It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's Wilson's last Point Blank!

RYAN WILSON Sports Editor

Hey sports fans, I come to you today with a sad and heavy heart. Today marks the final edition of Point Blank for the semester and, more than likely, forever.

I know there are many of you out there (well, maybe a handful) who will be sad to see me go, but there are times when you've got to get rid of the dirty laundry. I am part of the old guard and need to step aside as sports editor and leave the duties in the able hands of Larry Williams and Robbie Meek.

Who can think of a better way to end Point Blank than to talk about what started it all: college football.

■ The big game. Well, the bowl alliance got what they wanted this year with an actual national championship game, a game that will probably be the highlight of what is otherwise an unspectacular bowl season. The Florida-Nebraska Fiesta Bowl will be a great game between two completely different, but equally gifted, quarterbacks: Danny Wuerffel and Tommie Frazier.

Everyone knew that Florida's offense was top notch; but no one could have expected their defense to be just as great. The same can be said of Nebraska, whose defensive-team speed rivals that of the

Let's cut to the chase people: Nebraska's offense wears defenses down, and that's something that Florida hasn't seen this year. Florida is a big-play team that thrives off of defensive miscues, but Nebraska doesn't do that often.

Both offenses are among the top scorers in the nation, but Nebraska does it running the option. That is a very impressive feat. Watch the Cornhuskers take their second consecutive national championship back to Lincoln.

■ The big question. Who will win the Heisman? Well, Larry and I had this discussion all weekend long, and we have come to different conclusions. I believe that Tommie Frazier will take the trophy, while Larry is staying committed to the SEC by going with Wuerffel.

Both players have put up great numbers for their team and are key ingredients in their teams' success. Ultimately, as we have seen in recent years, politics will take over and Frazier

will win the Heisman. When it comes down to it, voters do not like Spurrier and that will make the difference in the

Here is my list of the top four candidates, with reasons for and against them getting the trophy.

1. Tommie Frazier, quarterback, Nebraska. Sentimental favorite. For Nebraska's offense, everything starts with Frazier. He was a strong candidate last year, but an injury took him out of the running; don't think voters haven't forgotten about that. Leads one of the nation's best offensive attacks.

2. Danny Wuerffel, quarterback, Florida. Came on strong at the end of the year and overall numbers are impressive. Critics wonder if his numbers are a product of the system he is in or an indicator of his greatness (probably a little bit of both). Plain and simple: voters do not like Spurrier, and they will not pick Wuerffel to spite Spurrier. If you look at this season's All-SEC team, Wuerffel did not even make first team (Tennesee's Payton Manning did), so why would he win the Heisman?

3. Eddie George, tailback, Ohio State. I picked George early in the season, but the Buckeye loss to Michigan hurt his chances. Also consider the Penn State syndrome: Buckeye quarterback Bobby Hoying has had a great season as well, which takes away from George (like last year's Kerry Collins-KiJana Carter situation). George won the Doak Walker Award for the nation's top running back earlier this year.

4. Troy Davis, runningback, Iowa State. Davis is going to be the unlucky guy who rushes for 2,000 yards in a season and doesn't win the Heisman. Four other runningbacks in the history of college football have passed the 2,000 mark and all four won the Heisman. The main thing that hurts Davis's chances is Iowa State's 3-8 record.

Interesting footnote. This has got to be the first season in a long time that most of the preseason Heisman favorites will not even make the top five (well, Frazier excluded, of course).

Where is Leeland McElroy, Keyshawn Johnson, Steven Davis and Lawrence Phillips? Look for them next year in the

Have some



Political Science sophomore Chris Woods gives Chad Costello and Brett Jodie a free two-liter soft drink. The drinks were available Tuesday for those who signed up for the Rugby Club.

Cowboys' Haley says he's retiring from football - again

Charles Haley, the Dallas Cowboys' star defensive end, may miss the remainder of the NFL season because of a ruptured disk.

"The season is over for Charles, and we'll see what happens about next year," coach Barry Switzer said today. "He could still be a good third-down player for next year if he decides to come back and play. But it's over for him this year." Haley refused to be so certain about his

He left today for Los Angeles for consultation with his doctors, but before departing, he said, "I'm not ruling out possibly playing later this season, and I'm not ruling out playing next year." The Dallas Morning News reported today that Haley was retiring from football because of the injury.

"My career is over. I'm through," Haley told the newspaper Monday. "Tm not depressed because I've had a good career, and I did it my way."

Haley had told Switzer at halftime of Dallas' 24-17 loss to the Washington Redskins on Sunday that he couldn't continue because of lower back pain.

An MRI test on his back has been sent to a Los Angeles doctor for comparison with previous tests. In California, Haley was to discuss the results with Dr. Robert Watkins.

Haley, 31, had a similar ailment last year, but Watkins repaired the problem and Haley returned to the Cowboys after

announcing his retirement during the offseason. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones also made his return very lucrative.

"He's a great player, but when I heard this I was concerned it might be his career," Switzer told the News. "There have been people who have had the surgery he needs and come back. But I don't know if Charles can do that in his

Haley's importance to the oncedominant Cowboys defense showed in the second half of the Washington game. Without Haley pressuring him constantly, Redskins quarterback Heath Shuler engineered a second-half comeback from a 10-7 halftime deficit.

condition.'

Haley, who has won two Super Bowl rings each with the San Francisco 49ers and Cowboys, was three-and-a-half sacks short of becoming the 12th NFL player to reach 100 career sacks.

"He's our best (defensive) player," Switzer said. "If Haley can't get there, then it's obvious the other guy probably isn't going to get there, either.

The loss of Haley could prove damaging to the Cowboys off the field, too. Jones enticed him out of a retirement after last season with a \$3 million signing bonus, and half of that counts against the team's salary cap for the 1996 season even if Haley never plays again.

Haley missed five starts in 1993 because of back problems. The pain subsided last year and he led the team with 12 1/2 sacks and made the Pro Bowl.

ALL SEC FOOTBALL

OFFENSE

TE: Andy Fuller, Auburn OL: Jason Odom, Florida

OL: Reggie Green, Florida OL: Willie Anderson, Auburn

OL: J. Layman, Tennessee C: Jeff Smith, Tennessee

WR: Chris Doering, Florida WR: Eric Moulds, Miss State QB: P. Manning, Tennessee RB: Moe Williams, Kentucky

RB: Madre Hill, Arkansas PK: Jeff Hall, Tennessee

ALL SEC FOOTBALL

DEFENSE

DL: Shannon Brown, Alabama DL: Mark Campbell, Florida

DL: Steven Conley, Arkansas

LB: Gabe Northern, LSU

LB: Ben Hanks, Florida LB: Dexter Daniels, Florida

LB: Mark Smith, Arkansas

DB: Anthone Lott, Florida DB: Lawerence Wright, Florida

DB: Walt Harris, Miss. State

DB: DeRon Jenkins, Tennessee P: Chad Kessler, LSU

SEC ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM

OFFENSE

WR: Zola Davis, USC

WR: Jacquez Green, Florida

WR: Anthony Lucas, Arkansas WR: Craig Yeast, Kentucky

OL: Jamar Nesbitt, USC

OL: Mo Collins, Florida

OL: Alan Faneca, LSU OL: Jonas Liening, Kentucky

OL: Russ Brown, Arkansas

QB: Herbie Tyler, LSU

RB: Terin Kirtsey, Georgia

RB: Terry Jackson, Florida RB: Kendall Cleveland, LSU

DL: Jimmy Brumbaugh, Auburn

DEFENSE

DL: Anthony McFarland, LSU

SEC ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM

DL: Marvin Major, Kentucky

DL: Ron Green, Tennessee DL: Chris Hood, Alabama

LB: Takeo Spikes, Auburn

LB: Johnny Rutledge, Florida

LB: Mike Peterson, Florida DB: Marty Houston, Auburn

DB: Armin Love, Georgia

DB: Fernando Bryant, Alabama

DB: Arturo Freeman, USC

PK: Jeff Hall, Tennessee

KR: Robert Baker, Auburn

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the Gamecock Newspaper

The Editor position requires that applicants be junior or senior standing, have a minimum GPR of 2.50 overall or minimum GPR required to remain in good standing in the major college (whichever is greater), and must have worked for The Gamecock for at least one year (or equivalent experience). Applications are judged on their submitted samples of work responses on their application form, two letters of reference, and a formal interview before the Board of Student Publications and

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Communications.

Applications can be picked up in Russell House Room 331.



SM. 11/30 Deadline is Wednesday, January 10 @ 3 p.m.



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