



North Carolina's Pat Sullivan gets ready to throw the ball inbounds after a thunderous standing ovation and an official welcome back from the Dean E. Smith Center message board in Thursday's ACC game with Clemson. The Tar Heels handed Clemson its 41st straight loss in Chapel Hill, 66-39.

## Another milestone for Dean

CHAPEL HILL - During an amazing career which has brought him to within two years of becoming the all-time winningest coach in NCAA history, North Carolina's Dean Smith has turned in some stellar performances on the sidelines.

But, perhaps, his best coaching performance is taking place this year.

With just six scholarship players on his team - and one of those on the sidelines most of the year - Smith achieved his 25th consecutive 20-win season in Thursday's 66-39 blowout of Clemson's Tigers at the Smith Center.

Smith, with an 822-233 mark in 34 seasons, is now just 54 wins shy of Kentucky legend Adolph Rupp's all-time record of 876. Rupp, incidentally, won 722 games in his first 34 seasons.

After an early 23-5 run by the Tar Heels, there was never any doubt that they would hand the Tigers their 41st consecutive loss in Chapel Hill and their 10th in a row in the Dean Dome. The most exciting part of the game - at least from the fans' standpoint - came when forward Pat Sullivan made his first appearance of the season following back surgery and a lengthy rehabilitation process. His entry into the game - and not the four points he scored - earned him a standing ovation from the sellout crowd of 21,572.

Donald Williams, hitting 9-of-12 field goals, including 6-of-9 from 3-point range, led the UNC assault with 24 points. Rasheed Wallace added 13 points and seven rebounds. The only bright spot for Clemson was Greg Buckner who scored 15 points in 20 minutes of action.

The victory would have catapulted the Tar Heels into first in the NCAA polls, but the Heels dropped a two-point decision to Virginia in Charlottesville Sunday as Harold Deane scored 28 points and hit the winning foul shot with 4.2 seconds remaining.

That loss, however, did nothing other than to throw the race for first place into a momentary three-way tie and once again prove that the ACC is the most-balanced league in the land.

The fact that UNC is among those three at top points out the excellent job Smith is doing this year. Even though he has a trio of super sophs, on paper Maryland and Virginia, and possibly even Wake Forest and Georgia Tech, are stronger. The Tar Heels have accomplished their 20-3 record with little depth. Smith has gotten maximum effort from reserves such as 7-2



GARY STEWART

Editor

Serge Zwickler, Morehead Scholar Pearce Landry, Ed Geth and freshman Shammond Williams to give super athletes such as Jerry Stackhouse, Jeff McGinnis, Rasheed Wallace and Donald Williams brief periods of rest.

Landry, who helped lead Greensboro Page to the 4-A state championship on the same night that Kings Mountain lost the 3-A state title game to D.H. Conley here in 1990, has progressed from a walk-on to one of the best sixth men in the country. His three-point field goal which Coach Bobby Cremins termed a "back breaker" sparked the Tar Heels to victory over Georgia Tech last Sunday.

"Pearce has played well for us all year," says Coach Smith. "I don't know where we would be without him. He is an excellent defender, can shoot the ball and is also a good rebounder for his size."

The loss of Sullivan in the preseason forced junior Dante Calabria into a starting role, and he has led the nation in 3-point accuracy most of the season. Sullivan's return will probably not relegate Calabria to a reserve role, but it will give the Tar Heels some more depth - and good depth at that - as they face the stretch run of the conference season and NCAA tournament play.

Zwickler, though not polished yet, gives Smith quality minutes off the bench, especially in a rebounding role, and although they're not getting in a lot of minutes now, Williams and Geth play valuable roles in the future.

Smith's teams have advanced to post-season play 28 straight years, including 24 trips to the NCAA Tournament, and Carolinas has reached the NCAA Tournament 20 years in a row - all records. As each win is counted over the next two seasons, the Dean of NCAA coaches inches closer and closer to being crowned king of NCAA coaching legends. It could happen in the NCAA tournament - and if players like Wallace and Stackhouse stick around, it could happen in the championship game!



SIGNS WITH CATAWBA - Kings Mountain High senior Christy Bridges signed to play volleyball with Catawba College Wednesday. Looking on, seated, are Christy's stepfather Jim White, left, and her mother, Wanda White. Standing are KMHS volleyball coach Diana Bridges and athletic director Phil Weathers. Christy is also the daughter of Ned Bridges of Gastonia.

## Connor expects good showing from baseball Mountaineers

Second-year Kings Mountain High baseball coach Nelson Connor says his Mountaineers can be much stronger than they were last year when they finished third in the Southwestern 3-A Conference and advanced to the state 3-A playoffs.

Although most observers rate South Point as the team to beat because of the pitching strength of Stephen Cowie, Connor says his Mountaineers are very talented and could be right in the thick of the battle.

Connor has 10 players back off last year's 10-11 team, including All-Conference catcher Kevin Melton and All-Conference outfielder Kenny Bridges. Connor agrees that Cowie is the best pitcher in the SWC, but he is quick to add that the second, third and fourth best could be his mound staff.

"Nine of our returning players are seniors," noted Connor, "and I expect major contributions from at least six of them. In any high school athletic competition that I've ever been associated with, I've found that you're as strong as your seniors. I have told them repeatedly that we can be as good as we want to be."

Connor says his players will be quick, very solid up the middle, and much improved defensively.

"The potential is there," he says. "Joe Morgan said potential means you haven't done anything yet and he's a Hall of Famer. But thus far in our workouts I have been extremely pleased by the spirit, enthusiasm and work ethic. I sense a lot of difference this year than last year when we had nobody coming back from the varsity who had played, and we had a new coach who was maybe too timid and indecisive at times. So I feel like I'm a lot more confident and encouraged than I was a year ago."

Connor, who is being assisted by his former high school teammate, Tony Leigh, along with volunteers Danny Denton and Terry Bullock, says it will be hard to fill the shoes of departing seniors Sharee Hopper, Michael Bell, Duane Patterson, Chris Hutchins and Nathan Champion. All five of them were starters and Hopper and Bell were All-Conference. But this year's talent is just as good.

The mound staff will include southpaw Robert Wingo, a senior who pitched in the state championship game his freshman year; Brian LeFevers, Bryan Leftwich, Cameron Falls and Sidney Bridges. Most - if not all - of them will be playing other positions when they're not on the mound.

The return of Melton gives the Mountaineers the best catcher in the conference. He injured his shoulder in American Legion baseball last summer and it doesn't seem to be affecting him thus far. But, just in case, Connor says Chris Burns, Chris Henderson and Josh Turbyfill will be capable replacements.

Others expecting to see a lot of action include big Mike Cobb, who is a good hitter and has excellent leadership qualities; first baseman Timmy Harrelson, infielders Wes Bridges and Tommy Morrow, and outfielders Darren Putnam, Trip Roark, Jeff Moses, Jeremy Oliver, Justin Champion and Rick Stimson.

Because of the recent weather, the Mountaineers have been able to practice outside only twice so Connor feels it will take a little longer for his hitting to come around. But when the Mountaineers open the season on March 14 at Crest, he said he definitely wants the defense to be ready.

"I always want my defense ready and my pitchers in shape," he said. "I believe baseball games at any level are won more on defense and pitching and capitalizing on other teams' mistakes. I had never thought about it before, but I was reading a book entitled 'A Stolen Season' recently, and it made the

very interesting observation that baseball is the only game that the defense has the ball. I want our defense to take advantage of having that ball."

Looking around the league, Connor says South Point, of course, is the team to beat but he expects Shelby and Burns to be much-improved also.

"South Point is going to have a superlative team with the premier high school pitcher in the state," he said. "Stephen Cowie should be a joy to watch. We wish we were watching him in another conference."

"Burns could be fairly good, and Shelby always seems to leave themselves in position to be there at the end. They don't beat themselves."

"Looking back over last season, if I could go back and change seven innings - which is the equivalent

of one game - and the mistakes that we made in those innings we would have won about 17 ball games. That's how important defense is."

### THE SCHEDULE

**MARCH**  
10 - North Mecklenburg (scrimmage) 4:30; 14 - at Crest 4:30; 17 - W. Lincoln 4:30; 21 - Shelby 4:30; 24 - Hunter Huss 4:30; 28 - at Burns 7:30; 31 - North Gaston 4:30.

### APRIL

4 - at R-S Central 7:30; 7 - East Rutherford 7:30; 11 - at South Point 7:30; 14 - at Shelby 7:30; 17-21 - Observer Tournament at Bessemer City; 25 - at Huss 7 p.m.; 27 - Burns 7:30.

### MAY

1 - E. Gaston 7:30; 2 - at N. Gaston 7:30; 5 - R-S Central 7:30; 9 - at East Rutherford 7:30; 12 - South Point 7:30; 15-17-19 - SWC tournament (first round at top seed, semi-finals and finals at KM).

**Central United Methodist Church**  
"A Church for All Seasons"  
10:00 am Church School • 11:00 am Worship  
VISITORS WELCOME!  
**The Key To Being Understood**  
113 South Piedmont Avenue • Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
(704) 739-2471

For Beginners - Learn  
**WESTERN SQUARE DANCING**  
FOR ADULT COUPLES  
You will need a partner  
**NEW CLASS** now forming  
Dancing Classes  
every Friday Night  
**FREE: First 4 Weeks**  
Beginning Friday, March 3rd  
**Kings Mountain Parks & Recreation**  
734-0449 - Delores  
Professional Caller /Instructor

**REGISTER TO WIN**  
**\$200.00**  
IN STORE  
**SPRING SHOPPING SPREE**  
Drawing April 1st • No Purchase Necessary  
**PHIFER HARDWARE & GARDEN CENTER**  
110 S. Railroad Ave.  
Kings Mountain  
739-4731  
Howard Elmore  
**Bollinger Plumbing**  
110 S. Railroad Ave.  
739-9156  
Philip Bollinger Don Phifer

Your Wedding Day is a Very Special Day in Your Life.  
Why should you have to settle for borrowed or rented hand-me downs?  
**SPECIAL Lizette Bridesmaid Dresses 15% Off**  
You deserve to give yourself the best. You will find the Latest fashions the Best Prices and Professional Service at Chadwick's.  
Our full service guarantee means when you purchase Your Wedding Gown you do not pay extra for alterations nor do you pay extra for pressing. No-One Beats our Professional Services.  
**Chadwick's**  
Bridal and Formal Fashions  
806 W. Warren Street, Shelby, NC 28150 • 704-487-0471  
MC - Visa - Layaway Hrs. Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30  
Celebrating Eighteen Years of Bridal and Formal Experience

**POOLE OPTOMETRIC OFFICES**  
808 W. King Street, Kings Mountain, NC  
(704) 739-5581  
OFFERING YOU COMPLETE EYE EXAM  
• Wide Selection of Frames & Lenses  
• Hard, Soft and Disposable Contact Lenses

**First Baptist Church**  
"Doing the King's Business in Kings Mountain"  
Sunday School (for all ages)  
Brotherhood  
Promise Keepers  
Scouts  
Worship  
Women's Ministries  
Drama  
Teacher Training  
Bible Study  
Mission Friends  
RA's  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP  
Deacon Care Ministry  
Youth Joy Explosion  
Handbells  
Puppets  
Handchimes  
Prayer Meeting  
Sunday Morning Worship  
Christian Education School  
605 King Street • Kings Mountain • (704) 739-3651