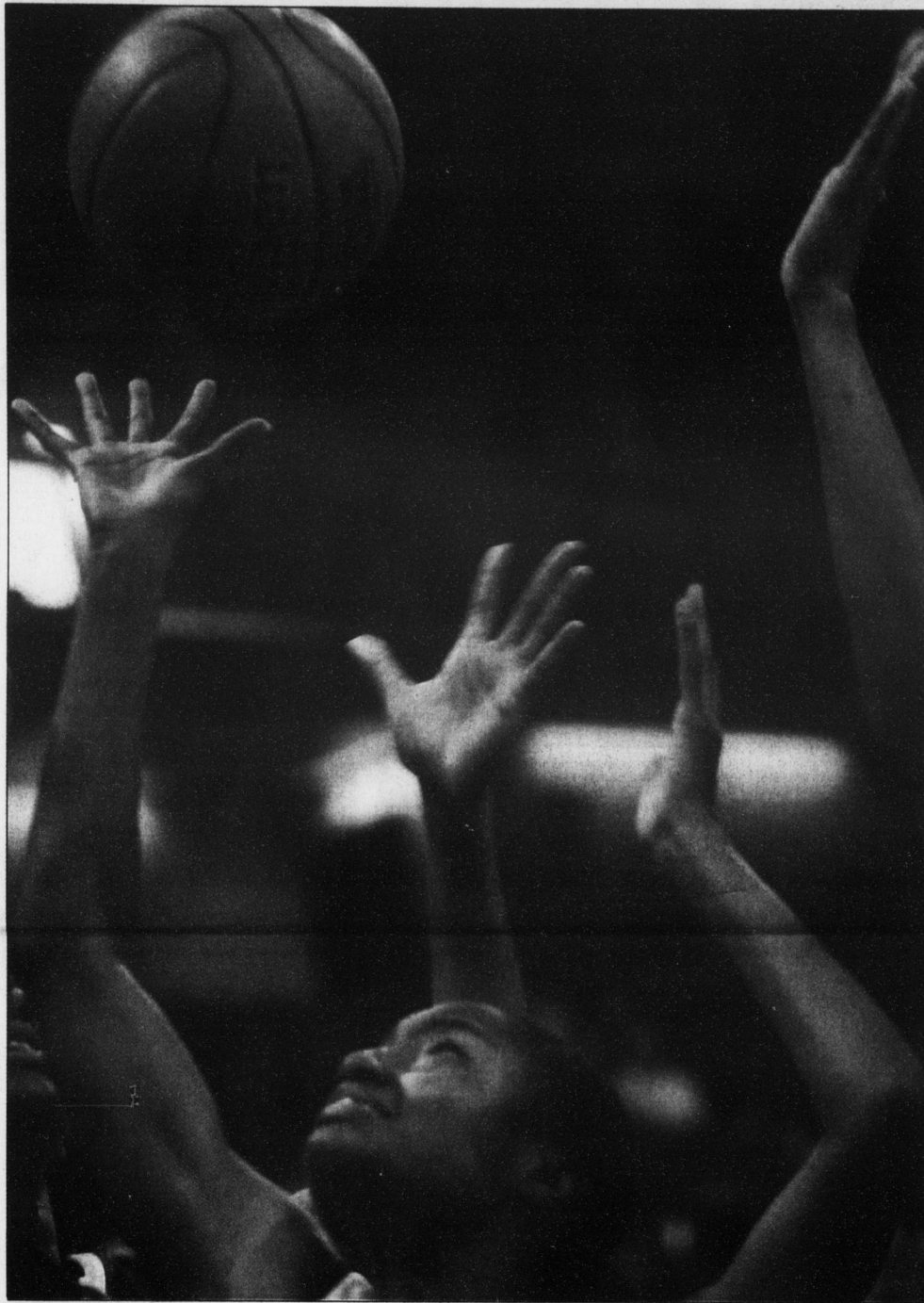
"That's like a stat my mom keeps up with, so she called me before we came, you know, 'you need two to tie and three to break it,' so I was going for it this game. I knew I had it at halftime, and I was really excited."

For the first few minutes of the first half, it looked like the Tar Heels were in for another nail-biter as neither team could gain any advantage. But UNC broke the 10-10 tie just more than seven minutes into the half by breaking off on a 24-5 run, and the Tar Heels went into halftime with a 38-24 lead.

"It was early in the game, so I didn't know how it was going to turn out," Larkins said. "But I knew that if we kept swinging the ball and getting the ball inside doing our high-low game, that it wasn't going to stay that close for long."

The Colonials didn't put up much of a fight the rest of the way, and the Tar Heels cruised to a 14-point victory.

It just wasn't Beck's, or George Washington's, night. Late in the first half, UNC inbounded the ball with two seconds left on the shot clock. Beck stole the pass and drove toward the basket, only to have her



North Carolina's LaToya Pringle goes up for the ball during the Tar Heels' 70-56 victory against George Washington on Sunday in Dallas. The win advanced UNC to the Elite Eight where it will face No. 2-seeded Purdue, which UNC beat in last year's Sweet 16.

SEE VICTORY, PAGE 13

SOFTBALL

Tar Heels extend win streak to 25

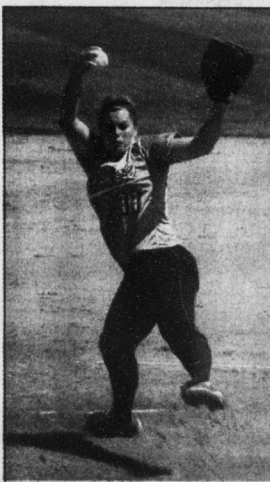
BY GABE HIATT
STAFF WRITER

In a weekend engulfed by March Madness, the North Carolina softball team proved that the basketball players aren't the only ones with a flair for the dramatic.

With two comeback wins, the Tar Heels swept the three-game series against Boston College at Anderson Stadium to

BC	4	extend their school-record winning streak to 25 games.
UNC	9	The series began with a doubleheader Saturday afternoon that looked like trouble for UNC.
BC	2	Sophomore pitcher Amber Johnson received a cold welcome, surrendering three runs in the first inning and another in the third. The Tar Heels' struggles at the plate offered her no solace, and she was replaced.
UNC	3	"Everybody has bad days," coach Donna Papa said. "Amber had actually told the trainers she wasn't feeling very well, she just didn't tell the coaches."

The rhythm of the game changed with freshman pitcher Danielle Spaulding as the fresh face in the circle. Spaulding pitched more like a



Sophomore pitcher Lisa Norris winds up for a pitch against BC this weekend. North Carolina went on to take the series 3-0.

veteran, with eight strikeouts and no runs allowed in the last four innings. The only hit was a pop fly that was left untouched after miscommunication between the first and second basemen.

"Coach just gives me the confidence to go out and pitch well," she said.

SEE STREAK, PAGE 13

GYMNASTICS

UNC rebounds on Senior Night

BY JOE MCLEAN
STAFF WRITER

Senior night for the North Carolina gymnastics team was everything the team could have asked for: a supportive crowd, a solid score to help qualify for the NCAA Championships and a victory against four other schools.

But to find out what UNC is most proud of, you would have had to look away from the podium and the scoreboards to a handmade banner hanging against the back wall of Carmichael Auditorium.

On the sign, among a few pictures of the team read the words "Senior Night '07 — All about the FUNNESS!"

Senior Christine Robella coined the term last year while trying to motivate the Tar Heels, and the name stuck.

"I said something about, 'They don't know the kind of funness that we have!' We have a great time, we just have a lot of fun," she said.

Courtney Turco, another senior, called 'funness' the "team joke or team mantra."

"It's basically just for focusing, like not getting too serious with yourself at meets and really to just keep it in perspective why we're doing this."

There was plenty to be happy about in the team's objective performance as well Friday, as UNC's score of 194.300 was enough to defeat Towson at 193.500, George Washington at 193.225, Rhode Island at 190.725 and William & Mary at 189.225.



Senior Christine Robella is congratulated by the rest of her team after earning a 9.825 on the vault at Senior Night in Carmichael Auditorium.

In what Coach Derek Galvin called "her best meet of the year so far," Robella took first place in three events and won the all-around competition with an impressive score of 39.425. In the vault event Robella tied for second with UNC freshman Kara Wright, as the top spot was taken by another Tar Heel — Christine Nguyen.

Nguyen had, perhaps by her own standards, a subpar performance after she fell on balance beam and finished 19th. She had never failed to finish first or tied for first this season in that event before Friday.

The only other significant blemish was a number of gymnasts who struggled on the floor exercise. Galvin said the floor was unusually bouncy, which threw some Tar Heels off guard.

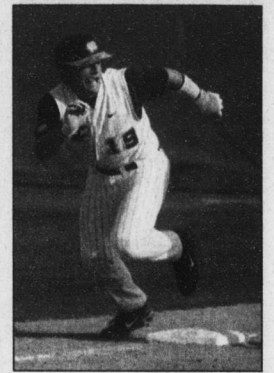
"It's springier than any floor we've competed on this year," the coach said. "Falls were because of too much power."

Rachel Schneider and Nguyen both fell on the event, with Wright also recording a penalty for stepping out of bounds. But Galvin said he wasn't too concerned.

"I'd rather see them have too

SEE GYMNASTICS, PAGE 13

QUICK HITS
BASEBALL



DTH/JAMES MUNDIA

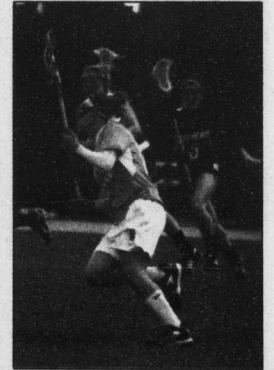
FROM WIRE REPORTS

BLACKSBURG, Va. — UNC right-hander Luke Putkonen held Virginia Tech to just one run over seven innings, and right fielder Tim Fedorff had a two-run home run among his three hits to lead the No. 4 Tar Heels (22-4, 6-3 ACC) to a 13-1 series-clinching win against the Hokies (15-10, 4-5 ACC) Sunday in the series finale.

Putkonen moved to 5-0 on the season and 11-0 as a Tar Heel.

On Friday, UNC opened the series with a 15-4 victory, but Saturday the Hokies rebounded winning 6-3, setting up Sunday's rubber match.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE



DTH/PAUL KIERNAN

COLLEGE PARK, MD. — Maryland goalkeeper Allie Buote recorded 13 saves and six different Terrapin players scored goals as the Terps handed No. 1 North Carolina its first loss of the season, 8-6, on Saturday at Chevy Chase Bank Field at Byrd Stadium.

With the win, No. 4 Maryland improves to 8-1 this season, 3-1 in the ACC. UNC falls to 8-1, 1-1 and sees its eight-game winning streak come to an end.

The Tar Heels were led in scoring by freshman Kristen Taylor, who tallied two goals and an assist. Senior Christina Juras scored twice and fellow senior Chrissy Rude had a goal and an assist.

MEN'S TENNIS

CLEMSON, S.C. — North Carolina's men's tennis team got victories from junior Benjamin Carliotti and freshman Chris Kearney over nationally ranked singles opponents, and junior Karl Wishart scored the clinching victory at No. 6 singles as the Tar Heels defeated Clemson 4-3 Sunday afternoon at the Hoke A. Sloan Tennis Center.

With the win, No. 14 UNC remained undefeated on the season at 14-0 overall and 2-0 in the ACC. Clemson fell to 19-6 overall and 2-3 in the ACC.

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Purdue
TIME: TBA
LOCATION: Dallas

WEDNESDAY

BASEBALL
vs. Davidson
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Boshamer Stadium

SOFTBALL
vs. Gardner-Webb
TIME: 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
LOCATION: Anderson Stadium

FRIDAY

MEN'S TENNIS
vs. Miami
TIME: 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Cone-Kenfield Center

WOMEN'S LACROSSE
vs. Georgetown
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Fetzer Field