

Why the NBA wants a Boston-L.A. final

I'll tell you a secret about the NBA playoffs: I already know who's going to win this round.

The finals matchup was decided about mid-season, when NBA commissioner David Stern sat in his office and realized that the Lakers and the Celtics were both really stinkin' good and that pro basketball's most visceral rivalry could be revived again in the NBA finals.

So, here we sit, midway through the conference finals, and even though both series look to be competitive, they're both already over.

It's going to be Boston and L.A., plain and simple.

David Stern wants it that way, and that's the way that it's gonna be.

It doesn't matter how many times Tony Parker slashes into the lane for Lakers or how many times Tim Duncan gives refs that "my eyes could NOT get any bigger!" look after every call against him, the Spurs are going to lose in game seven.

It doesn't matter how many



POWELL LATIMER
SAY WORD

times Rip Hamilton drains a midrange jump shot or how many times "Sheed guarantees a victory" — the Pistons are going to go down in seven.

Here's how it's going to go down: two horribly officiated games in the favor of L.A. and Boston are going to go down to the very wire, until one questionable call as time expires hands the respective games to the Celtics and the Lakers.

How do I know?

Because this is David Stern we're talking about here. He is a conglomerate of pure evil.

Well not pure evil, but let's just say that Stern doesn't see orange when he looks at a basketball, he sees the green-tinted faces of dead

presidents.

This is the same man who continues to insist that the Seattle SuperSonics be moved to Oklahoma City, despite offers from Seattle residents to pay exorbitant amounts of money to keep their team.

I'm not saying that the Celtics and Lakers don't deserve to be in the finals. To be honest, the Lakers are probably the best team remaining. I'm just saying that it doesn't matter. We already know what's going to happen.

The reason is simple. For most of us, it's easy to forget that the NBA is, in fact, a business. David Stern, on the other hand, gets that. But he forgets that the league is also about so much more, and that NBA finals encompass more than just a big paycheck and high network ratings.

So when the Lakers or Celtics get a questionable whistle down the stretch, I'll be the guy who told you so.

Contact Powell Latimer at tlatimer@email.unc.edu

BOSHAMER BOYS OF SUMMER



DTH FILE/ERIN DEBNAM

North Carolina garnered the second overall seed in the NCAA Tournament and will host a regional in Cary. The Diamond Heels will square off against Mount St. Mary's, Elon and UNC-Wilmington. Games begin Friday at the USA Baseball Training Complex. For a full preview of the regional games, check pg. 1. Last weekend's ACC Tournament receives extensive coverage on pg. 7 and on www.dailytarheel.com.

System to make offering financial aid much easier

BY MARY KATHERINE AYERS
STAFF WRITER

Recent setbacks in financial aid offers have made the emerging Enterprise Resource Planning system more necessary than ever.

The Office of Scholarships and Student Aid was delayed by about two weeks in making financial offers to incoming first-year students this year. Shirley Ort, the associate provost and director of the office, said that the delay was due to the Student Information System's incapacities.

The current system, which has been in place for nearly 30 years, is "very old and very tired," Ort said. "The old equipment didn't want to do its job."

The student systems component of the Enterprise Resource Planning is set to be fully functional by Feb. 22, 2010. The new system must be in place by this date in order to offer financial aid packages to that year's class of accepted students. Until then, the University must continue to use the old system.

Incoming students must make a decision to attend UNC by May 1. Ort said that she recognizes that the delay may have caused problems for some students who are waiting on financial aid offers to make their decisions.

"We have really good financial aid packages, so we want to get the message out in a timely way," she said. "We know that it's going to take a lot of time and a lot of money to get a new system in place, but we think the students are going to benefit from it."

The Office of Scholarships and Student Aid distributes awards to about 15,000 students each year, about 2,000 of whom are entering freshmen, Ort said.

Ort said that the new system will allow UNC to communicate scholarship and financial aid offers to students more smoothly.

"We would like to make your business transactions at the University as easy to conduct as your purchase of books and music on Amazon or elsewhere," she said. "That's our goal."

"We have really good financial aid packages, so we want to get the message out in a timely way."

SHIRLEY ORT, ASSOCIATE PROVOST

Roger Patterson, chair of the ERP student stakeholder committee, said that financial aid has been driving the implementation of the student systems component of ERP.

SCT Inc., the company that supports the current student system, will not continue to update UNC software concerning federal financial aid regulations after 2010.

Patterson said that because all financial aid must be converted by then, the student systems component must be implemented first.

The other two components of ERP, human resources and payroll information and financial data, will follow the student systems component but no specific target date has yet been set for either.

Patterson said despite the com-

plex system switch, he foresees no obstacles to the transition schedule.

"It's definitely on track," he said. "They're going to get it up by fall 2010."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu

Enterprise Resource Planning implementation schedule

Feb. 2008: ERP begins implementation phase, starting with student services, such as registration info.

Fall 2008: Committees are convened to set deadlines for financial data and human resources and payroll components.

BY BRIAN AUSTIN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

For more than a year, academic advising has been flirting with an overhaul. And last Wednesday, University officials outlined a plan to do just that.

The academic advising implementation committee was created in fall 2007 and consisted of 20 members of the faculty, staff and students. They presented their overhaul report to the Board of Trustees at its university affairs committee meeting.

The review hinges in large part on the changes that will be made due to the Enterprise Resource Planning's implementation in student services. Members of the committee said they hope it brings

greater efficiency to the clerical nature of advising's current condition.

"Advisers are certainly constrained by the amount of work they have to do filling out worksheets," said Todd Dalrymple, student body vice president and member of the committee.

"We don't have an adequate degree audit, so advisers are picking up the slack, and that's very time consuming."

While officials see ERP ultimately as a help to advising and to students, they admit that the changeover of systems will take longer than they would like.

"It's a little frustrating because the timeline is pretty long," said Stephen Weiss, chairman of the committee. "So much of this has the software as sort of the key, but we really can't do much until then."

The report also includes recommendations that range from additional advisers to doing away with the entire team system that is currently used. The comprehensive review touches on every aspect of advising with the common theme of making it a more personal and connected experience for the student.

"These are all excellent conceptually," Dalrymple said. "But in order to execute it we're going to need to pour additional resources into advising."

Just what resources and how much of them would be required to implement the plan in its entirety was not a part of the report.


A section of the report calls for advisers to take steps to ensure that available resources are being used to their full potential.

A further resource that the report recommends is institutionalizing departmental advising, allowing advisors to focus on general curriculum concerns of students rather than being forced to handle questions more appropriately answered by faculty in a student's major.

Another theme in the report was the idea that students need to be more actively involved in maximizing their time spent with academic advising.

"The student has to take a more active role," Weiss said. "But we're providing better tools for them to do that."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu



FAST DELIVERY
919-968-3278

OPEN LATE HOURS
Mon-Wed: 4pm-3am
Thurs: 4pm-3:30am
Fri & Sat: 11am-3:30am
Sun: 11am-2am

12" ALL-MIXED-UP 12" 1-ITEM PIZZA 12" POKEY STIX 10 BUFFALO WINGS 5 PEPPERONI ROLLS 10 BONELESS WINGS 12" CINNAMON SWIRL CHOOSE 2 FOR 14.99 CHOOSE 3 FOR 22.99 CHOOSE 4 FOR 29.99 CHOOSE ALL 6 = 39.99	WAGNY WEEKDAYS VALID SUN-THUR • CHOOSE 1 LARGE 1-ITEM PIZZA LARGE POKEY STIX 6 PEPPERONI ROLLS \$7.99 CHOOSE 2 FOR \$13.99 CHOOSE 3 FOR \$19.99
WAGON WHEEL 20" 1-TOPPING PIZZA OR POKEY STIX 1 PIZZA = 14.99 2 PIZZAS = 29.99 3 PIZZAS = 41.99	GUMBY COMBO LARGE 1-ITEM PIZZA + 10" POKEY STIX + FREE 2-LITER GET ALL 3 \$16.99 ADD 10" DESSERT \$4.99

The art of a guilt free treat!



10 calories per ounce



Remarkable flavors



Affordable prices

Downtown Chapel Hill
106 W. Franklin St. (Next to He's Not Here)
919-942-PUMP

HOURS:
M-Sat 11:30AM-11:30PM
Sun 12:00-11:30PM

the YOGURT pump

Serving UNC Frozen Yogurt Since 1982

www.yogurtpump.com

Are you currently experiencing **PAIN** around one or both of your lower **WISDOM TEETH?**


UNC School of Dentistry is presently enrolling healthy subjects who:

- are non-smokers between the ages of 18 and 35
- have pain and signs of inflammation (pericoronitis) around a lower wisdom tooth (3rd molar)

Participation requires three visits. Benefits for participating include:

- free initial treatment of painful problem
- a free dental cleaning
- up to \$50.00 payment for your time
- free consult regarding options for 3rd molar treatment

If interested, please contact: **Tiffany V. Hambricht, RDH**
Clinical Research Coordinator • Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
919-966-8376 or Tiffany_Hambricht@dentistry.unc.edu
you will be contacted within 24 hours.



can you do yoga au naturale in your room?

no? you need a private room... it's a freeing experience!

On 3 Bus Routes | Wireless Internet Available | Picnic Area With Grills
Clubhouse With Swimming Pool & Sundeck | Tennis Courts

208 Corner Drive | Chapel Hill NC 27514 | Phone 919-942-0481 | www.SunStoneApts.com