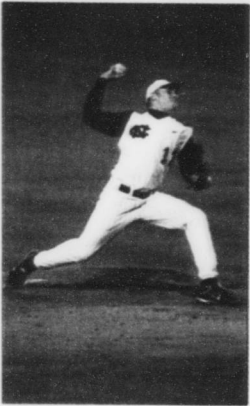


## SPORTS BRIEFS BASEBALL



DTH FILE/EMMA PATTI  
FROM WIRE REPORTS  
COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Right fielder Tim Fedroff belted his first career grand slam and drove in a career-high six runs, and third baseman Chad Flack added a grand slam and five RBI in No. 3 North Carolina's 19-1 win against Maryland on Sunday at Shipley Field. The Tar Heels (18-4, 7-2 ACC) scored five runs in the fourth, seven in the sixth and five in the eighth to help take their eighth straight series from the Terrapins (11-11, 2-7 ACC).

The win gave UNC a 2-1 series win against Maryland. Next, UNC returns to Cary for a 12-game homestand.

## SWIMMING & DIVING



DTH FILE/NICOLAS GUILLET  
COLUMBUS, OHIO — North Carolina junior women's swimmer Whitney Sprague of Bronxville, N.Y., captured second place Saturday night in the 1,650-yard freestyle at the 2008 NCAA Division I Women's Swimming and Diving Championships at Ohio State University. It is the second successive top-three finish for Sprague in the event at the NCAA Championships. As a team, the Tar Heels finished in a tie for 32nd place with 17 team points.

"Whitney prepared very well and was put up against some very strong competition," UNC coach Rich DeSelm said.

## TRACK & FIELD

The North Carolina track and field team picked up three more regional qualifying marks Saturday at the Wake Forest Open.

Charles Cox finished third in the 200. Freshman Kacey James took second in the javelin and Porscha Dobson joined LaToya James, and Vanneisha Ivy with a regional mark in the 100-meter hurdles.

The Tar Heels will return to action next weekend when a group will head to the Raleigh Relays and another set of athletes will take part in the Liberty Asics Collegiate Invitational.

## ONLINE SPORTS

North Carolina junior women's tennis player Austin Smith has become a leader. Read more at [dailytarheel.com](http://dailytarheel.com)

## THIS WEEK

### TUESDAY

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. Georgia  
TIME: TBA  
LOCATION: Norfolk, Va.

**BASEBALL**  
vs. Davidson  
TIME: 6 p.m.  
LOCATION: Cary

**SOFTBALL**  
vs. Elon  
TIME: 6 p.m.  
LOCATION: Anderson Stadium

### WEDNESDAY

**BASEBALL**  
vs. Gardner-Webb  
TIME: 6 p.m.  
LOCATION: Cary

**SOFTBALL**  
vs. Longwood  
TIME: 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.  
LOCATION: Anderson Stadium

# Forwards play big in wins

## Thompson and Stepheson rebound in NCAAs

BY GREGG FOUND  
SENIOR WRITER

RALEIGH — Roy Williams challenged Deon Thompson and Alex Stepheson a week ago, telling them they needed to step up their performances alongside Tyler Hansbrough in the post.

Sunday they responded with perfection. The pair combined to make all 13 of their shots and accounted for 26 points in UNC's 108-77 rout of Arkansas, putting the finishing touches on an already potent Tar Heel rotation.

"When Deon and Alex can shoot the way they did today, I think we're unstoppable," Wayne Ellington said. "When those guys step up and do that, we don't have any weak link here."

After Thompson scored only eight points in all three games of the ACC Tournament, Williams sat down with him and implored him to step up his performance.

Thompson's minutes had been on the decline — especially those in the second half — and Williams told him playing time needs to be earned.

"The bottom line is you've got to produce," Williams said at his news conference a day after the ACC Tournament.

From the way Thompson and Stepheson played both Sunday and Friday, they got the message.

Their aggressive attacks of the boards throughout the weekend proved that they set out to right the ship, and as a bonus, they each got to throw down back-to-back dunks Friday.

"I felt like I got back to playing the way I know I can," Thompson said. "Last weekend was pretty bad."

They weren't perfect against Mount St. Mary's, but they were close. The duo combined to shoot 11-for-14 and netted 27 points together.

More importantly to the coach, they each grabbed eight rebounds.

"What Deon and Alex gave us inside that we haven't had recently was really a big plus for us," Williams said after Friday's game.

And Sunday, their perfect performance iced the cake on an already stellar weekend.

"I think Deon and Al were the X-factor for us," Hansbrough said.

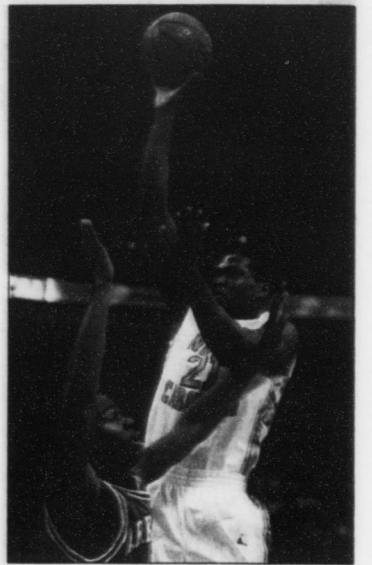
Plus, a new wrinkle emerged. In a move unseen all season, Stepheson stroked a deep jump shot early in the first half to extend UNC's 15-point lead even further.

It must have fired him up. In Arkansas' next trip down the floor, he altered a dunk attempt by Michael Washington, forcing the Razorback to miss.

"It was definitely fun just to be physical out there," Stepheson said. "They're fighting me. I'm fighting them. They're blocking shots. I'm blocking shots. ... I love that."

He also realizes the importance of post play.

SEE PERFECT, PAGE 13



DTH/DAVID ENARSON  
UNC forward Deon Thompson releases a shot over an Arkansas defender. Thompson and Alex Stepheson combined to go 13-for-13.

# PICKIN' UP THE PACE



DTH/EMMA PATTI  
North Carolina freshman point guard Cetera DeGraffenreid soars toward the basket for a layup during the Tar Heels' 85-50 first-round defeat of No. 16-seed Bucknell. North Carolina faces Georgia on Tuesday in Norfolk, Va.

## UNC rolls to win; Georgia up next

BY MIKE EHRlich  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

NORFOLK, Va. — For two weeks the No. 2 North Carolina women's basketball team waited.

They were ACC regular season champions.

They were ACC Tournament champions.

And they were championing at the bit to get back on the court and play for the big one.

They got that chance Sunday at the Constant Convocation Center in Norfolk, Va., and they wasted no time taking advantage.

The No. 1-seeded Tar Heels scored the game's first 16 points and never looked back en route

to an 85-50 drubbing of 16-seed Bucknell in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The hot start included four out of five UNC starters scoring before any Bison shot hit nylon, and it was capped when Cetera DeGraffenreid and Rashanda McCants drilled back-to-back 3-pointers.

"We wanted to come out and let them know that we're not going to sit here and play around with you guys," senior Erlana Larkins said. "We're just going to take off from the start, and I think that's what we did."

The win advanced the Tar Heels (31-2) to the Round of 32 and a date with Georgia on Tuesday.

And luckily for them, they won't have to wait so long to play again.

"I think we just came out with a lot of intensity and just ready to play," DeGraffenreid said. "We hadn't really played in a while since our last ACC Championship game, and that game got us excited for the tournament, so we were ready to come out and play."

SEE HOT START, PAGE 13

# UNC boasts new blocking queen

BY POWELL LATIMER  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

NORFOLK, Va. — It was hardly even 30 seconds into top-seeded North Carolina's shellacking of Bucknell that LaToya Pringle started making her mark.

Bucknell forward Lauren Schober set up for a wide-open 3-pointer with 19:29 on the clock and no one within 10 feet — that is, until UNC's forward and Duchess of Denial jumped out of the low post and swatted the ball into the stands.

On a practical note, Pringle's four first-half rejections left the 16-seeded Bison shell-shocked throughout the opening half and were a big part of the reason that the Tar Heels jumped out to a 16-0 lead in the first six minutes.

"Once you block a couple, people get a little timid to come in there and play their normal game, so I think that it helped us on the inside," Pringle said.

But on a deeper level, those

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

SEE PRINGLE, PAGE 13

five blocks — she added one more in the second half — were the final piece of Pringle's crowning achievement as a Tar Heel, putting the senior in the North

Carolina forward LaToya Pringle wrestles for a loose ball with a Bucknell player. Pringle scored 19 points in the UNC route.

# Heels hold on for key win

BY LOUIE HORVATH  
STAFF WRITER

Last Sunday, then-No. 7 North Carolina faced a 3-1 score with 18 minutes left in the first half against No. 3 Virginia, and the Tar Heels went on to give up five more goals in the half en route to a 16-5 pasting by the Cavaliers.

**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**  
Duke 14  
UNC 16

With less than 22 minutes left in the first half Saturday at Fetzer Field, No. 8 UNC faced another 3-1 deficit as this time No. 5 Duke (7-2, 1-1 ACC) had muscled its way to an early lead, forcing

UNC to call timeout.

Deja vu does not seem to bother North Carolina's women's lacrosse team.

Instead of folding as they had last week, the Tar Heels (7-2, 1-1) answered with a 7-1 run to put themselves in the driver's seat for the first time in a week. They rode that momentum to a big 16-14 win against the Blue Devils.

"Coach pretty much said we had to pull it together and we had worked too hard this entire week to let this go to waste," UNC freshman defender Meredith Newton said. "We had to come together and do it as a team."

The run was marked by sophomore midfielder Megan Bosica's domination, as she assisted or scored five of UNC's goals. Bosica led all Tar Heels with four goals and four assists for the game.

"We worked really hard all week," Coach Jenny Levy said. "We were not happy with our performance at UVa. We were extremely disappointed, from the coaching staff all the way down to the players. We buckled down; we worked our kids really hard this week."

The Tar Heels forced Duke into

SEE LACROSSE, PAGE 13



DTH/NICOLAS GUILLET  
North Carolina attacker/midfielder Julia Ryan runs past Duke's Emma Hamm. North Carolina is 7-2 for the season and 1-1 in ACC play.