

Mistakes are made by everyone. They are so frequent that the English language is filled with profound statements and cliches to compensate for them. For example: "To err is human," "Accidents will happen," "We learn from our mistakes," or "Nobody's perfect."

But some mistakes, especially those due to negligence, cannot be helped by compensation. Last week UNC Athletic Department officials discovered they made a costly mistake concerning an NCAA rule. It wasn't a costly mistake in the monetary sense (no funds were misused) nor was it costly to the won-lost column (we're no farther away from obtaining the Carmichael Cup). We weren't even put on probation for the miscue. Sorry, Tates.

It was costly in that a student-athlete was the victim. And this is where the heart of intercollegiate sports lies - not with net profits, Rams Club seats or postseason bowl games,

but with the player. Early Jones was told on August 13 that he could not play football. There were no more scholarships. Since he had a baseball scholarship, he was told that he could not play football with a grid scholarship. Because of a 1974 NCAA ruling making it illegal for "minor sport" scholarship recipients to play football unless being counted as a football scholarship player, too, Jones was told he was out of luck.

Late last week it was brought to the attention of the football office, that because the scholarship rule was not retroactive, it didn't apply to anyone who had entered the athletic program before it was passed.

Passage was January, 1974. Early Jones entered UNC with a baseball grant in August,

One person in the UNC athletic department said that it takes a "Philadelphia lawyer" to interpret all the NCAA rules. No doubt that's true. With Rule A affecting all players, Rule B affecting only incoming players and Rule C not going into effect until next semester, things can get confusing.

But if all these rules are necessary (and that's another matter in itself), then the university is obligated to the athlete to check out everything closely and give him the benefit of the rulings.

## Blunder costly for UNC athlete

**Grant Vosburgh** 

## Healthy Cloaninger ready for net season

by Kevin Barris Staff Writer

On the sports calendar, September 27 represents the first match of the season for UNC women's tennis. And for Nina Cloaninger, it marks the beginning of what she hopes will be an injury-free tennis year.

Since early summer of 1974 after her freshman year, Cloaninger has been playing tennis hampered by a lingering knee injury. But now, an operation and an eternity later, she is at last able to think about playing tennis uninjured.

"It's to the point now where I can't remember playing tennis when I wasn't worrying about my knee," Cloaninger said. "In my mind, my knee problem and tennis have become synonymous."

It seems that Cloaninger has always had to cope with problems while playing tennis. As a high school senior, she was first ruled eligible to play on the boy's team; then, halfway through the season, the decision was reversed. With the kneed injury, she played well last fall, but in the spring her knee worsened, calling for corrective surgery last May.

This fall, just before tennis practice, Cloaninger injured her right hand and couldn't play for two weeks.

Now Cloaninger said she can joke about it. "My whole life's like that. I'd probably get bored if I didn't always have something going on, some problem to solve. Things like this are always happening to me."

Despite these problems, Cloaninger has remained enthusiastic about tennis. She began playing at the age of 11, along with participating in other activities. Eventually, her interest in tennis grew and she spent most of her time with it.

She came to Carolina two years ago from Charlotte, having won the girls' high school championship three straight years. Two years on the team at UNC has given her a certain impatience with the way women's athletics at Carolina have progressed.

"I don't see that the women's program has taken any leaps and bounds," Cloaninger said. "I don't feel like we are moving forward the way we should. I know it can't happen



Nina Cloaninger leaves injured past

overnight, but I don't see anything a bit different than when I got here two years

She said there is a need for better women's facilities, equipment and supplies. Cloaninger noted that the men's tennis team has rackets, shoes and clothing supplied by UNC, while the women netters get none.

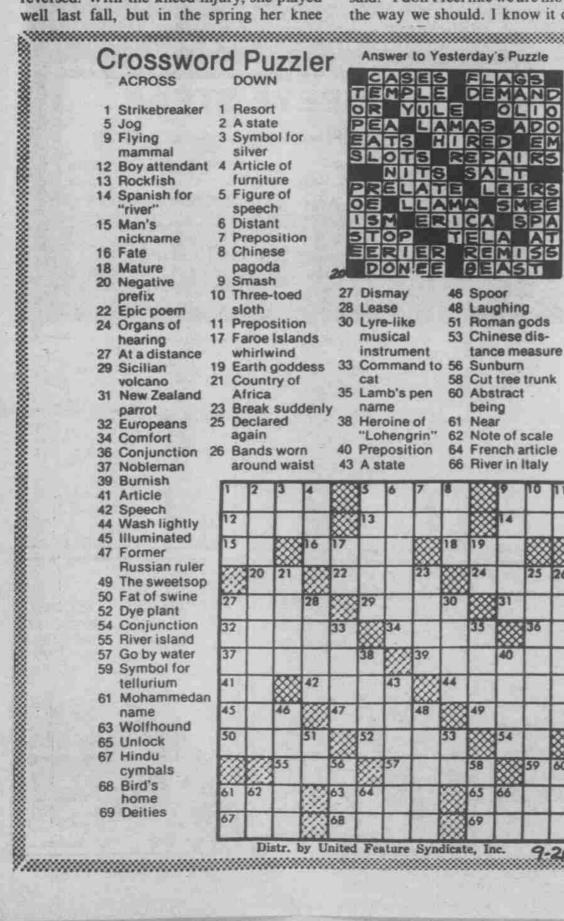
Like most players on the women's team, Cloaninger sees a need for a tougher schedule if the team is to earn national recognition. "Since I've been here," she said, "we've only lost one match, which shows we're a good team, but it also indicates what kind of schedule we've been playing. I'd rather see us lose a couple of times and get the experience and a national ranking rather than just be the best in North Carolina and not play any of the tougher teams."

This year the team faces its toughest schedule ever, and Cloaninger, not surprisingly, views injuries as the team's biggest problem.

"We do have too many injuries," she said of her team which had four of its top five injured at one point last spring. "And I don't know what we can attribute it to. There are a lot of teams we can beat when we're healthy, but they can beat us if we have a couple of people injured.

"Every time we went to a tournament last year we had somebody hurt, or someone couldn't make the trip because they were sick," Cloaninger added.

She does think that a healthy Tar Heel squad is capable of doing well nationally. "We're definitely above the majority of the teams," Cloaninger said. "I don't think there is that much difference between us and those top teams. The players aren't that much better than us."



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