

Coming Saturday

- Off the Porch with Dick Jones
- Duke-Maryland recap

SPORTS

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CALENDAR

TODAY

BASEBALL
Trinity
@ E. Davidson
4:30 p.m.

GOLF
SW Guilford
@ Ledford
3:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL
Reagan
@ E. Davidson
4 p.m.

SOFTBALL
Davie
@ Ledford
4:30 p.m.

TENNIS
E. Davidson
@ Trinity
4 p.m.

TENNIS
Ledford
@ C. Davidson
4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

BASEBALL
E. Davidson
@ Randleman
5 p.m.

BASEBALL
W. Davidson
@ Ledford
4:30 p.m.

TENNIS
Ledford
@ Salisbury
4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

BASKETBALL
Region 7 Title
Montgomery
@ DCCC
3 p.m.

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Storm ready for Gryphons

Winner earns trip to national tournament

BY ZACH KEPLEY
Sports Editor

Davidson County Community College should have a pretty good vibe going into Saturday's



Ridge

Region 7 District Championship game with Montgomery College-Germantown (Md.).

After all, every goal the team set before the season began has come to fruition.

Goal No. 1 was to get better every day, which has obviously been accomplished with the Storm having won 20 straight. Next on the list was to win 20-plus games — check. Then the goal was to win the Region X conference regular season championship and the regional tournament — check again.

Davidson has already accomplished more this season than any of the previous two DCCC teams, but are not satisfied, and there just happens to be two more goals left to accomplish — winning the district game and going to the national tournament in Delhi, NY.

Sitting 28-4 on the season, it appears the Storm are saving their best basketball for the end. Coach Matt Ridge at least hopes



Zack Williams (above) along with Eric Potts and Kimani Hunt will have their hands full trying to contain 6-8 center Jonathan Taylor of Montgomery College-Germantown.

TIMES PHOTO/LARRY MATHIS

they are after being asked if the team is playing at its highest level.

"Can I answer that after Saturday?," he said jokingly. "Going into this game I would say yes. I wish I had some sort of magical formula to where I could get my guys to peak at the end of the year every year. For

whatever reason, this team has a will to win on game night. This team refuses to lose."

They might need to play their best and then some with an extremely talented Gryphon team set to visit Brinkley Gym Saturday at 3.

"They are extremely athletic and are going to

try and beat us off the bounce," said Ridge. "We have got to not get beat off dribble penetration."

As good as the guard play is for the Gryphons, it is the post that may trouble the Storm the most. Montgomery has 6-8 center Jonathan Tay-

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ON NASCAR



CATHY ELLIOTT
NASCAR Columnist

Oval of life: Farewell to a legend, hello to fatherhood

It seems ironic that as NASCAR is preparing to race at perhaps its most modern, contemporary track of all — Las Vegas Motor Speedway — one of the most significant events that occurred in the sport during the week leading up to the race focused not on the NASCAR's present, but on its past.

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, 73-year-old J.C. Elder — "Suitcase Jake" — passed away.

Newer NASCAR fans may not know much, if anything, about Suitcase Jake Elder. In the days before celebrity crew chiefs like Chad Knaus and Greg Zipadelli were representing their team sponsors in national television commercials, Elder was hunkered down in America's garages, interacting with a chassis rather than a camera lens.

His third-grade education might not have allowed for much of a detailed explanation about NASCAR telemetry; Rusty Wallace once described his tool box as being filled with "so much prehistoric stuff that it was unreal." Elder ground out speed the old-fashioned way, by getting his hands dirty.

And he was very, very good at it. The long list of drivers he helped get to Victory Lane includes Darrell Waltrip, Fred Lorenzen, Benny Parsons.

He was Mario Andretti's crew chief when Andretti won the 1967 Daytona 500, and David Pearson's crew chief when the "Silver Fox" — NASCAR does love its nicknames — won back to back Sprint Cup Series championships in 1968 and '69.

The man who acquired his nickname thanks to a reputation for being somewhat of a NASCAR job hopper also worked with Dale Earnhardt for a while, helping "The Intimidator" win NASCAR Sprint Cup Rookie of the Year honors in 1979. In fact, his character was even featured briefly in the 2004 ESPN original movie "3: The Dale Earnhardt Story."

The famous names the sport is built on were propped up, gassed up and sped up by Suitcase Jake Elder. He has left

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ACC HOOPS

Tar Heel seniors go out with win

BY BRIANA GORMAN
Durham Herald Sun

CHAPEL HILL — Before each senior night, North Carolina coach Roy Williams points to each underclassmen in the locker room and tells them it is their responsibility to make sure the seniors go out on a high note.

But Tuesday's game

against Miami went a little differently.

"I put pressure on the underclassmen to take care of the older guys, and today the older guys took care of themselves," Williams said.

Fifth-year senior Marcus Ginyard recorded his first double-double in a Tar Heel uniform — 12 points and 12 rebounds — and senior

Deon Thompson added 14 points, despite playing just 24 minutes because of a back injury, to lead UNC past Miami 69-62 at the Smith Center for the 2,000th win in the program's history.

UNC is just the second school to reach 2,000 wins as Kentucky became the first to reach the milestone on Dec. 21, 2009.

The victory also guaranteed that the Tar Heels (16-14, 5-10 ACC) will finish the regular season above .500 overall, and they still have a shot at an NIT berth.

It was the first time UNC has won back-to-back games since beating Rutgers on Dec. 28 and Albany on Dec. 30.

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2010 BASEBALL PREVIEW



COMING NEXT WEEK

DCCC game to stream live on Internet

TIMES STAFF REPORT

For the first time, DCCC's District Championship game with Montgomery College-Germantown (Md.) will be available live via streaming video on the College website at www.davidsonccc.edu. A Storm athletic logo icon will appear on the home page shortly before the scheduled 3 p.m. tipoff. Viewers should click on the icon to view game action live. It will be ac-

cessible throughout the game.

"We are excited to offer this opportunity to view the game for fans unable to attend in person," said Storm Athletic Director Kenneth Kirk. "However, we encourage supporters to pack Brinkley Gym and cheer the Storm to another victory and the possibility for our first trip to the national tournament."

There is no admission charge.