



FRANK DASCENZO

# First lumps for Butch in the ACC

SEE CORRECTION: 9/19/07

CHAPEL HILL — Butch Davis may have lost more than a football game to Virginia last Saturday.

Whispers were believed to have been heard coming out of Kenan Stadium that this one that got away might end up the one that costs the Tar Heels a bowl game. Well, not that the Tar Heels were headed to a bowl in the first place, but you never know. Just consider a few factors as to why Davis would have loved to win his first ACC game and be 2-1 going to South Florida.

For starters, Virginia isn't that good. When somebody asked Cavaliers coach Al Groh how he felt to be 2-0 in the ACC, I couldn't help myself from laughing. Groh is 2-0 and the wins are over Duke and UNC. Both are 1-2 and both are picked to finish last and next to last in the ACC Coastal Division.

Lucky Al doesn't get Boston College this season and he gets Georgia Tech, Wake Forest and Virginia Tech at home. Remember, this is a Virginia team that got a field goal and nothing else in a season-opening loss at Wyoming.

Davis will have to figure a way to become a magician if he's to take the Heels to a post-season game. UNC doesn't run the ball well, and when it has to rely on the toughness of T.J. Yates, a 6-3 freshman who has thrown nine touchdown passes in three games, it's rather troublesome.

The Tar Heels are 1-1 in their non-conference games and will be underdogs in their remaining two: at South Florida on Saturday and at home vs. South Carolina on Oct. 13. UNC did Davis no favors in the schedule, but that's nothing new. Who could have thought South Florida would be this good and Jim Leavitt, their coach, could take the Bulls into Auburn and win?

All right, I know Auburn lost to Mississippi State last Saturday, but winning at Auburn still is impressive in any season.

The Gamecocks will come swaggering into Chapel Hill with plenty of fan support, and Steve Spurrier remarked while playing golf this summer in Lake Tahoe that his team "plays better on the road."

You think if the Gamecocks could win at Georgia, they could win at North Carolina?

Davis will be trying to maintain a trend when it comes to UNC first-year coaches going to bowls, but it won't be easy.

Of UNC's last seven head coaches, the last two — two who were fired — are the only ones who ushered the Tar Heels to bowl games in their first seasons.

Carl Torbush's 1998 team finished 7-5 and beat San Diego State 20-13 in the Las Vegas Bowl. Torbush was fired after a 6-5 finish in 2000. And John Bunting's 2001 team finished 8-5 and beat Auburn 16-10 in the Peach Bowl. Bunting was fired after last season's 3-9 collapse.

In fairness to both Torbush and Bunting, their first UNC teams had nothing easy outside the ACC.

In '98 Torbush faced a Miami of Ohio team led by Ben Roethlisberger, played at Stanford and at Pittsburgh. Torbush went 1-2 in those games, winning at Pittsburgh. In '01 Bunting's Heels played at Oklahoma, at Texas, at home vs. East Carolina and at home vs. SMU. Bunting went 2-2 in those games, beating ECU and SMU.

Torbush and Bunting did break an amazing first-year streak by UNC coaches, however. In 1956 Jim Tatum's first team finished 2-7-1; Jim Hickey's 1959 team was 5-5; Bill Dooley's first UNC squad in 1967 was 2-8; Dick Crum's first 1978 UNC team was a disappointing 5-6; Mack Brown started off 1-10 in 1988.

While it's true that one game doesn't make a season, one game can change a season. Davis needs to make certain the loss to Virginia doesn't hurt any more than it already does.

But believe it. The Virginia game hurt Davis' first season.

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TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2007  
SECTION D

SCOREBOARD ..... D2  
BASEBALL ..... D3  
PRO FOOTBALL ..... D5  
GOLF ..... D6

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The Herald-Sun

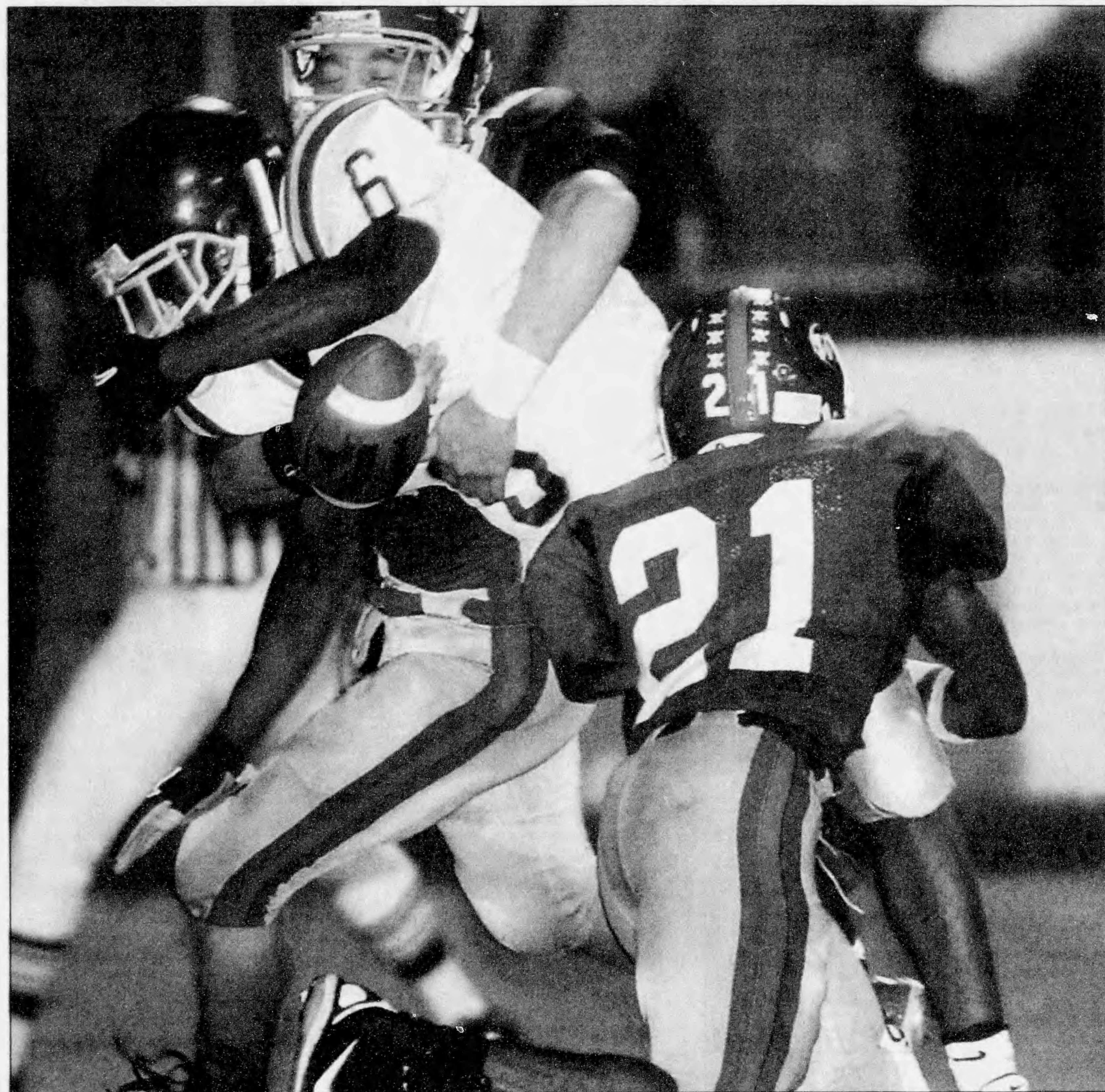
# SPORTS

WWW.HERALDSUN.COM

SOCCER: U.S. faces Nigeria today in Women's World Cup | PAGE D4



INSIDE  
Home cooked  
The Panthers' struggles in  
Charlotte continued Sunday | D5



THE HERALD-SUN | JEYHOUN ALLEBAUGH

Northern's Ricky Suggs coughs up a fumble forced by Wake Forest-Rolesville's Matt Willey (back) as Denzel Reina (front) defends during the Cougars' 30-27 overtime win on Monday night.

# BITTEN AGAIN

## Northern drops another game in overtime

BY MIKE POTTER  
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WAKE FOREST — Northern scored what might have been the winning points with just 69 seconds left in regulation, and then took the lead again in overtime.

But both times, the Knights learned why Wake Forest-Rolesville is undefeated.

The Cougars drove 59 yards in 66 seconds to set up Will Braddy's field goal for the tie in regulation. And after the Knights' Aaron Ferebee drilled a pressure 37-yard field goal in the extra period, quarterback Tim Hartman sneaked in from one yard out to give the Cougars a 30-27 victory on Monday night at Trentini Stadium.

The victory gave Earl Smith's Cougars a 5-0 record while the Knights, who have lost two overtime contests, fell to 1-3 in their final non-conference game of the season.

"We had our chances to quit, but we didn't," Smith said. "Our kids

30 HIGH SCHOOLS 27



WFR  
5-0



NORTHERN  
1-3

showed a lot of character. But I'll tell you what, Northern is the best football team we've played all year and the best-coached team."

Knights coach Paul Rodio said it was indeed his team's best effort so far. But in the minutes after the game ended, the pain was pretty intense.

"Our defense just didn't get the job done after we scored our last touchdown," Rodio said. "We gave them too many big plays. And we gave up a blocked punt — I think nine times out of ten when you get a kick blocked you lose. It was a great effort against a

great football team, but we still have to get our minds right."

The Knights finished with 292 yards total offense to the Cougars' 344.

Hartman was an uncanny 10 of 11 for 136 yards and rushed for 66 more on 10 carries.

For the Knights, Andrew Peacock completed 15 of 25 passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns without an interception, while Jequan Giles carried 12 times for 106 yards and a score.

The Knights scored the first time they had the ball, with Giles breaking down the left sideline for a 65-yard scoring run. Ferebee's kick made it 7-0 with 7:44 left in the first period.

But the Cougars retaliated on their ensuing possession. Brexton Young burst through the line from nine yards out, and Braddy added the kick at 3:17.

And the hosts turned a break into the lead midway through the second period. Three players broke through the line to block a Giles punt, and the

see KNIGHTS | page D6

# Former mobster warns of gambling

## Franzese talks to UNC athletes about addiction and crime

BY NOLAN HAYES

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CHAPEL HILL — Athletes at North Carolina get to hear instruction from some of the best coaches and teachers in the country on a daily basis.

They received an educational experience fitting of that framework Monday night, when they gathered at the Smith Center to listen to former mobster Michael Franzese discuss the dangers of gambling.

"It was a great speech, a great message," said senior Rob Wooten, a relief pitcher on the UNC baseball team. "It really makes you think. I've never been involved with gambling and never will be, but it makes you think twice."

That was Franzese's goal. Franzese, who was one of the biggest money earners the mob had seen since Al Capone, began his speech by hypothesizing that more than 100 athletes out of the 500 or so who gathered for the talk were participating in some form of gambling.

He told stories of college students who killed other people or died themselves because their gambling addictions, which began with low-stakes poker, got out of hand. He emphasized how gambling is growing fastest among young women. And he warned the athletes seated in front of him that they are targets of organized crime.

Franzese could assure them of that because he knows it better than anyone. He admitted to doing "a lot of bad things" in his life, including fixing games involving college athletes.

"I think if you talk to anyone in athletics, one of the single things that concerns them that can really cause an athletic department to be ripped apart is a gambling scandal," UNC associate athletics director Larry Gallo said. "By bringing this gentleman here, it doesn't guarantee that nothing is ever going to happen. But it just heightens the awareness."

"I think a lot of people can get in front of student-athletes like tonight and talk about it, but he brings credibility as far as gambling and how it's connected to organized crime."

Franzese established his credibility before he even began his talk.

see GAMBLING | page D6

# The field goal that wasn't — then was again

## League official expands on procedure after call went the wrong way

BY NOLAN HAYES  
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CHAPEL HILL — The kick was good, but the call on the field wasn't.

That combination led to an unusual turn of events in the football game between Virginia and North Carolina on Saturday — and plenty of interesting questions in the aftermath of the Cavaliers' 22-20 victory at Kenan Stadium.

UNC coach Butch Davis said Monday that he has sent an inquiry to the ACC regarding instant replay procedure. The inquiry stems from Virginia kicker Chris Gould's

48-yard field-goal attempt midway through the third quarter, which was ruled no good before instant replay correctly overturned the call.

"We're just asking for clarification," Davis told reporters during his weekly news conference. "The kick was good. Make no mistake about it. The kick was good. He made the kick."

Unfortunately for the ACC, a pair of officials did make a mistake about the kick. Back judge Virgil Valdez and field judge Frank Overcash, a pair of veteran officials, ruled that the kick was no good. They made what ACC coordinator of officials Doug Rhoads said Monday was "an error in mechanics."

As the ball descended toward him — and the goalpost at the east end of the stadium — Valdez turned his head and ducked "because he

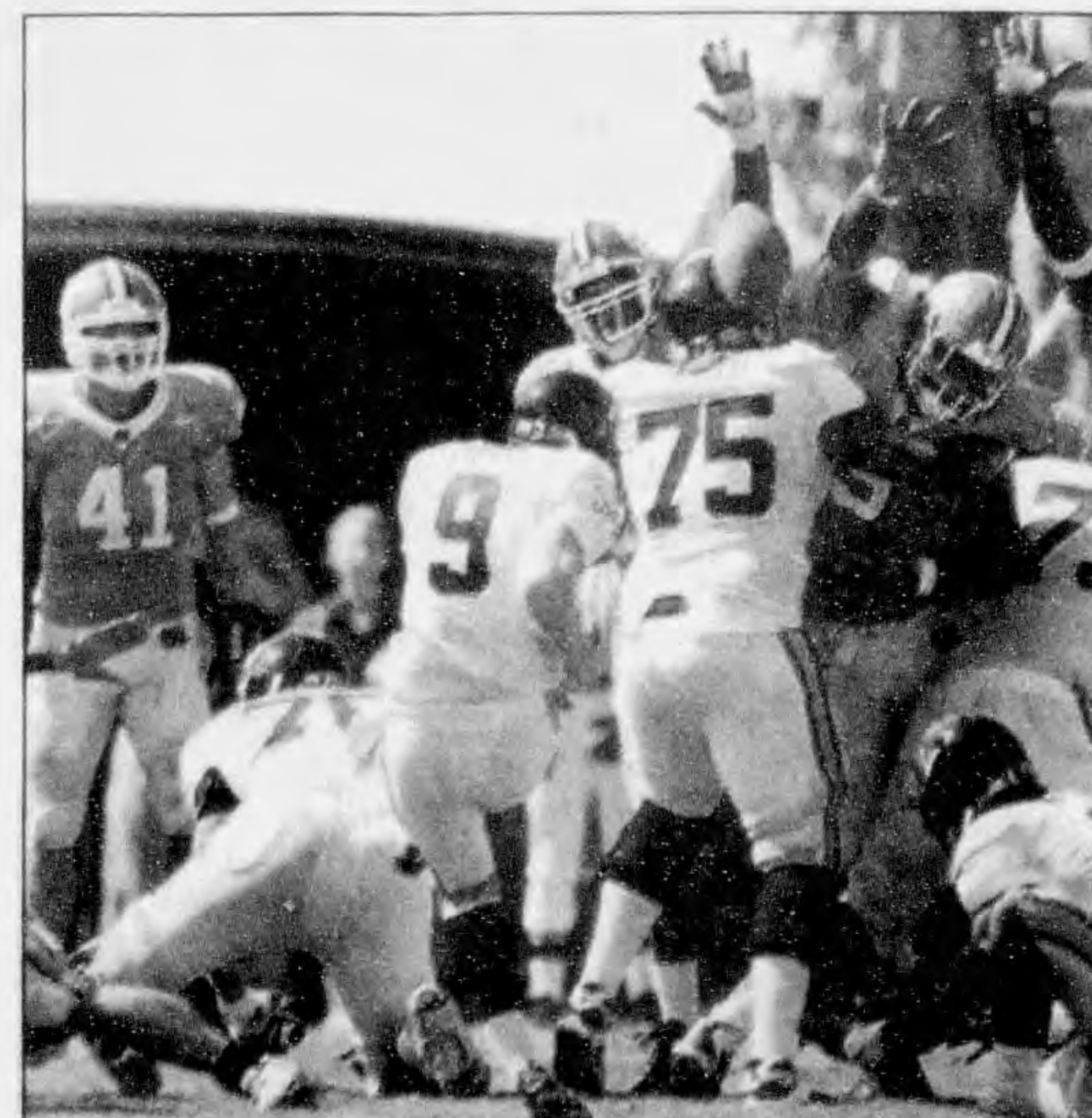
thinks ball is going to strike him," Rhoads said. The ball stayed inside the left upright and barely cleared the crossbar, but Valdez ruled that the kick was no good after he straightened his posture.

Overcash, who stood under the right upright and made no signal at first, looked over at Valdez and mirrored Valdez's call.

"They should have communicated with each other," Rhoads said in a telephone interview from the league office in Greensboro. "The only thing I can say or will say is that we will address it in our rating system."

Davis had a couple of questions about the field goal, which gave Virginia a 19-7 lead with 6:49 remaining in the third quarter. He wanted to know if the field goal was a reviewable play, and he wanted to find out through what

see KICK | page D4



THE HERALD-SUN | BERNARD THOMAS

This Chris Gould (9) field goal for UVA was ruled no good, a call that was overturned.

## AUTO RACING

## Bowyer on edge and winning

BY JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — Clint Bowyer knew how strong his Chevrolet was after rolling through the first turn at New Hampshire International Speedway.

He led all but 88 of the 300 laps, and built a lead of more than six seconds, fully realizing the race was his to lose. And had Bowyer not coughed away a shot at a win just one week earlier, maybe he wouldn't have been so rattled as he closed in on his first Nextel Cup victory.

But as the setting sun blinded his view of the checkered flag, and lapped cars continued to get in his way, Bowyer nearly came unglued. A car that had been flawless all day suddenly seemed sickly to him, and it was all his Richard Childress Racing team could do to calm the second-year driver.

"Stay focused," spotter Mike Dillon repeatedly coaxed. "You can do this. Just stay focused."

His nerves so shaky he admittedly felt sick to his stomach, Bowyer finally crossed the finish line for his first Nextel Cup victory. The win legitimized his place in the Chase for the championship, and turned the long shot into a credible contender.

He made the Chase as the only driver without a victory, and in 63 previous Cup races he'd never finished higher than third. And just one week earlier, he'd spun while trying to take the lead at Richmond.

So as he mingled with the other 11 drivers during their celebratory trip to New York last week, he couldn't help but feel a little out of place.

"Every time we get close, we'd make a mistake and just come up short," he said. "It's frustrating. But it is what it is. And they were right. We hadn't won a race. We were the only ones in the Chase that hadn't."

"Can't say that anymore."

Not after the humiliation Bowyer put on the field, easily beating Jeff Gordon and Tony Stewart to the finish line. They never came close to challeng-



Clint Bowyer cheers after winning his first Nextel Cup race during the Sylvania 300 at New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon, N.H., on Sunday.

ing him, and joked the only time they got near him was when he damaged his motor doing burnouts and had to abandon his disabled vehicle to walk to Victory Lane.

The win moved Bowyer from last in the Chase standings to fourth, just 15 points behind co-leaders Gordon and Jimmie Johnson. And he became the fourth first-time winner this season, joining Casey Mears, Martin Truex Jr. and Juan Pablo Montoya.

But Bowyer's victory was the most colorful. He nervously circled the track, awaiting some sort of catastrophe, and screamed over his radio about a myriad of issues — some of them invented. Teammate Kevin Harvick had to contact Dillon to urge Bowyer to slow down.

"When you're driving down the interstate in traffic and somebody cuts you off, you know you say something to yourself," he explained. "For

me, it's so easy to reach over and hit that [radio] button. It's like the pop-off valve for me."

With 111 victories and six championships between them, Gordon and Stewart aren't normally affected quite like Bowyer was in the final laps. But no one is immune to nerves.

Stewart nearly came unraveled during his 2005 victory at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, when he was unable to participate in late-race strategy. He barked at crew chief Greg Zipadelli to make a decision, saying he was too nervous to concentrate.

So it was no surprise to either that Bowyer almost fell apart.

"You're just praying that everything's going to go right, especially when you have a day like he had," Stewart said. "You're so fearful that something that's out of your control is going to happen and

take it away from you. It's not hard to start imaging things that are happening to your race car."

With the first victory out of the way, Bowyer now hopes to build momentum toward a championship. He remembers Truex's breakthrough win at Dover in June, which sparked a streak of four top-three finishes in four weeks.

A run like that by Bowyer would certainly put him in contention for the title.

"That's exactly what this team needed," he said. "We need to get that cocky attitude. ... The elite teams have that, you know what I mean? They have confidence going into the weekend that they're going to run good. I saw it with Martin Truex. It catapulted him right into his Chase spot."

"He won at Dover and followed up with three good runs right in a row. I think this team definitely can do the same thing."

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Fans greet Mercury; Westhead plots future

BY ANDREW BAGNATO  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — The newly minted WNBA champions came home to a rousing welcome in the desert Monday.

Several hundred fans greeted the Phoenix Mercury's commercial flight at Sky Harbor International Airport. And when the team bus pulled into the bowels of U.S. Airways Center, managing partner Robert Sarver, general manager Ann Meyers Drysdale and several Phoenix Suns staff were there to greet it, along with a four-piece mariachi band.

The receptions at the airport and the arena brought smiles to the weary players, who clutched balloons and roses as they gathered their luggage.

"I don't think it's hit any of us what we've done," said forward Penny Taylor, who led the Mercury with 30 points in the clincher. "I think at that moment you really realize how much people are count-



The Mercury's Cappie Pondexter greets fans at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport on Monday as she and the team arrive after winning the WNBA championship on Sunday.

ing on you and how much they really appreciated what we've been doing all year, and their expectations and that we'd actually fulfilled those."

The team will host a public celebration at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Casino Arizona Pavilion on the arena's street level. Players will speak and

the championship trophy and banner will be unveiled.

After that, the Mercury will scatter for the offseason — and coach Paul Westhead may be gone for good.

Westhead, who has coached the Mercury for two years, is entertaining an offer to join friend P.J. Carlesimo's staff

with the Seattle SuperSonics.

"I'm just going to see what's going on," Westhead said when asked if he had a timetable for his decision. "It'll probably be a few days."

This is the second title for the 68-year-old Westhead, who also won the NBA championship as a rookie coach with the Los Angeles Lakers in 1980.

Westhead, nicknamed the "Guru of Go," shrugged when asked if he had convinced doubters that women could succeed in his fast-paced style, which emphasizes 3-point shooting.

"We've been doing it for close to two years now," Westhead said. "The criticism's always [been] you can't win big games, you can't win championships. So we'll just have to go faster."

Taylor said she hopes Westhead will return.

"Obviously, it would be sad if he didn't," Taylor said. "He's brought so much. I mean, he's the reason we've won this."

## FROM PAGE ONE

## GAMBLING

FROM PAGE D1

Robert Michaels, his partner, gave some background on Franzese to begin the program and dropped in the nugget that Franzese was making \$6-8 million per week during his run in organized crime.

That figure drew an audible reaction of amazement from the crowd of athletes, locking up their attention immediately.

"That was crazy," said Erlana Larkins, a senior post player on the women's basketball team. "Six to eight million in a week, that was crazy."

Franzese, who spends two weeks out of every month on the road doing speaking engagements across the country, gives annual talks at Major League Baseball spring

training and at the NBA's rookie orientation. He made three presentations at UNC on Monday, addressing the school's coaches and administrators in the morning, the football team in the afternoon and the remainder of the student-athlete population in the evening.

Franzese told them all how organized crime, including gambling, has negatively affected his life. He went to jail for seven years after pleading guilty to racketeering, and his father, also involved in the mob, likely will die behind bars because of his refusal to leave behind the lifestyle.

"It doesn't go away," Franzese said. "It follows you forever."

Franzese escaped it — but only partially — after meeting his wife in the mid-1980s and changing his ways. Franzese's father initially disowned

him, but they reconciled after 10 years of bitterness.

Franzese lived for several years with a contract out on his life after he left the mob, and he can't walk his dog every day at the same time or fall into other routines because he never knows who might be out to get him. And when he returns to New York to visit his parents, he does so quietly.

The good news for Franzese is that many of the people who still would want him dead for turning his back on the mob are either dead or in jail themselves. He told of how he took an oath with five other men when he officially joined the mob, and he pointed out that he is the only living member from that group.

"And not one of them died of natural causes," he said.

Franzese told his story with the hope of preventing the athletes in attendance from

getting involved with people like the man he once was. His point was that one bad decision — something as simple as one bet — could lead to a lifetime of unintentional consequences.

And his point was well-taken.

"Everybody at least knows somebody who knows somebody or has seen somebody, maybe who they don't even know, get involved with things like that," said junior Marcus Ginyard, a player on the men's basketball team. "Not everyone can see where those things lead. For him to come in here and tell us where those things lead, it was interesting. It definitely kept my attention the whole time."

"It's just something that we've got to listen to and take to heart. He's seen it, and he's been through it, and he knows it's a problem, whether we think so or not."

## GOLF

## Woods hitting stride, but has he peaked?

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Four victories in his last five starts is proof enough that Tiger Woods is more dominant than ever, especially considering he won those four tournaments by a combined 20 shots and shattered tournament scoring records in consecutive weeks.

More evidence came from his caddie as he waited for Woods to arrive for the final round of the Tour Championship.

"He hasn't hit a practice ball since the British Open," Steve Williams said. "I've been with him nearly 10 years now, and this is the best I've ever seen him hit the ball."

No practice? Not quite. What he meant was that Woods has such command over his game that he stopped going to the practice range after his rounds since returning home from Carnoustie.

Woods confirmed as much when he left East Lake with his two trophies — one for the Tour Championship, one for the FedEx Cup.

"Hey, there was no need to go," he said with a shrug and a smile.

Whether this is the best he has ever played is up for debate, but don't expect Woods to participate. He is always looking forward, always trying to figure out a way to get better. That's what makes it so daunting for the guys trying to reach his level. They know they have to get better, and that's assuming Woods doesn't continue to improve himself.

So far, that hasn't happened. Since his latest round of swing changes took root at the end of 2004, Woods has won 21 times on the PGA Tour. That's more than Phil Mickelson, Vijay Singh and Jim Furyk combined over the last three years.

And the truly scary part is that Woods, at age 31, might still be years away from his prime.

"I don't know when it's going to be," Woods said. "The whole idea is to try and keep improving. When all is said and done, when you rack the cue and go home and retire, you can honestly say, 'These were my best years, when I was at my peak.' But when you're in it, you're always trying to improve that a little bit to get to the next level."

As the trophies keep piling up, the numbers are simply staggering.

Woods now has won 61 times in just more than 11 full years on the PGA Tour. Jack Nicklaus was 36 when he captured his 61st tour victory. He has won 28 percent of the time since turning pro, and that if that number is hard to fathom alone, consider that Mickelson has won 9 percent of his tournaments, Singh is at 8 percent and Ernie Els at 6 percent.

Woods' final putt for par at East Lake put him at 23-under 257 for the lowest 72-hole

score of his career, and six shots better than the previous record at the Tour Championship. A week earlier at Cog Hill, he broke the tournament record by five shots at 22-under 262, winning by two over Aaron Baddeley.

With his 2007 season in the books — all he has left is the Presidents Cup and his Target World Challenge in December — Woods finished with a 67.79 adjusted scoring average, equaling his record from the 2000 season.

And while the \$10,867,052 was short by \$38,114 of the record Singh set in 2004, the big Fijian played 29 times that year. Woods played in only 16 tournaments. That's an average of \$172,493 per round.

Woods said the latest adjustment since the British Open, where he tied for 12th, was simply shifting the weight more toward the balls of his feet for better balance. That made it appear he was standing closer to the ball.

Swing coach Hank Haney hasn't seen much change the last two years, with one exception. What he watched with regularity on the range at Woods' home course in Isleworth, he now sees more often inside the ropes on the PGA Tour.

"I've seen him play like this and hit the ball like this the last couple of years — for sure the last year — but most of times I've seen that, it's been at Isleworth," Haney said Sunday from his home in Dallas. "It's only been bits and pieces in tournaments."

It's still not perfect. Woods lunged at one tee shot on the 16th hole at East Lake in the opening round, scolding himself when it sailed to the right.

"Tiger Woods!" he said through clenched teeth. "Trust your swing."

Haney believes that trust was evident at Oakmont in the third round of the U.S. Open, when Woods hammered a driver down the middle of the fairway on his way to perhaps his best ball-striking round of the year. He hit 17 greens in regulation that day.

"I know what that hole feels like to him. It's really tight," Haney said. "On the practice tee, he said, 'I'm driving the ball in the fairway.' And he piped it right down the middle, then did the same thing on Sunday. I felt that was big turning point in his confidence."

Woods didn't see it that way. In his eyes, the turning point came at the Western Open last July. He had just missed the cut in a major for the first time, opened with a 72 at Cog Hill, then spent hours that Thursday afternoon on the practice range. It was hard work, but enjoyable.

For the first time since his father died, it was fun.

"I got over all the things that happened earlier, and I finally got back to just playing golf again," he said.

## HIGH SCHOOLS

## KNIGHTS

FROM PAGE D1

Cougars took over at the Northern 14. Three plays later Hartman connected with Torrey White from 12 yards out, and Braddy's kick made it 14-7 with 6:17 left in the half.

The Knights returned the favor in the closing seconds of the half, after a 19-yard Braddy punt went out of bounds at the Cougars' 29. On fourth-and-goal from the 20, Peacock found Kenny Holley for a well-defended catch with the receiver stretching the ball into the end zone. Ferebee's kick was good with three seconds left before intermission.

"That was just great concentration," Peacock said of Holley's catch. "And he just wanted it more."

Northern took the lead again with 37 seconds left in the third, driving 29 yards in seven plays to set up Ferebee's 24-yard field goal.

But the hosts responded with an eight-play, 70-yard march, with Hartman scrambling for a 39-yard run in the middle of the drive and a 22-yard touchdown. Braddy's kick was good and the Cougars led 21-17 with 9:24 to go.

The Knights responded by going 94 yards in nine plays, with Peacock finding Chad Walcott from 15 yards out and Ferebee's kick making it 24-21

with 1:06 to go. "We could have quit right there," Smith said.

But the Cougars didn't, setting up Braddy's field goal from 18 yards out with three seconds to go.

After the Knights went backwards on their overtime possession, Ferebee nailed the 37-yarder to put them ahead for the last time before Hartman's last heroics.

"I just tried to block out everything, watch [Peacock's] hands and make the kick," Ferebee said.

NOTES — The game was postponed from Friday night because of thunderstorms. ■ Northern opens PAC-6 play against county rival Jordan on Friday night at County Stadium ■ Wake Forest-Rolesville is idle until a Sept. 28 home game against Cap-7 rival Enloe.

Wake Forest-Rolesville 30, Northern 27, OT

Northern 7 7 3 7 3-27  
WF-Rolesville 0 0 10 6-30

SCORING SUMMARY  
N—Jequan Giles 65 run (Aaron Ferebee kick), 7:44  
W—Brexton Young 9 run (Will Bradley kick), 3:17  
W—Torrey White 12 pass from Tim Hartman (Braddy kick), 6:17  
N—Kenny Holley 20 pass from Andrew Peacock (Ferebee kick), 0:33  
N—FG Ferebee 24, :37  
W—Hartman 22 run (Ferebee kick), 9:24  
N—Chad Walcott 15 pass from Peacock (Ferebee kick), 1:09  
N—FG Ferebee 37, OT  
W—Hartman 1 run, OT

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS  
RUSHING — Northern, Jequan Giles 12-106, Ricky Suggs 8-31, John Bass 2-3, Andrew Peacock 7-53, Andy Henry 1-(-8). WF-Rolesville, Tim Hartman 10-66, Brexton Young 14-66, Robert Kosanke 7-61, Treva Jones 11-12, Rishard Cotton 1-3.

PASSING — Northern, Andrew Peacock 15-25-0-165, WF-Rolesville, 10-11-0-136.  
RECEIVING — Northern, Chad Walcott 7-74, Kenny Holley 4-47, John Bass 2-10, Jason McCleary 1-13, Phillip Harris 1-15. WFR, Torrey White 9-98, Robert Kosanke 1-38.  
RECORDS — Northern 1-3, Wake Forest-Rolesville 5-0.