

Sports Monday

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The Daily Tar Heel
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SCOREBOARD

WRESTLING UNC 22 Virginia Tech 12

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Maryland 86 UNC 97 (2OT)

WRESTLING UNC 13 Virginia 18

TAR HEELS TAKE OUT MD

BY DAVID ELY
SPORTS EDITOR

Not all games are created equal. When a team blows a chance at knocking off the No. 1 team in the nation and then has a shot at redemption five days later against the country's fourth-ranked squad, the contest carries a little more weight in the hearts and minds of every player.

That was the case Saturday afternoon when an impassioned No. 3 North Carolina women's basketball team notched a 97-86 double-overtime win against No. 4 Maryland at Carmichael Auditorium.

Players on both sides dove for every loose ball. They scratched and clawed for position down low. And Tar Heel junior Rashanda McCants pumped her fists, letting out a primordial scream after UNC forced a held ball to set up LaToya Pringle's game-tying bucket and free throw near the end of regulation.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Maryland 86 Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell exclaimed.

UNC 97 "Exciting. Two great teams, both undefeated in the ACC, ranked 3rd and 4th, and (the Terrapins are) just a great, great team."

Much like in their game at Connecticut on Jan. 21, the Tar Heels (18-2, 5-0 ACC) started out on the top of their game, putting Maryland (22-2, 6-1) in an early 10-point hole. In those opening seven minutes, UNC established the interior presence of Erlana Larkins and Pringle — who led the Tar Heels with a career-high 31 points.

But just like the Huskies did against the Tar Heels, the Terrapins roared back to take a 46-44 lead at the 14:28 mark of the second half — their first lead of the game.

Helping close the gap for Maryland was its national championship trio of Crystal Langhorne, Marissa Coleman and Kristi Toliver, who combined to score 63 of MD's 86 points.

Toliver utilized her superior size and experience on UNC's Cetera DeGraffenreid whenever the two were matched up. In those moments, Toliver would often get into the lane and find an open teammate, finishing with 14 assists.

This scenario played throughout the second half as Maryland built a seven-point lead with a little more than 10 minutes to play.

But then Hatchell decided to make a defensive switch to the taller McCants, and UNC made its run to get back into the ballgame.

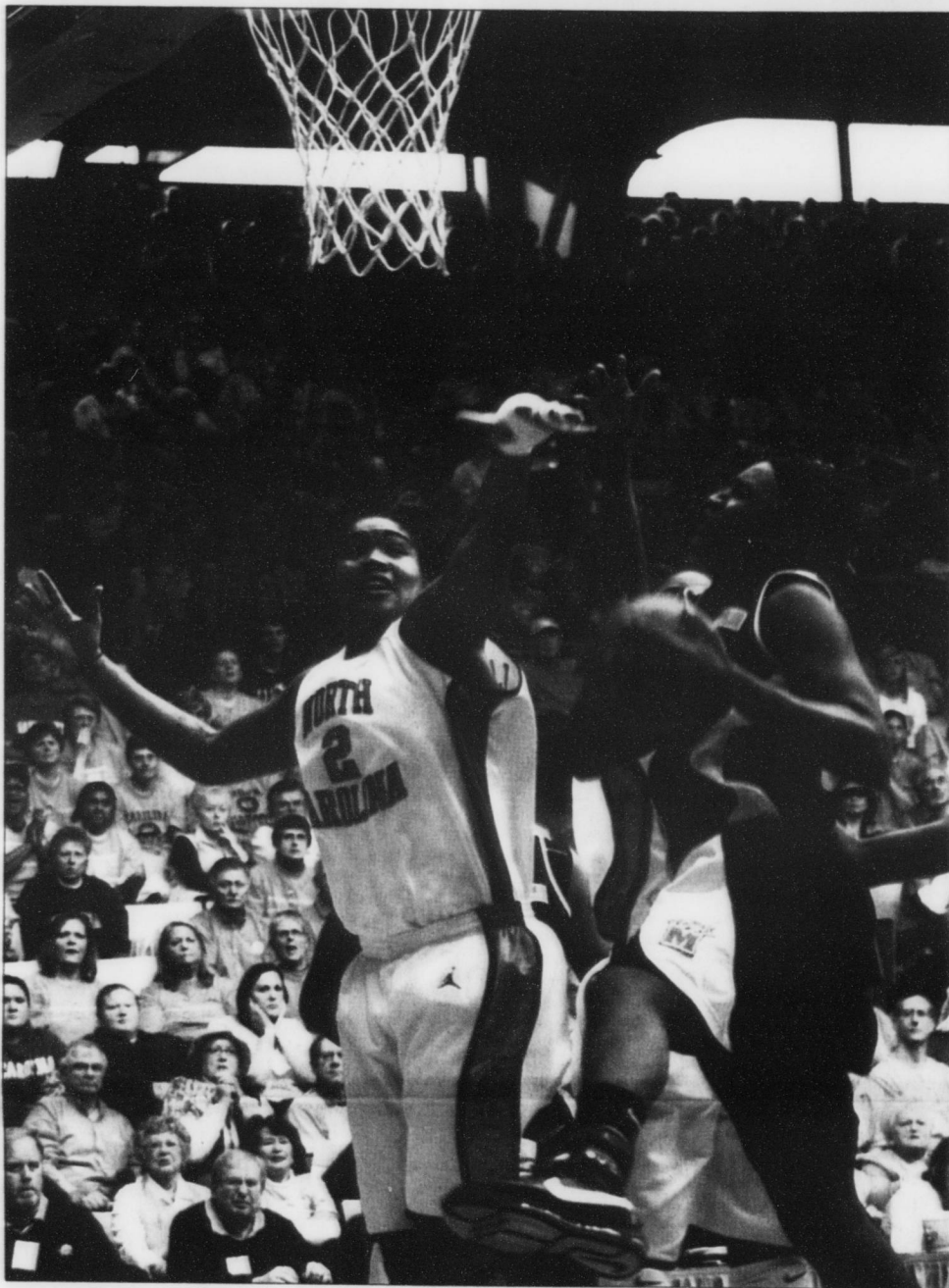
"We changed and put Rashanda (on Toliver), and I thought that really made a difference," Hatchell said.

On the offensive end, North Carolina went back to its bread-and-butter play — getting the ball inside to Larkins or Pringle.

In the final 10 minutes of regulation and the two overtimes, North Carolina found Larkins and Pringle on the blocks. Often, it was McCants who delivered the ball down low. The junior finished with eight assists.

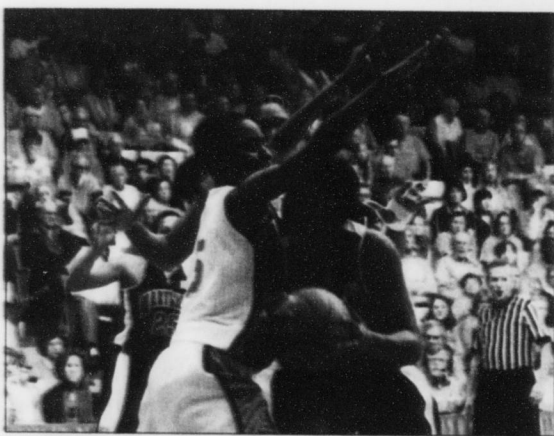
And if they weren't scoring, they were hitting the offensive glass, earning an extra possession for the

SEE DOUBLE OT, PAGE 11



Senior Erlana Larkins attempts to use her broken hand to block a Maryland shot during UNC's 97-86 double-overtime victory in Carmichael Auditorium on Saturday. Larkins finished the game with 25 points and 18 rebounds, 13 of which were offensive.

Bloodied, Pringle takes over in OT



Senior LaToya Pringle defends a Terrapin in the low post during the Tar Heels' 97-86 win. Pringle set a career high with 31 points in the game.

BY SAMANTHA NEWMAN
SENIOR WRITER

LaToya Pringle played with reckless abandon against a talented Maryland team Saturday, and she's got the marks on her uniform to prove it.

After taking a hit to the face that cut her upper lip, the North Carolina senior forward had to trade out her blood-stained No. 30 jersey for a nameless No. 55.

She might want to consider a permanent switch. Pringle racked up a career-high 31 points to lead the No. 3 Tar Heels past the No. 4 Terrapins, and she was UNC's go-to player in the final minutes.

"I got a lot of offensive rebounds, got put backs," Pringle said. "Down the stretch they wanted the ball in my hands because I've been in pressure situations, and I'm an OK foul shooter."

She wasn't just OK on Saturday. In fact, Pringle was perfect in the last 58 seconds, making all six of her attempts from the stripe to add to her 12 points in the second overtime period.

And when the Tar Heels trailed 71-68 with less than a minute remaining in regulation, senior forward Erlana Larkins found Pringle open under the basket for a bucket and a foul. The ensuing free throw

swished through the net to send the game into an extra period.

"She was always in the right place at the right time," Larkins said of Pringle. "Looking at her from freshman year up until now, she's grown a lot. I just think that she's also grown into that leadership role."

After a disappointing loss to top-ranked Connecticut on Monday, Pringle became more vocal at practice throughout the week. She and Larkins pushed their teammates, and Pringle said they didn't let many things slide.

The sloppy final five minutes against the Huskies dimmed the glow of her 20-point performance and a nearly flawless first half from UNC.

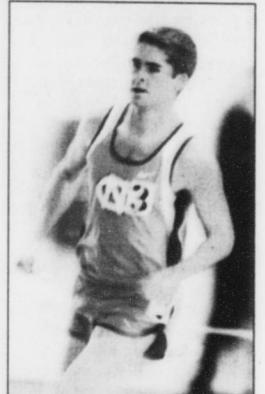
"We took it upon ourselves, especially me and Erlana, to be harder on our team, to make them compete, to make them better in practice so they could be better in games," Pringle said. "Because we knew that we lost just because we didn't compete, and we didn't play smart at the end."

North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell called the two seniors her "warriors" and the real leaders of the

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SPORTS BRIEFS

TRACK & FIELD



DTH FILE/KELVIN YEUNG

FROM WIRE REPORTS

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Freshmen Callan Fike and Patience Coleman each picked up a win on the final day of the Penn State National on Saturday in University Park, Pa. Fike captured the 1,000-meter run, while Coleman set a provisional mark in the high jump with a victory in her first meet of the season.

Donte Nall also performed well in the high jump as he also tallied a provisional mark.

On Friday, freshman Walter Henning eclipsed the NCAA provisional mark in the weight throw, and Addie Bracy set a new personal record and took second in the 5,000-meter run.

WRESTLING



DTH FILE/KELVIN YEUNG

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Junior Keegan Mueller continued his dominating stretch with a major decision at 165 pounds, and senior Drew Forshey put North Carolina in front to stay with a pin at 125 in the Tar Heels' 22-12 win over Virginia Tech at Cassell Coliseum. UNC evened its ACC mark at 2-2 and improved to 6-4 overall with the victory.

Earlier in the weekend, Virginia captured the first four bouts and held off a late North Carolina burst to claim an 18-13 victory.

BASEBALL

North Carolina received its second preseason No. 2 baseball ranking Friday with the release of the USA Today/ESPN Preseason Coaches' Poll. The Tar Heels earned top-five billing in all four major polls, including a No. 2 ranking by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

UNC was also ranked fifth by Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball newspaper.

A consensus top-five team, the Tar Heels were also the top-rated Atlantic Coast Conference squad in each of the four major polls.

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY

MEN'S TENNIS

vs. Campbell
TIME: 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center

MEN'S TENNIS

vs. N.C. Central
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center

THURSDAY

MEN'S BASKETBALL

vs. Boston College
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Smith Center

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

at Wake Forest
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Winston-Salem

FRIDAY

MEN'S TENNIS

vs. Charlotte
TIME: 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center

Krispy Kreme Challenge takes its toll

BY DAVID REYNOLDS
STAFF WRITER

Here I am, huddled above a trash can next to N.C. State University's bell tower, wondering whether or not my stomach will hold up. I should probably back up a few steps.

Three hours ago, I was on the road to the fourth annual Krispy Kreme Challenge, a four-mile race with an interesting twist. Two miles into the competition, every runner is expected to eat a dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

The six other UNC participants and I decide the odds are right around 100 percent that a person will throw up during the course of the race. Undaunted, we talk strategy for the event and drive on to meet our destiny.

Upon arrival in Raleigh, I get my first glimpse of the other 3,000 runners who will be competing with me. I immediately spot several "Don't Glaze Me Bro" T-shirts and another group of 40 runners wearing only short shorts



David Reynolds ran in the Krispy Kreme Challenge at N.C. State.

and green and silver paint — all the more impressive considering it is only a few degrees above freezing at the 9 a.m. start.

Everyone is crowded by the bell tower in nervous excitement, talking about just how bad they will feel in a mere 30 minutes — during the doughnut part of the competition.

I see a Ron Paul sign and decide that sums it up best. The percentage of people crazy enough to consider running this race is about the same percentage of votes Paul is getting in the Republican primaries and caucuses.

SEE DOUGHNUT RACE, PAGE 11



Participants in the Krispy Kreme Challenge prepare to begin near N.C. State's belltower. Each contestant ran four miles and ate 12 doughnuts.