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SPORTS

## Baseball in 1992: Will colossal cash lessen motivation?

As February nears its end, Florida and Arizona baseball fields begin filling up. Major-league baseball players, preparing for a new season, start tossing and fielding and swinging.

Ah, the birth of another baseball season. Players anxiously await opening day. They hit the field, the batting cage and the weights to get in top shape. Another year means another chance to push themselves to the limit and to fulfill diamond dreams.

That, at least, is the way it is supposed to be.

Baseball is changing in 1992, and changing fast. The increased revenue that the sport has taken in, most of it from television, has triggered soaring salaries. From the superb to the sub-par, baseball players are in the money.

So the question is: What will happen to the drive to excel? Will players still go all-out, trying to be the best, when mediocrity is likely to make them rich?

A mediocre player can easily take in a six-figure salary today. If that player is a pitcher or a catcher — positions

**Warren Hynes**  
Ass't Sports Editor

where even mediocrity is in demand — becoming a millionaire is commonplace.

Take Kevin Brown, for example. Last year, this Texas Rangers pitcher had a 9-12 record and a 4.40 earned run average — both far-from-fantastic numbers. Saturday, a salary arbitrator awarded Brown \$1.2 million for this season.

Or take Doug Drabek. This Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher went 22-6 two years ago and was rewarded with a \$3.35 million contract last season. He went on to post a 15-14 record last year, a most visible drop in performance. Yet, Drabek was rewarded with a \$1.15 million raise this week, his salary now at \$4.5 million for the coming year.

Baseball is and shall remain a business. It is no longer a game that over-aged kids just play for the heck of it. Yet, there is still something inherently wrong with the present situation.

Baseball is a sport that ties itself closely to being what America stands for. It is wrong that the sport is at a point where not even coming close to one's potential is deemed sufficient by management. At a time when the motivation of American workers faces global criticism, a lack of such drive in North American baseball is not needed.

For baseball is an occupation that Americans still execute better than anyone else. And baseball would only help Americans by staying that way.

As for those players who are not Americans, uninspired play would have much the same result: embarrassing one's native country.

Fans will also be turned off by sloppy play, particularly from men who have become rich during a recession. And without fans, there is no business. Thus, if the players do not take care of the sport, the fans will, in essence, stop taking care of the players.

Major-league baseball players, rich men or not, know what hard work is. However fat their wallets become, they must maintain a solid work ethic.

The business/sport/tradition of baseball is riding on it.

**Mets' Cone scoops up millions**

**The Associated Press**  
NEW YORK — David Cone won a record \$4.25 million in arbitration against the New York Mets Tuesday.

Arbitrator Nicholas Zumas, who presided over Monday's 5 1/2-hour hearing, picked the pitcher's figure instead of the team's \$3-million offer.

Cone was 14-14 with a 3.29 ERA last season and made \$2.35 million. His new salary tops the \$3.35 million awarded in arbitration last winter to Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Doug Drabek.

## Team USA skates to Olympic final 4

**The Associated Press**  
MERIBEL, France — In an aggressive contest marred by light fighting after the final horn, the U.S. Olympic hockey team downed host country France 4-1 Tuesday night, moving within one victory of a shot at the gold medal.

The United States (5-0-1) advanced to Friday's semifinal against the winner of Wednesday's Finland-Unified Team game. The Americans, assured of no worse than a fourth-place finish, are in the Olympic medal round for the first time since winning the 1980 gold medal.

America's Ted Donato broke open a 1-1 game in the second period, scoring twice in a 3:16 span. Donato also assisted on a third-period goal by Marty McInnis.

U.S. goalie Ray LeBlanc continued his outstanding net work, making 35 saves. He has allowed only eight goals in 18 periods of play.

**Tomba storms to center stage**

**VAL D'ISERE, France** — Tomba! Tomba! Tomba!

It was the cheer that rang through Val d'Isere, and also the number of gold medals Alberto Tomba has now won in the Winter Olympics.

"Congratulations, Alberto. Thanks very much, me," said the man who proclaimed himself the messiah of ski-

## Wrestlers wreck Duke UNC rips Devils 35-0 in Carmichael

By Dave Heiser  
Staff Writer

Duke should have known from the first match that it was in for a long night.

North Carolina's 14th-ranked wrestling team flat-out dominated Duke 35-0 Tuesday night in Carmichael Auditorium. UNC moved to 14-5, 4-2 in the ACC. The Blue Devils fell to 8-6 on the year.

UNC senior Jeff Vasquez, in his final home meet, set the tone in the first matchup of the night with a 22-6 technical fall at 118 pounds. The win gave UNC a 5-0 lead that just grew and grew.

Tar Heel head coach Bill Lam was pleased to see Vasquez come up with a solid win. The senior has spent much of his career wrestling behind Doug Wyland, a two-time All-American at 118 pounds, and Ty Moore, last year's ACC runner-up at that level.

"I'm real happy for Jeff," Lam said. "He's added a lot to our team. He did a good job."

The Blue Devils had their best shot at winning a match in the second pairing of the meet. Moore, ranked fifth nationally at 118, could muster only a 2-1 victory against Duke's Mike Darlington at 126 pounds. Moore has now won 15 consecutive matches.

For the majority of the night, though, Duke was never close. Jody Staylor won his match 12-1 at 134, and senior Pete Welch notched a 13-1 victory at 167. If you added up the total points from all the night's matches, the Tar Heels outscored the Blue Devils 103-29.

Lam said he was unsure going into

the match whether or not UNC could dominate like it did.

"The kids did a good job," he said. "Wrestling's a funny thing. Sometimes you can get momentum going and there can be a lot of close scores, but the team score makes it look real lopsided."

The coaching staffs for both teams added some excitement to the evening by arguing back and forth at each other in between taking verbal jabs at the referee. Duke head coach Bill Harvey repeatedly questioned the officiating, several times coming out onto the mat. UNC's Lam then proceeded to tell Harvey to kindly remove himself from the playing surface.

At one point in Staylor's match, Blue Devil Lenny LoCastro was throwing several elbows. Staylor responded with a vicious Tar Heel takedown, causing Duke's assistant coach to yell out, "Don't take that from him!" Lam quickly responded, "If you don't like it, don't elbow him!"

There were also several points in the match where North Carolina appeared to have pinned some of its opponents, but the referee's arm would not come down.

"I thought we had a fall at 158, and I thought we had them on their backs at another place," Lam said. "When it's said and done, you can't change it much."

Other winners for the Tar Heels included Dave Leonardis (142), Reid Monaghan (150), Dean Moscovic (158), Shane Camera (177), Todd Hartung (190) and Scott Greenberg (heavyweight).

Saturday, the Tar Heels travel to Lynchburg, Va., to face Liberty.

## Tar Heels hope to avoid Cavalier attitude vs. UVA.

By Bobby McCroskey  
Staff Writer

On the surface, North Carolina's twilight tilt tonight (9 p.m., ESPN) at Charlottesville, Va., may seem like an easy game for the Tar Heels.

After all, they pasted the Cavaliers, 77-56, when the teams played Jan. 25 in the Smith Center. UNC has taken the last four meetings between the teams, including a 3-0 sweep last season.

The Tar Heels enter the game at 18-3, 8-2 in the ACC, while the Cavaliers limp in at 11-10, 4-6 in the conference.

Add UNC's five-game winning streak, beginning with the win versus UVA, and Virginia's two-game losing skid, both losses coming to conference foes.

Doesn't sound like it's going to be much of a contest, does it?

One person stands in the way of that thought — Bryant Stith.

The 6-foot-5 senior forward has been a first-team All-ACC selection the last two seasons and is likely to garner that honor again this year.

Stith has scored more than 20 points in eight games this season, including a season-high 40 in a win against N.C. State in Raleigh. He averages 19.9 points per game, 21.2 against ACC opponents.

As Stith goes, so go the Cavaliers.

"Bryant Stith is a great player, so we'll want to know where he is throughout the game," said UNC head coach Dean Smith. "We have a great respect for him. He's so quick inside, and he can draw fouls."

"One of our goals is not to let him get to foul line. We hope we can limit the number of times he can shoot the ball. We're not going to put all our guys on Stith and let someone else shoot."

The Wahoos traditionally play a tough game against the Tar Heels in Charlottesville, with two of their last three wins versus UNC coming at University Hall. Last Jan. 12, North Carolina needed two overtimes to dispose of

**Men's Basketball**

Today, 9 p.m., Charlottesville, Va.

the Cavaliers, 89-86.

But this year's Virginia team is missing a key component from the squad that was able to compete with UNC last year — John Crotty.

A gritty point guard, Crotty scored 63 points in three games against the Tar Heels last season. But Crotty is gone.

In his place at point guard is freshman Cory Alexander, who is averaging almost 11 ppg this year. Alexander's job is to get Stith the ball. Alexander has not shown the scoring ability of Crotty, but did score 22 points against both Notre Dame and N.C. State.

Senior Anthony Oliver joins Alexander in the backcourt. Tar Heel fans may recall Oliver's 23-point performance two years ago in Virginia's last win over UNC, a 92-85 overtime victory in the opening round of the ACC Tournament.

Junior center Ted Jeffries and freshman forward Junior Burrough team with Stith in the frontcourt. Jeffries averages five points a game, but grabs about seven rebounds. Burrough is the team's second-leading scorer at almost 13 ppg.

UNC's head coach is concerned that Virginia's inside game could give his Tar Heels trouble.

"Virginia jammed Eric (Montross) inside last time," Smith said. "Fortunately, that's not all of our offense."

North Carolina has a definite advantage in depth. UVA has no substitute averaging more than 10 ppg. Consequently, the team's starters are all averaging at least 22 minutes a game.

UNC should win this game, but it must be careful not to look past this contest to Saturday's sure-to-be-emotional battle with N.C. State. If the Tar Heels do look beyond the Cavs, they could have a long night in Charlottesville.

## Team USA skates to Olympic final 4

ing before winning giant slalom and slalom titles four years ago in Calgary.

His record is near-perfect — four Olympic races entered, three Olympic races won. And Tuesday, he added history to his legend at the Winter Games.

The flashy Italian with the playboy's looks and linebacker's body became the first Alpine skier to win the same event at two different Olympics.

Captured? Maybe that's the wrong word. When Tomba finished his assault on La Face de Bellevard, there were no prisoners.

He had the fastest time in each of the two runs. After beating Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli by .32 seconds, Tomba coasted over to his gang of fans at the finish area, dropped to his knees in salute, and raised both arms in the air. The Tombamaniacs waved Italian flags, blew horns and chanted their hero's name. It looked like Times Square on New Year's Eve.

Albertoville? Is that what he once said these games should be called?

"Now, you can call it Tombaville," he said.

The 25-year-old Tomba had a time of 1 minute, 45.77 seconds in the first run and 1:02.41 in the second for a combined time of 2:06.98.

He has won seven World Cup races this year and has 26 in his career. But

this was the Olympics, and even Tomba admitted he felt the pressure as he sequestered himself in Sestriere in the Italian Alps to train.

"Is this the Olympics? Have I won a medal? Where am I?" Tomba asked.

In Italian, his name means tomb. In skiing, that's where the others' gold-medal hopes wind up.

Up next for Tomba is Saturday's defense of his slalom title. In 1994, he'll be back at the Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. After that, who knows.

"I am busy with skiing right now (but) I would like to play the role of Rambo in adventure movies, and even a comic role," Tomba said, mentioning that Sylvester Stallone had talked with him and promised to visit soon.

**Jansen 26th in 1,000-meter race**

**ALBERTVILLE, France** — Dan Jansen stood up — but his time did not.

Jansen, the early leader after two of the four splits, had a bad last lap and finished today's Olympic 1,000-meter speedskating in 1 minute, 17.34 seconds, well out of medal contention.

He was the slowest of the four Americans and 26th among the 45 finishers. Germany's Olaf Zinke won the gold.

Said Jansen: "I felt I had a chance to do it and obviously I did, but it wasn't to be."