The Daily Tar Heel

## STREAK FROM PAGE 12

K.C. Rivers missed a scoop layup to keep the score knotted and send the game into overtime. From there, it was a mix of

clutch 3-pointers, foul-outs and pressure-packed free throws as the two teams passed the lead back and forth.

Throughout all the madness, the one constant was Hansbrough

The power forward finished with 39 points, nailed 17 of 19 free throws and put the Tar Heels (22-2, 7-2) on his back with his clutch

play, especially in extra time. "When he leaves, I am going to consider myself the luckiest guy in the world to have coached him,' Williams said of the UNC junior.

Not all of Hansbrough's damage vas done in his usual home under the hoop. He helped break the press, drove to the hoop and hit a free-throw line jump shot to open the second overtime

And his biggest play of all came on the defensive end, when he pressured Clemson's David Potter, poked the ball away and pounced on it to preserve a thin Tar Heel lead.

"I was in a dead sprint, felt pret-ty good about it and then dove," Hansbrough said.

Behind his effort, the Tar Heels ran their record to an astounding 53-0 against Clemson in Chapel Hill, which broke the NCAA record for the longest home winning streak by one team over

"To be honest, I didn't really vant to break the streak here. Hansbrough said. "I don't want to be on that team."

Clemson played like a team possessed to change that history. The Tigers attacked, trapped,

pressed and muscled the Tar Heels for almost the entire game, trying to avenge a 90-88 overtime loss to UNC a month ago.

OFFENSE

sharpshooter knocked down five of his nine attempted 3-pointers en route to 28 points - 17 after halftime.

"I was just taking shots in stride," Ellington said. "I wasn't taking anything rushed or forced. ... It came to me, and I just knocked it down."

But while Ellington's performance usually would have been the story, it was Hansbrough and his 39 points — giving Ellington and him 67 of UNC's 103 — that brought the Tar Heels back after they seemed dead in the water.

Constantly attacking the talented Clemson front line of James Mays and Trevor Booker, Hansbrough totaled 11 field goals and 17 free throws. He added 13 rebounds, too, good for his 14th double-double of the year.

"I don't know how much longer I'm going to coach him," Roy Williams said. "But I'd like to coach that big sucker about 13 more years

And after Ellington and Hansbrough pulled UNC close, it was the often-overlooked Thomas who came through in the pinch. Twice he bought North Carolina an extra five minutes to put a stamp

# SOFTBALL

seven RBIs, nine runs and a home run. "Honestly, I didn't even think

about it. I was just trying to help the team out and hit the ball," Troup said.

We worked really hard in the offseason and took a lot of reps Our team collectively really hit the ball well in the fall, and we

Clemson		45	3	7 8	3		93
North Ca	rolin	a 34	4	8 8	13	1	103
Clemson (93	263						
		10	ft	10			
	min	-	114	o-t		pf	10
Perry	17	0.2	00	1-6	0	4	0
Mays	41	48	1-2	2.6	2	4	9
Booker	27	5-8	00	7-10	1	6	10
Rivers	39	5-14	0-2	3-6	6	4	14
Hammonds	46	13-23	30-1	2.7	3	1	31
Ogleaby	15	2-11	00	0.0	0	2	6
Sykes	18	0.2	00	0-1	2	2	0
Potter	20	5-11	0-1	04	2	3	10
Stitt	21	6-10	0-1	0-2	5	5	13
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ft

	min		10-0	04		pf	- 10
Thompson	34	3-10	2.2	2-8	1	3	8
Hansbrough	47	11-16	17-19	6-13	1	3	39
Ginyerd	24	1.1	3-6	0.1	0	2	6
Ellington	47	9-22	5-5	1-3	3	1	28
Thomas	45	2.6	2-2	0.3	9	2	8
Stepheson	17	1-3	00	24	2	1	2
Green	31	5-12	2.2	1-6	2	2	14
Graves	6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0	0	0
Total	250	32-73	31-36	17-48	18	14	103

In the face of a shrieking Sunday night crowd, the Tigers got a heroic 31 points from Cliff Hammonds and clutch offensive rebounds from Trevor Booker, but just couldn't turn the tables on the Tar Heels.

For a UNC team still smarting from a home loss to Duke on Wednesday, the thrilling win was a helpful dose of relief.

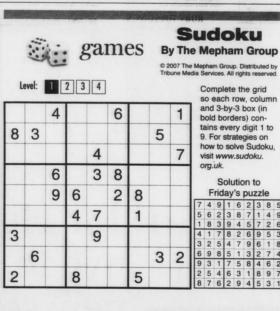
"Coach says you can enjoy it until the clock hits (midnight)," Hansbrough said. "I think I'm going to enjoy this a little longer.

> Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

# on his first victory as a starter. First it was the end of regulation, when he fearlessly took the ball to the hoop with UNC down

two points to send it to overtime. "The play was designed to get the ball to Wayne," Thomas said. "And I saw that they had him covered, so I just tried to be aggressive and got to the basket, and luckily I made the shot.

Then it was two critical free throws in overtime with 38 sec-onds left to knot things up again. Thomas, who also logged nine



# UNC extends streak to nine in a row

Rubin, Tar Heels excel against N.C. State

Sports

## **BY ANNA KIM**

STAFF WRITER N.C. State gymnasts took the floor as Wolfpack howls boomed from the loudspeakers, but North Carolina's winning performance spoke for itself.

The No. 21 Tar Heel gymnastics team extended its nine-meet win-ning streak to start the season with a 195.450-194.975 win against No. 25 N.C. State. Sunday at Carmichael Auditorium. GYMNASTICS

In its first NCSU 194.975 regular season home meet, UNC came out UNC 195.450

with a strong performance to take home the win.

The Tar Heels were coming off a win in the Governor's Cup, where UNC teamed up with the Wolfpack to win a first-place ranking.

"We certainly want to do well against them," North Carolina coach Derek Galvin said.

"Our goal every year is to beat the ACC teams, to beat all the teams in the East Atlantic Gymnastics League.

Galvin accredited the team's performance in vault as one of the strongest he's seen since the NCAA championships last year. And the other three routines

had strong performances as well. Galvin attributed mistakes in bars, beams and floor routines simply to the nerves that accompany the first home meet.

"Some of the mistakes we made today were too much power," Galvin said. "They were too strong in some cases

But quality and execution gave the Tar Heels the points they need-ed to overcome N.C. State.

assists, said he couldn't remember the last time he had been in such a pivotal end-of-game position.

And after Thomas gave UNC new life, it was Hansbrough diving after a loose ball on the floor and Ellington jumping over the Clemson front line for a final layup that sealed an improbable outcome

There was never a point where we thought we weren't going to win this game," Ellington said.

Contact the Sports Editor

Sudoku

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku. org.uk. Solution to Friday's puzzle 7 4 9 1 6 2 3 8 5 5 6 2 3 8 7 1 4 9 1 8 3 9 4 5 7 2 6 1 7 8 2 6 9 5 3 2 5 4 7 9 6 1 8

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"We know we've got room to continue to grow and improve," Galvin said. The Tar Heel faithful did not disappoint, supplying the team with an energetic home-court

advantage. "Gymnasts love a crowd," Galvin said.

"When they hear the people in the audience, and in particular rec-ognize the voices up there and see a lot of people in the stands, they want to have an even stronger per-

Christine Nguyen, recently named the EAGL Gymnast of the Week, continued to lead UNC to victory. The North Carolina sophomore notched top scores for the Tar

Heels in every event. Senior Sarrie Rubin scored 9.85 in vault, her personal best and tied with Nguyen as the team's leader.

After undergoing a shoulder surgery, then an unexpected recovery a few years ago, Rubin said, she is taking full advantage of her final

**BY JOHN DOUGHERTY** 

on the uneven bars.

STAFF WRITER

Sophomore tops all performers in the Governor's Cup on Feb. 1, improved drastically in nearly

"It's a surprise that I was even

"Now that it's my fifth year

able to do gymnastics this long,"

I'm trying to go all out and show everything off and show everyone

The Tar Heels (9-0) look to con-

Rubin said.

what I can do."

every event this week. In addition to her powerful 9.850 on vault and an equally impressive uneven bars score of 9.825, Nguyen made solid progress in her floor routine.

A week after placing 10th with a floor exercise score of 9.775, Nguyen tied for the top spot Sunday, scoring 9.850. The performance even warranted a fist pump from her head coach.

"I always set goals to improve from each week," Nguyen said. "I don't really come into a meet expecting anything. I just try to

erform how I do in practice. pe Ironically, the only event in which Nguyen didn't best her mark from last week was the balance beam - which many consider to

be her strongest. "Balance beam is an amazing act the Sports Editor Nguyen, named the EAGL event for her," said Galvin. "She at sports@unc.edu. Gymnast of the Week for her efforts is one of the most beautiful beam is one of the most beautiful beam

believes her team can take a lesson from Nguyen's beam exercises

"She is so calm on beam," Rubin said. "She is such a good motivator." Rubin also commended Nguyen for her work ethic in practice each day and said she considers the sophomore to be a leader by example

As for the team as a whole, the UNC star knows there is still room for improvement.

And while she personally would like to improve on her floor rou-tines, Nguyen said she has is motivated by the honor of being named

gymnast of the week. "It gives me a lot of hope for what will happen in the season to come," she said. "It just lets me know there is more that we can do."

Sports

Venu

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu

Sunday against N.C. State mirrored her uneven bar routine, rocketing her leaps and bounds above the fellow competition. For the second week in a row, Nguyen proved herself the stron-gest athlete in the gym, taking top

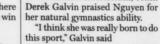
Ascending flawlessly over the

lower bar with only the slight-est hint of a push off, sophomore

Christine Nguyen began her assault

Nguyen's overall performance

honors in every event and captur-ing the all-around high score. Following UNC's 195.450-194.975 victory, the team's second against NCSU this season and first in Carmichael Auditorium, coach



# **Planning ahead**

Members of the Board of County Commissioners held their annual retreat. Go online for story.

# **Connecting with Kabul**

An administrator from Kabul University toured UNC on Friday. Go online for story.

#### **Fashion forward**

The annual Masala fashion show also included skits from diverse campus groups. See pg. 6 for story.

# **Happy birthday**

Milton Julian, known for his for-mer Franklin Street clothing store, turns 90. See pg. 3 for story.

#### **Blue books offer**

The Undergraduate Library is offering free blue books to students. See pg. 1 for story.

DTH/KATE NAPIE The North Carolina gymnastics team opened the regular season by defeating N.C. State Sunday. It was the ninth-straight win in the series

> tinue their undefeated record at the upcoming meet hosted by West Virginia at 8 p.m. Friday.

"I'm so excited," Rubin said. "We're doing the best we've done since I've gone to Carolina."

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Nguyen shines in UNC victory performers I have ever seen. Coming off last week's 9.875 showing on the beam, Nguyen man-aged only a 9.85 Sunday. But her score still was good enough for first place by a margin of .025 points. Senior Sarrie Rubin said she

carried it into the first tournament.

Tar Heel right-hander Amber Johnson, who earned her first victory of the season against Kent State, allowed only three runs in her first two starts.

Johnson was one of five Tar Heels to garner post-tournament

Johnson was the beneficiary of a major confidence boost on the mound with some colossal runsupport.

"It's huge," Johnson said. "If we have a run, I feel 10 times better. More than one is nice, but it definitely helps a lot." In early tournament play, UNC

defeated East Carolina 5-1 Friday and scored a victory against Kent

State on Saturday, winning 6-3. "I was really pleased with what we did this weekend," Papa said. "One of our goals going in was to really establish ourselves in a different way than we have in the past, and I felt like going into the season we had a lot more offensive power.

"It was exciting and things just happened. I thought we controlled a lot at the plate."

The Tar Heels will look to continue the momentum when the team travels to UNC-Wilmington for a doubleheader Wednesday.

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ACROSS Kett of the comics 1 Kett of the comics 5 Go a round with 9 Book composition 14 Bank transaction 15 Motion of the ocean 16 Existing 17 Mr. & Mrs. 20 Purloined 21 Eather 21 Father 22 Vane dir 22 vane oir: 23 Brings to a close 25 Puff stuff 27 IV amounts 30 Casa component 32 Temptresses 36 Baldwin or Guinness 38 Teases **38 Teases** 40 Beauty parlor 41 Mr. & Mrs. 44 Dispatch boat 45 Columnist Bon 46 Hefty volume 47 Seed for a ISA TAPE NASSTES SNICKERS bun 49 Dash gauge 49 Dash gauge 51 Black goo 52 Farm tower 54 Neighbor of Libya 56 Lincoln or Burrows 59 Nothing in Nonales UTAH MON Nogales 61 Satellite of 65 Mr. & Mrs. 68 Put into

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vs. Denver SUNDAY, FEB. 17 AT 1:00 PM

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

MEN'S LACROSSE

vs. Bellarmine

SATURDAY, FEB. 16 AT 1:00 PM

**TRACK & FIELD** 

**Carolina Chick-fil-A Invitational** SATURDAY, FEB. 16 - ALL DAY

WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. Florida SUNDAY, FEB. 17 AT 1:00 PM

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL **vs. Florida State** SUNDAY, FEB. 17 AT 1:00 PM

Don't have a Valentine's date? Well join CDS in dinner in honor of the celebration Feb. 14th in both dining halls.

