

Sports

UNC: To choke or not to choke

AL: Damn, I can't believe the Heels choked again.
 BILLY: Choked? A 32-win season is hardly made or broken by one game.

AL: 32 wins? So what. What have we got to show for it? N.C. State lost twice as many games as we did, but they have an ACC championship. What good is it to sit through the whole movie if you leave right before the big finish?

BILLY: Yeah, right, State is a good comparison. They lost in the first round of the NCAA's. We won consistently throughout the whole season.

AL: Consistency! The only thing we have done consistently is find a way to lose the ACC and NCAA tournament every year since 1982. My half-court jumper is more consistent than that.

BILLY: Good Grief, you're more spoiled than Webster. We can't win every so-called big game for fans like you who think all Dean has to do is push a button and it is an automatic in the "W" column. We've made the final 16 for the past seven years and you still whine. Most teams rejoice in just making the tournament at all.

AL: Well, the way I see it, when you have rocks to fight with, you should beat somebody that has water balloons. We have had as much talent as anybody, and we certainly

Patton McDowell In Your Face

have one of the best, if not the best, coach in the land.

BILLY: Oh, so Syracuse is a water balloon? How about Louisville last year? I don't recall the Cardinals' balloon ever bursting, or Villanova's the year before. Losing to the national champion two years in a row is not exactly folding to Navy on your home court, like Syracuse did last year, or losing to Austin Peay in the first round, ala Illinois a few weeks ago.

AL: How about in 1983 when we had Jordan and Perkins and we lost to a tremendously less-talented Indiana team when some guy named Dan Dakitch shuts down Jordan? I'd say that calls for the Heimlich maneuver or something.

BILLY: How about we had a bad game? The guys are great players, but they are human. Only one team can go all the way in this day and age, and there are quite a few, given the right fortunes, that could go all the way. Lets compare UNC to Jordan for example. He can arguably beat anyone in the NBA in one-on-one. But if he played 30 of the leagues best, someone could probably get him on a bad day. It might

be Dominique Wilkins, or it might be Dave Corzine. Stranger things have happened in the realm of sports.

AL: Call it what you like, I still think the Tar Heels need to take smaller bites and chew their food better. Dean must not motivate the players enough. We play like we are afraid to lose, almost like robots.

BILLY: Robots? You look like a robot. I'd say the 70 points we scored down at Clemson in the second half was hardly robotic. The second game against Notre Dame was like a Mardi Gras when J.R. slammed twice in the last minute. Just because Dean does not do ballet on the sideline and jump on the scorer's table to lead cheers doesn't mean he is not a motivator.

AL: Well, I guess I can wait until next year, but I don't know.

BILLY: Yeah, you probably don't know. Like Andy Warhol said, everybody has their 15 minutes to be famous; I guess our quarter-hour didn't come this year.

AL: Why don't you let Warhol stick to soup cans. We should be in New Orleans right now.

BILLY: I don't know where you should be, but as Jerry Tarkanian said, you have to be good and lucky. Hopefully, we saved all of the former, and will find a lot of the latter for next year.

AL: Yeah, next year.

NCAAs end season for UNC fencers

By LAURA GRIMMER
Staff Writer

Cris Kaiser and Nhi Lan Le, both foil fencers, led the Tar Heels as they finished 15th and 16th, respectively, at the NCAA Fencing Championships at Notre Dame this past weekend.

Sabre fencer Karl Elmore finished 21st and fellow sabremen Mike Vecchiolla was 30th. Epee fencer Pete Farquhar finished 21st.

Although both the men's and women's teams were represented at the tournament, neither of the teams earned berths as a whole.

"The women had beaten six of the teams that competed at Notre Dame in the regular season," Miller said. "The problem is that only two teams from the East got to go, and we have

a very strong conference.

"The NCAA has finally changed that rule, and so I'm certain the women will be going next year, without a doubt."

Elmore is the only North Carolina fencer who has competed in the nationals before, in 1985 and 1986. He finished 23rd and 20th then.

As far as NCAA team results go, the men finished 14th and the UNC women were 13th. According to the coaches' poll from En Garde magazine, the men were ranked 7th nationally and the women 8th.

"We will be losing three starters on the men's team — Karl, Mike, and Felix (Dover) — but we have some good depth coming back, especially in epee," Miller said.

"The women won't be as hurt by graduation," he said.

Le is the only UNC starter that will leave, but an absence will be felt by departing seniors Tracy Troutman and Lisa Lambert, who contributed strongly to the Tar Heel reserves, Miller said.

"I think the team fulfilled its expectations for the season," he said. "I'm very proud of the way we fenced at the nationals, and I think we've got an even better chance next year. We'll be returning with more experience, which is invaluable in a sport like fencing."

Lax faces No. 2 Terrapins

By LANGSTON WERTZ
Staff Writer

The final weekend in March is annually a busy sports weekend and 1987 is no exception. From hoops to lacrosse this sporting weekend will provide variety and spice enough for even the most demanding sports enthusiast.

You know all about the Final Four. Back on the homefront, the UNC men's tennis team takes to the court against Presbyterian College on Saturday and the Cavaliers of Virginia Sunday at the UNC Tennis Center. Match times are 1:30 p.m. both days.

The Tar Heel baseball team opened its grueling ACC schedule this week and continues this weekend against Duke in Durham on Saturday. On Sunday arch-rival N.C. State will be at Boshamer to try to put a stop to the hot Tar Heels. The Tar Heels have won nine straight contests.

Just as the baseball team is on a streak, so is the UNC softball team. The 1987 team has avoided injuries and won its way to a 13-3 record.

Following Monday's 5-0, 9-7 double-dip sweep over Ohio, second-year coach Donna Papa has the Tar Heels in high gear. This weekend Papa would like to see the Tar Heels go into overdrive when they face East Carolina in a double-header Saturday.

Tar Heel tracksters will be in action this weekend in the ACC Relays in Raleigh. The UNC gymnasts will host N.C. State and Maryland at the ACC Invitational Saturday at 7 p.m. in Carmichael Auditorium. The Tar Heel golfers will be participating in the Iron Duke Classic in Durham this weekend and the UNC Water Polo squad will host the 1987 Spring Tar Heel Invitational in Koury Natatorium.

Finally, the top two lacrosse teams in the land will square off Saturday as UNC's defending champion takes on Maryland. Both the Tar Heels and the Terrapins are 5-0 and UNC coach Willie Scroggs is wary of the Terps. "I think Maryland may be the best team in the country right now. . . . They're big, strong and very deep," he said. The showdown will start at 2 p.m. at Maryland's Byrd Stadium.

Hoog sparkles in baseball's 5-3 win

By JAMES SUROWIECKI
Sports Editor

Forget the Police. After the UNC baseball team played Duke Thursday at Boshamer Stadium, the Tar Heels were driven not to tears, but to smiles. Sparked by three solo home runs and a sparkling performance on the mound by freshman Michael Hoog, UNC picked up its tenth win in a row by knocking off the Blue Devils, 5-3.

The Tar Heels upped their record to 14-6 overall, 2-0 in the ACC, while Duke fell to 12-8-1 and 0-1.

This was the first time since the Dixie Classic that UNC was tested by a close game. The Tar Heels banged out just four hits on the day, but three of those were homers, and they then manufactured two runs out of the raw materials of speed and some sloppy Duke fielding.

The five runs were enough for Hoog, who went seven and 2/3 strong innings en route to his third win of the year, against no losses. Hoog threw 103 pitches, nearly all

of them fastballs and curves, and if his tosses broke no speed records, they kept the Blue Devils off stride all afternoon.

"I was pleased with the fact that I got a lot of ground balls," the husky southpaw said. "But I could have spotted the ball a little better. I'll remember this one for a long time."

Hoog's memory of his first ACC win will no doubt include the terrific performance by his mound opponent, righthander Kent Hetrick. Hetrick looked, if anything, better than Hoog, at least after the first three innings. He went the distance, striking out seven and giving up only the aforementioned four hits. But the trouble he got into early was still around, an omnipresent spectre, late.

In the first inning, Hetrick gave up back-to-back homers to shortstop Darin Campbell and first baseman Howard Freiling. Campbell's blow, his seventh of the season, was a fluke, as it glanced off the left fielder's glove and over the fence. But there was nothing fluky about Freiling's shot,

his ninth on the year, which was a simply awesome bomb to right center.

Chris DeFranco followed Freiling's sky steps in the second inning with his first homer of the year. Steve Mrowka turned a walk into a run in the third. And although Hetrick seized control of the game after that, the damage was done.

Duke made a run at the Tar Heels and scored two runs in the third when freshman Doug Eastman trickled a single down the right field line. In the eighth, the Blue Devils scored once and had men on first and third with two outs when UNC coach Mike Roberts called on fireman Doug Torborg. Torborg doused the rally by getting Bob Calamari to ground to second, and closed out the ninth to garner his second save of the year.

So Thursday, at least, the Tar Heels could sing a song of victory. And with Hoog on the mound, it probably sounded something like we can't, we can't, we can't stand losing.

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