

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Stevens set to transfer, Salvadores to pro ball



BY STEVE WISEMAN
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Two players who started games for Duke's women's basketball team are leaving the program.

Rising junior Azura Stevens, one of the ACC's top players, and rising sophomore Angela Salvadores won't return next season.

The 6-6 Stevens, a Raleigh native who played at Cary High School, was named an Associated Press honorable mention All-American last season when she averaged 18.9 points and 9.6 rebounds per game. She intends to continue her career

at another school after sitting out next season per NCAA transfer rules.

The 5-10 Salvadores, one of the top junior players in Europe while playing for the Spanish national team last summer, intends to pursue a professional career.

"My experience at Duke has been amazing," Stevens said in a statement released by the school. "I would like to thank the staff and the Blue Devil community for all their support over the last two years. At this time, I feel it would be best for my basketball career to

go in a different direction."

The departure of Stevens and Salvadores comes as the Duke program is already reeling from missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1993-94. Stevens and Salvadores, in addition to all-ACC guard Rebecca Greenwell and others, suffered through injuries at different times this season as Duke went 20-12 and finished 8-8 in ACC play.

"I loved working with Angela and Azura," Duke coach Joanne P. McCallie said in a statement released by the school. "I wish them the very best in their future

Azura Stevens (11) announced on Friday that she is transferring from Duke.

Herald-Sun file photo

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COLLEGE LACROSSE

Heels take OT win over Duke

BY PETER KOUTROUMPIS
HERALD-SUN CORRESPONDENT

DURHAM — Imposing cloud formations were passing by when the opening faceoff took place between the ninth-ranked Duke Blue Devils and 15th-ranked UNC Tar Heels at Koskinen Stadium on Friday.

North Carolina's Patrick Kelly scored the game-winning goal at the two-minute mark in the extra period and the Tar Heels (6-4, 1-0) claimed the win over the Blue Devils (7-5, 1-2).

With a crowd of 3,957 on hand, both teams didn't disappoint with a combined 33-goal output and the fourth straight one-goal finish between them.

Led by attackman Steven Pontrello's six goals, North Carolina took advantage of the opportunities they were presented with, and beat Duke for the third time in the last four games the two teams have faced off against one another in ACC play.

"I'm so proud of this team, the hard work we put in this week definitely put us in that position to win," Pontrello said.

"We worked to draw two [men], spread them out, work them horizontally and get the ball through X on the backside, and get good opportunities. I thought we took good shots."

The key to success was minimizing mistakes as both teams

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tar Heels ready for Orange



The Herald-Sun | Bernard Thomas

North Carolina's Isaiah Hicks and Kennedy Meeks are play around during practice in Houston.

Oxford's sleeping giant wide awake for UNC

BY JOHN MCCANN
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MORE TAR HEELS?

North Carolina takes on Syracuse tonight at NRG Stadium in Houston. Read all about the Tar Heels as they get ready to play in their record 19th Final Four on Page A1.

City are off the chain.

HOUSTON — Having stretched out his tall self on mattresses from New York to Iowa, Isaiah Hicks talks like the ones here in Space

"Beds? So comfortable. Sooooo comfortable," Hicks said. "Best so far. Can't compete with this."

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PREP BASEBALL

Orange rallies past Erwin

BY DAN E. WAY
HERALD-SUN CORRESPONDENT

HILLSBOROUGH — A day after its first loss of the season, a struggling Orange team came from behind with a weird and hitless, three-run, sixth-inning rally, and Ryan Puckett picked up his third win in relief this season as the Panthers defeated a pesky Asheville Erwin team 6-4 Friday night in the Hilltop Invitational Tournament.

Following Friday's more than two-hour game on their home field against a Warriors team that came into the contest with a paltry 2-9 record, Orange takes on Kernersville Glenn at 4 p.m. at home today.

Trailing 4-3 in the bottom of the sixth after Erwin took the lead in the top of the inning, Orange first base-

man Austin Sykes was hit by a pitch. Courtesy runner Landon Riley moved to second on a walk to Ryan Puckett, who came on in relief in the top of the inning, then left fielder Johnny Flynn walked to load the bases.

Center fielder Jaydin Poteat hit a high chop to starting pitcher Cameron Howell, who strangely attempted to tag the plate himself for the force out, but Riley beat him to the plate to tie it at 4-4. Second baseman Jason Slaughter walked to force in Puckett to make it 5-4. Shortstop Cameron Mehl was hit by a pitch to force Flynn home for the 6-4 lead.

But Erwin, which stranded 15 runners during the game, wasn't done.

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Moore, Wildcats earn shutout win over Stallions

BY FRANK MCGRAW
HERALD-SUN CORRESPONDENT

CHAPEL HILL — The Wildcats of East Chapel Hill High School met the Stallions of Green Run (Virginia Beach, VA), this afternoon, with the Wildcats coming away with a hard-fought 3-0 victory.

The Wildcats (9-4) rode the arm of senior pitcher Sean Moore, who played lights out. He gave up only two hits while throwing a complete-game shutout for the Wildcats. The Stallions (1-5) had no answer for Moore.

It was clear that something special was afoot early in the

game, when Moore went three up, three down to open the first inning. He found himself with a clean score card, zero hits and zero runs, through five innings.

The Stallions, however, brought on senior Brian Creasey to pinch hit in the sixth, and he managed to knock a single into right field to end Moore's clean run.

However, that hit and one that came right after it should do nothing to take away from Moore's stellar play, as he gave up only those two hits while throwing

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