

## Coming This Week

- High School Basketball
- NJCAA College Hoops

## SPORTS

7

tvillesports@yahoo.com



## CALENDAR

## TODAY

BASKETBALL  
W. Davidson  
@ Ledford  
6 p.m.

SWIMMING  
E. Davidson  
@ CCC Meet  
3:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

BASKETBALL  
HP Andrews  
@ Thomasville  
6 p.m.

BASKETBALL  
Randleman  
@ E. Davidson  
6 p.m.

BASKETBALL  
Ledford  
@ C. Davidson  
6 p.m.

## THURSDAY

BASKETBALL  
Mt. Zion Prep  
@ DCCC  
7 p.m.

SWIMMING  
E. Davidson  
@ CCC Meet  
3:30 p.m.

WRESTLING  
Ledford  
@ Thomasville  
7:30 p.m.

WRESTLING  
E. Davidson  
@ SW Randolph  
7:45 p.m.

## FRIDAY

BASKETBALL  
Trinity  
@ E. Davidson  
6 p.m.

BASKETBALL  
N. Davidson  
@ Ledford  
6 p.m.

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## NCAA BASKETBALL

## Zeller helps lead Tar Heels by Kentucky

BY BRIANA GORMAN  
Durham Herald Sun

CHAPEL HILL — North Carolina's Tyler Zeller entered Saturday's postgame interviews with two cuts on his face, though the 7-footer hardly seemed to notice.

The wounds were the result of a career-day for Zeller who finished with 27 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks to help the Tar Heels hang on for a victory over the No. 10 Wildcats 75-73 at the Smith Center.

The Heels did not make a field goal in the final 6:46 but made 14 of 17 free throws — including 10 straight by Zeller — to pull out the win. UNC had entered the game shooting 61 percent from the free-throw line.

"Tonight was my night to be able to step up," Zeller said. "Every big game, you've got to have somebody that steps up. I'm not saying it's going to be me every time, but tonight was my night."

After losing three of seven games in November, including a loss at No. 20 Illinois

on Tuesday, UNC's Larry Drew II said he looked at the Kentucky game as a must-win situation. And in the second half the guard played like he did not want to lose.

Drew finished with seven points and four assists, but his defense helped hold Kentucky (5-2) to 30 percent shooting in the second half. He was on the floor directing the Tar Heels in the final tense minutes — UNC turned the ball over just three times in the second half — and hit two free throws with 20.9 to play to push UNC's lead to 72-69.

"It was an ugly win, but I'll take it," UNC coach Roy Williams said. "I loved our toughness going to the free throw line and making the free throws."

Sophomore John Henson also added a double-double (13 points, 12 rebounds) for UNC (5-3) but was not on the court in the final minutes because of his 35 percent free throw shooting.

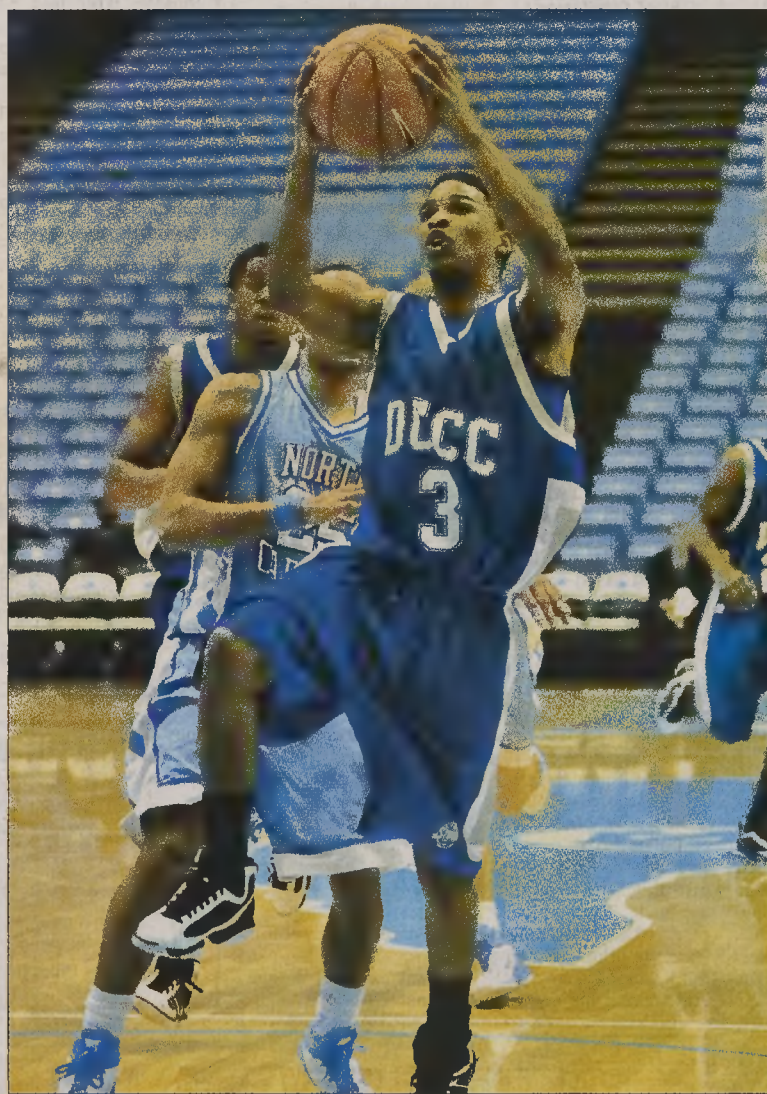
The Tar Heels trailed by as many as six in

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TIMES PHOTO/DAVID YEMM

John Henson had one of his best performances in a UNC jersey against the Wildcats.



TIMES PHOTO/DAVID YEMM

## STILL PERFECT

Chad Taylor and the Storm improved to 12-0 beating Oxford 91-58 on Saturday. Justin Glover had 26 points, Maurice Nash 18, James Robbins 14 and Kimani Hunt had 10.

## Duke, Carolina headline intriguing early hoops season

BY DANIEL KENNEDY  
Times Correspondent

March is still more than three months away, but the madness has already begun for college hoops fans.

NCAA basketball typically produces two months of competition one could sleep through without missing much meaningful action before Christmas, as the nation's top 25 teams often navigate easy schedules compiled of cream-puff opponents to pad their win-loss record. The 2010-2011 campaign, however, tipped off in mid-November with an uncustomary slate of games. In less than 30 days, 11 games between ranked opponents have already been played.

That number does not even include Saturday's premier showdowns that pitted North Carolina against fellow blueblood Kentucky and a rematch of the national championship game between Duke and Butler. The Tar Heels and Bulldogs were both unranked at the time of the contests.

The top-ranked Blue Devils account for two of the 11 ranked match-ups, as they have beaten preseason Final Four favorites Michigan State and Kansas State in the opening month. Through eight games, Duke has proven itself an early title frontrunner thanks to the play of dynamic freshman Kyrie Irving, who netted 31 points in the win over the Spartans.

On a team led by seniors Kyle Singler and Nolan Smith, the rookie has assumed the role of starting point guard as a platform to showcase his NBA talents. The Blue Devils also feature brothers Mason and Miles Plumlee as stalwarts in the post to replace the rebounds lost when former fixtures Lance Thomas and Brian Zoubek graduated.

One of the more low-profile additions Duke welcomed to the fold this year was

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## Big second half propels Blue Devils to win over Butler

BY STEVE WISEMAN  
Durham Herald Sun

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Here stood top-ranked Duke on Saturday, squaring off again with scrappy Butler and unable to pull away.

Early December is far from early April, yet the teams that battled for the 2010 NCAA men's basket-

ball championship appeared headed for a classic finish again.

With about 12 minutes to go, emotionally drained Duke found a little extra energy to make this win over Butler more comfortable.

A 12-point Blue Devils run opened up a lead, and Kyrie Irving's consecutive 3-pointers later put

away an 82-70 Duke win at the Izod Center.

"In the last 12 minutes, I thought we were very energetic," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, who earned career win No. 376 to catch Adolph Rupp for No. 3 on the all-time wins list. "Our defense picked up and it was a little bit more at the tempo we needed to

play."

Up to that point, the Devils seemed lethargic. Wednesday night's physically challenging 84-79 home win over No. 6 Michigan State appeared to drain them. The toll of playing, and winning, games in Kansas City and Portland, Ore., over the last two weeks was impacting them.

So the game plodded along the way Butler likes to play. With Kyle Singler in foul trouble and Duke's shots not falling, the score was tied 33-all at halftime and the Bulldogs led 44-42 when Chase Stigall scored on a baseline drive and reverse layup with 14:59 to

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