

**Duke**

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ple expect. The last time Duke was at the Final Four, in 2001, the Blue Devils won it all largely on the shoulders of Shane Battier, who stayed for his senior year when he had the game to leave early.

Coach K doesn't have a perfect track record of keeping players — who does these days? — but his is better than most. And that could explain why the Blue Devils have reached this stage in 10 of the last 19 seasons.

Krzyzewski said it's not a matter of "selling" a player on staying.

Thus, for every Corey Maggette — the star who left after his freshman year in 1999 — Krzyzewski gets lots of guys like Duhon, a gritty senior who is gutting it through a painful rib injury in the tournament in hopes of capping off his career with another title.

"He's my first option. He con-

veys what I would like to have out on the court really well," Krzyzewski said.

Likewise, for every Okafor at Connecticut — an All-American who could leave with degree in hand after just three years — there are many other guys like Jarrett Jack, a "signature recruit" of who stepped up with 29 points for the Yellow Jackets in the regional final when Elder barely played because of injury.

"Don't call them role players," Hewitt said. "They're all outstanding players in their own right. I give them a lot of credit for maybe accepting on some nights lesser minutes than they could be getting somewhere else."

The key, then, just might be the ability to work as a team without depending on a star.

It's why Calhoun, Krzyzewski and Sutton probably will be better known than many of their players. But it also might explain why those coaches, along with Hewitt, have made it this far this year.

**Football**

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fensive sets, using split backs and an I-back formation, and trying to get the offensive line to become cohesive.

"I think Steve Shankweiler should be commended because he's done one phenomenal job bringing those guys together," Skip Holtz said.

"We're throwing an awful lot at them, the things that we've added in split backs, the things that we've added in the I and still running a lot of the one-back stuff and I really think they've done a great job picking all this stuff up now, up front."

Carolina will be back on the practice field Friday. The Spring Game will be April 17 at 1 p.m.

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**Baseball**

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he won his previous two starting appearances. In those two games, he has a 2.25 ERA and went six innings in each before going back to the bullpen.

Benson usually comes on the field in relief for UNC, and his record reflects better performances as a relief pitcher. When all of Benson's appearances are factored in, he has a 1.07 ERA, plus one more win.

However, the senior's showings against the Gamecocks haven't proved so fortuitous in the past, with Benson giving up four runs and six hits in just over seven innings. Last year, Benson led the team with four saves but only started one game, an April 27 contest against N.C. State.

The Gamecocks, after starting the year 18-0, have gone 3-4, including losing four of their six conference games. Starting for USC against the Tar Heels

will be left-hand pitcher Arik Hempy. Hempy is only 0-1 on the year and has a 2.13 ERA but has also struck out 17 batters on the year while allowing just three walks.

Hempy has also pitched very well in his last three outings against Wofford and LSU. In the game versus the Terriers on March 23, he pitched a perfect inning with two strikeouts. Hempy also pitched three scoreless innings in two games against the Tigers on March 19 and 20.

One player who won't be playing against UNC is infielder Kevin Melillo, who is undergoing surgery on his right wrist and should be out for about a month. The last time Melillo was at the plate was against Delaware State on March 13, when he got three hits in the 7-0 shutout.

The Gamecocks and the Tar Heels will tangle tonight at 7 p.m. at Knights Castle Stadium in Fort Mill.

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**Tourney**

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Now the brain can't help but picture the luxury SUV, the big screen HDTV and thousands of other expensive acronyms. Could Xavier possibly ruin that?

The answer is: absolutely. Not hiding one bit of emotion now, this money-hungry 19-year old is literally begging the basketball gods to just pull one more win out for his sake. Of course, Duke would win and this young man's dreams are still alive for the first time ever.

Now, the only difference between four years of student loan-funded college, driving a Nissan Sentra and a fully funded education with a Hummer paid for in cash is a measly two games and a tie-breaking point total. Is there a cure for such a disease? More importantly, is there another event in the world that can match this? Welcome to March Madness.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu

**SEC News and Notes****Vanderbilt's Jones receives SEC award**

The Vanderbilt Commodores' sophomore second baseman Warner Jones was named Player of the Week by the SEC on Tuesday. As the Commodores went 4-0 on the week, including a three-game sweep of No. 24 Georgia, Jones hit for an average of .737.

Hits for him included six doubles, one triple and one home run. In Vanderbilt's win over Morehead State, Jones' home run hit the roof of the Commodores' Memorial Gym.

Jones now boasts a 30-game hitting streak, which is a new Vanderbilt record. The streak is only one game shy of tying Mississippi State's Rex Buckner's SEC record of 31 straight games with a hit. Key hits for Jones last week included a double in game three against UGA to put Vanderbilt ahead for good. He went 10-for-14 in the Georgia series.

This week's SEC Pitcher of the Week is Alabama's Wade LeBlanc. The freshman lefty battled Ole Miss' Brae Wright in eight scoreless innings before

the Tide pulled out a 2-1 victory over the No. 5 Rebels Sunday.

LeBlanc only allowed one run on six hits in his third complete game of the season. He notched eight strikeouts throughout the game. LeBlanc now has five wins on the season.

**Campbell named Player of the Week**

Gamecock left fielder Michael Campbell has been named

Louisville Slugger's National Player of the Week after hitting five home runs over four games last week. Campbell had a total of 10 RBIs last week and tied a school record for home runs in one game against Wofford. Campbell hit for an average of .500 on the week.

In the three-game SEC series with Arkansas, Campbell had three hits, two runs and four RBIs. The senior also was struck out twice against the Razorbacks.

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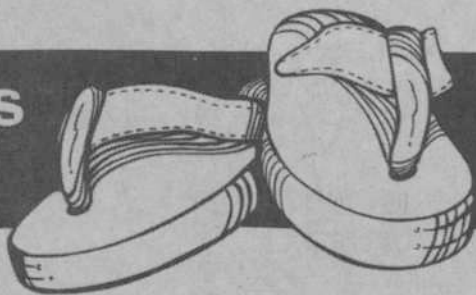
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The Editor in Chief is responsible for the editorial aspect of the newspaper including content, recruitment, and supervision of editorial staff.
- **Garnet & Black Editor in Chief, 2004-2005**  
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Applications and job descriptions may be picked up in the Office of the Director of Student Life, Russell House Suite 115 or online at [www.sa.sc.edu/studentmedia](http://www.sa.sc.edu/studentmedia). Applications are available as of Wednesday, March 10, 2004.

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