

# Sports

## No. 1! — The anatomy of a national champion

By CHRISTINA FROHOCK  
Staff Writer

Sports, as any other experience, has an outside and an inside. Behind the outer spectacle of the final score, location and hype are the inside thoughts of many athletes.

On May 29, 1989, Syracuse and Johns Hopkins met in a final lacrosse game to decide the Division I national championship. Syracuse won, 13-12, as recorded by sports writers and seen by fans everywhere. Yet the victorious players saw the contest from the inside, in ways only the athletes themselves can.

The 11-1 Orangemen entered the

Final Four as defending champions and the number-one seed. Some fans thought these accomplishments would make the Syracuse players a bit arrogant. They were right.

Brian Tully, a sophomore defenseman for Syracuse, said he may have been overly confident in his team. "I was a little cocky going into the championship game," Tully said. "I didn't see anybody beating us. I wasn't even thinking what would happen if we lost."

This sense of inevitable victory was common among Tully's teammates.

"By winning the championship last year, a lot of guys felt it was going to be automatic," said Rob Persing, a

senior defenseman. "Next year the attitude will be even worse. We'll figure we can't lose — which we can, because it was proven in the first game of this season against Hopkins."

Oh, yes, Johns Hopkins — currently one of the three dominant lacrosse teams in the nation, along with Syracuse and North Carolina, and the only loss for Syracuse in two years.

The Syracuse-Hopkins battle in the 1989 final proved fascinating for everyone from diehard lacrosse disciples to the most casual fans.

Could the Orangemen avenge their regular-season loss to Hopkins and capture the national title all in one af-

ternoon? Syracuse head coach Roy Simmons would rather not have found out.

"We had beaten Carolina (who lost to Hopkins in the semifinals) this year quite convincingly, so it wasn't the intense contest that Hopkins was," Simmons said. "As a coach, I would have felt more comfortable playing Carolina in that they would have been more intimidated."

But Simmons knew his players had different thoughts. They wanted a Syracuse-Hopkins encounter. "They got their wishes," Simmons said. "I didn't get mine, but I got mine in the end."

Simmons, known for his intensity

and fairness on the field, admitted to occasionally losing sight of the beauty of the game en route to a win.

"I always use the adage 'It doesn't matter if you win or lose — until you lose,'" Simmons said, smiling. "And the older I get the more I want to win. When the boys work as hard as they do, I don't want them to lose."

In tense moments this zest for victory can send any coach's imagination soaring, and Simmons' has gotten unusually creative. He told of an evil thought he had in the throes of the championship game.

"Paul and Gary Gait (two of Simmons' players) are identical twins,"

Simmons said. "When Gary, who set the national records, was so well-guarded by the number-one player on Hopkins and seemingly tied up and made ineffective, I thought about changing their jerseys at halftime. The Hopkins top man would then be guarding Paul, thinking he was guarding Gary. But, of course, I got a grip on myself and that didn't happen."

Simmons didn't need to add that such a switch would have been illegal and unethical, and might have cost him the game and his career.

As it turned out, the Orangemen  
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## UNC basketball will be better off without Reid

Dave Glenn  
Editor

Well, J.R. is officially a Hornet (it was a heckuva summer, wasn't it?), so now is as good a time as any to take a quick look at Dean Smith's 1989-90 Tar Heel basketball squad.

The bottom line is that the Tar Heels are going to be better, in the long run, without the enigmatic Reid clogging things up in the middle. And they'll be much better mentally and emotionally without the incredibly obvious ego clashes that were swept under the proverbial carpet by writers, coaches and players throughout last year's campaign — a successful one by most standards that ended sourly after a trip to the Sweet 16.

Now that politics and superegos can return to history and psychology classes

— where they belong — the Tar Heels can concentrate on passing, shooting, rebounding and defense once again.

With Reid gone, the ripple effect sheds new light on why, just maybe, the UNC coaching staff isn't all that upset about J.R. making the jump to play for pay:

\* Smith can now make better use of Scott Williams, the Tar Heels' best defender in the paint, on the court at the end of close games. Smith often avoided using Williams and Reid —

two low-post players — on the court at the same time. With Reid the number-one option offensively late in the game, that left the Tar Heels vulnerable at the defensive end.

\* The rebounding department, a glaring weakness for UNC last year, will welcome the addition of prep star George Lynch and more minutes from Pete Chilcutt. Reid never developed into the rebounder many thought he could be. Lynch, a 6-7 forward who'll grab a rebound as if it's his last meal, will add the concept of aggressiveness to the UNC rebounding routine. Chilcutt, a 6-9 rising junior, will add to his impressive rebounding totals as he gets additional minutes in the regular rotation.

\* With six recruits entering the UNC program, another year from Reid would have slowed the development of the newcomers. But Smith is certainly not facing a bare cupboard in the frontcourt.

Williams, Chilcutt, Rick Fox and Kevin Madden will be joined by freshmen Lynch, 7-1 Matt Wenstrom, 7-0 Kevin Salvadori and 6-7 Henrik Rodl. That's even crowded without Reid. If you had to figure in 35 minutes a game for him, you're looking at a year's worth of pine time for the rookies. But Salvadori (who, by the way, is still growing) faces a probable redshirt year to bulk up, and the sharpshooting Rodl will get most of his minutes at big guard. That leaves the Tar Heels with an excellent five-man frontcourt rota-

tion (Williams, Chilcutt, Fox, Madden and Lynch), with Wenstrom seeing spot duty at center.

\* While Reid toils in teal pinstripes in Charlotte, taking the aforementioned history and psychology with him, his old UNC team might make a quantum leap in another area of academia — chemistry. In the "sports chemistry" sense, that is. It's probably listed as the fourth or fifth entry in Webster's. It goes something like this: chemistry n. — a natural, fluid blend of the separate components of a complex mixture, creating a most efficient and balanced composition and structure.

OK, so I made it up, but you get the idea. Now the Tar Heels can run and play defense the way the coaching staff

wanted them to at the beginning of last year. Up-tempo offense, pressure defense. Not Reid's strongest suits. But the best formula for winning in college basketball today, especially if you have the players to go with it. The Tar Heels finally do.

The biggest question marks for the Tar Heels in 1989 are in the backcourt, where the losses of Jeff Lebo and Steve Bucknall are sure to be felt early and often.

Rodl will help here, competing with Hubert Davis for the starting spot at shooting guard. Rarely does a freshman start for UNC, but Rodl is not your regular freshman. He is considered one of the best basketball players in all of Europe. A graduate of Chapel Hill High School in 1988, Rodl has played the last two years on a West German club team, the highest level of competition in his native country.

He also started for the West German Olympic team last year. In other words, he is one freshman who will not be in awe of ACC basketball next year.

King Rice will be the man on the spot in 1989. Will he have an outside shot? Will he finally create some easy shots for his teammates? How will he respond to the leadership responsibilities that come with being the "first-string quarterback" for the first time at UNC? How the answers to these questions develop over the course of the season will go a long way toward determining how far this Tar Heel team can go in 1990.

Of course, it's tough to bet against any team that has a Rice at the controls. Notre Dame quarterback Tony Rice led the Fighting Irish to the national championship of college football a year ago. Ditto Glen Rice and the Michigan Wolverines, who sent the Tar Heels reeling in the NCAA tournament in March on the way to the college hoops title. Then there's San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice, who sparked the Niners to a Super Bowl victory in January.

Maybe it's destiny, with the King and his Tar Heel court coming in at number four on the Rice Parade. Then again, there's that fateful saying about how good things happen in threes.

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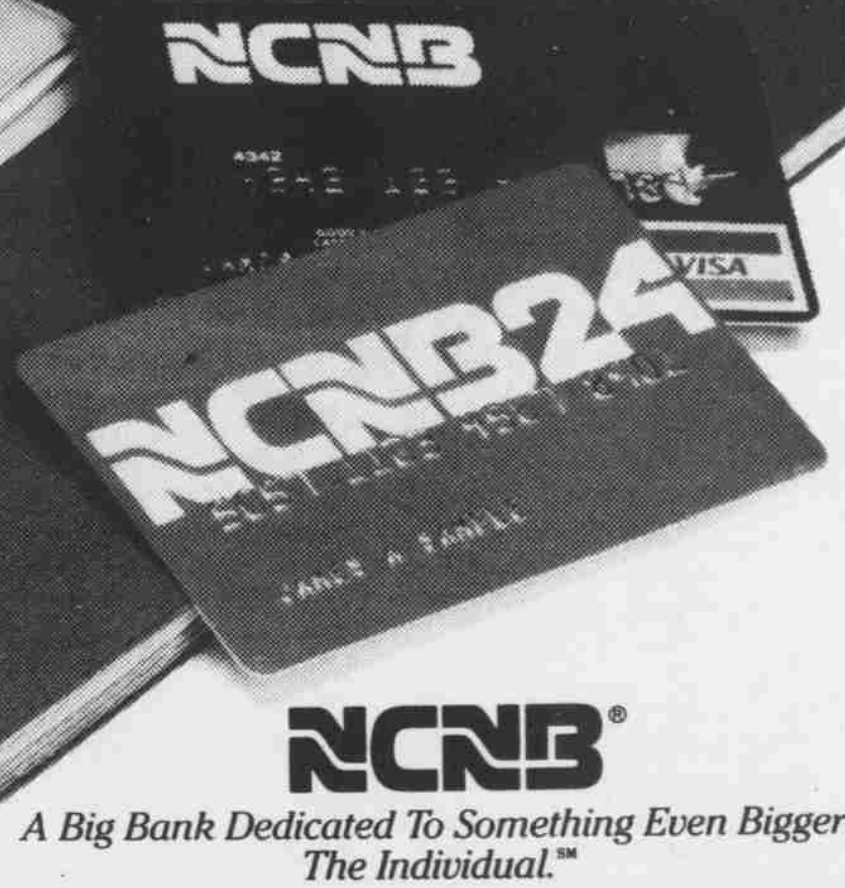
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For more information contact: Office of NC Fellows/Leadership Development, Division of Student Affairs CB# 5100 01 Steele Building 966-4041

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