SPORTS

Davis taken 13th by Raptors

BY BRIANA GORMAN Durham Herald Sun

Ed Davis became North Carolina's 40th firstround draft pick when the Toronto Raptors took him 13th overall, while the 2010 national champions, Duke, had no players selected during Thursday's NBA Draft.

Davis, a 6-10, 225-pound forward, averaged 9.2 points and 7.7 rebounds in two seasons in Chapel Hill. He was the Tar Heels' leading rebounder (9.6 per game) and second leading scorer (13.4 per game) last year, despite missing the final 13 games with a broken bone in his left wrist.

Davis, who was the 97th Tar Heel to be drafted, is known primarily for his defense and shot blocking skills as he finished his collegiate career with 129 blocked shots.

Davis was in Madison Square Garden in New York for the NBA Draft and was all smiles when commissioner NBA David Stern called his name.

"My favorite player, Chris Bosh, went [to Toronto] so they're a young

TROUBLE

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team, they play fast ... so I think it's a good fit," he told ESPN Davis after being drafted.

Davis' father, Terry, who spent 10 seasons in the NBA, also was in New York and told ESPN he needed to update his passport so he could go see his son play.

"Like I told him, just enjoy your moment, work hard and God will take care of the rest," Terry

Two other ACC players were drafted before Davis, as Georgia Tech's Derrick Favors was selected No. 3 overall by the New Jersey Nets, and Wake Forest's Al-Farouq Aminu was taken by the Los Angeles Clippers with the eighth pick.

The Portland Trail Blazers took former Duke player Elliot Williams, who transferred to Memphis after the 2008-09 season to be closer to his ill mother, with the No. 22

Clemson's Trevor Booker was the first senior drafted — it was the latest a senior has ever gone — when the Minnesota Timberwolves took him 23rd overall. The Wolves

then traded the rights to Booker to the Wizards for Washington's 30th and 35th picks.

ACC player of the year Greivis Vasquez saw his decision to return to Maryland for the 2009-10 season after testing the NBA waters a year ago pay off as he was the fifth and final ACC player taken in the first round when the Memphis Grizzlies took him with the 28th pick.

"This is a great opportunity for me, and Memphis will be great for me," Vasquez told ESPN after giving Stern a big hug after his name was announced. "I just can't wait to get to training camp and work hard."

Just three ACC players were taken in the second round. Georgia Tech's Gani Lawal was taken 46th overall by the Phoenix Suns, and the Dallas Mavericks took Florida State's Solomon Alabi with the 50th pick. Alabi was later traded to the Raptors, where he will join Davis. The Indiana Pacers took the Seminoles' Ryan Reid with the 57th selection.

I knew we were gonna have to make big adjustments from last night to tonight," said Shore. "He

rose to occasion, as the crafty left-hander struck out the next three he would face to escape further damage.

Baughman would give up one more home run to Fultz in the eighth, but other than the two mistakes, he was dazzling striking out nine and

giving up five hits. "He is their ace and threw a lot of off-speed stuff and hit his spots."

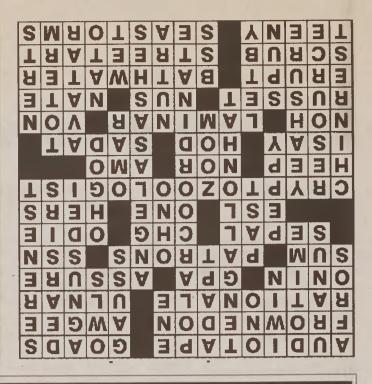
Post 45 had scored four more in the eighth to blow the game wide open. In the ninth, Post 87 grabbed a run on the Randolph bullpen, but had no significant push in them to climb back.

The Junior HiToms have a huge game at Burlington-Graham today, a team that is in a virtual tie with Post 87 at 9-4 in the league. A win in that game could still give High Point the league title with 3-10 Winston-Salem the only other team remaining on the schedule.

"It (league) is still in our hands — we just need to go win on Saturday." Shore said. "We have never won a regular season title before, and that is very important to me as a coach and I hope that is important to them."

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ROAR

June 23. And June 24. Still, it's safe to say that most of us felt some sense of outrage at the poor officiating we have seen in the World Cup, then that swell of patriotism when the U.S. team came back and won anyway, and when a tennis match that broke every imaginable record was won by a guy from Greensboro, N.C. And just to add a little more icing to an already tasty cake, Lord Stanley's Cup is currently living in Chicago rather than somewhere in Canada.

Still, when you think of all-American sports, it's hard to find a better example than NASCAR.

Former President of the United States Lyndon Johnson once described the state of the union as "free and restless, growing and full of hope."

When you think about it, it isn't too much of a stretch to apply these same phrases to race teams. There is a certain degree of restlessness inherent in any NASCAR garage, where the search for that extra thousandth of a second, that additional quarter inch of distance, never ceases. The sport is constantly growing, geographically and technologically, as well as in popularity.

That perpetual restlessness and growth,

combined with the freedom to experiment (within certain limits, of course!) and the final ingredient — hope — paints a pretty representative picture of a NASCAR team.

Like the place of its birth, NASCAR is an upstart, a rough-and-tumble contest made up of equal parts determination, talent and pure grit. Mechanics, sponsors, crew members, equipment and a lone driver are melded together into a large group that somehow functions efficiently, and sometimes even brilliantly, as a single unit.

Oh, they'll fight and bicker and publicly snipe at one another, but let Jeff Gordon need help — real help — and all those guys he basically ran over at Infineon Raceway on June 20 will queue up right along with everybody else to offer their assistance. NASCAR's individual states may have their little border skirmishes from time to time, but don't even think for a second they aren't united, because they are.

Where this is unity, there is always victory, and in the sports arena, stock car racing continues to be a proven winner, in every category you can think of.

In NASCAR's case, freedom not only rings — it roars.

Contact Elliott at cathyelliott@hotmail.com.

DADDY'S HOME

BY TONY RUBINO AND GARY MARKSTEIN









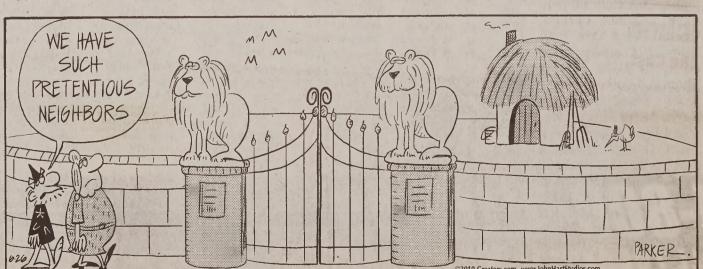
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