4 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012 THE CARRBORO CITIZEN

Pain propels Tar Heels forward

BY EDDY LANDRETH

Staff Writer

"I've never seen a night so long! When time goes crawling by/ The moon just went behind the clouds/ To hide its face and cry" -Hank Williams,

"I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" Lessons learned over the course of a season can hurt nearly as much physically as mentally.

Carolina's 85-84 last-second loss to Duke at the Smith Center on Feb. 8 fell squarely into that category.

Austin Rivers' amazing lastsecond shot will assure a spot for this game among the great finishes in a rivalry filled with unbelievable performances.

Unfortunately for Carolina, all the glory in this one belongs to the Blue Devils.

"[The loss to Duke] was about as crushing for a regular-season game as I've ever felt," coach Roy Williams said. "Sometimes losing is like someone grabbing your heart, pulling it out and shaking it in front of your face. There is nothing you can do about it."

There was no way to gauge who felt the most pain from the loss to Duke, no matter how one might have measured it. Nevertheless, senior Tyler Zeller must rank near the top on the anguish meter by any measure.

He stayed awake until 5 a.m. reliving the misery.

"I stewed over it," Zeller said. "I have a tendency to take losses hard, especially when I missed two free throws that could have won the game."

The basketball season is a lengthy series of lessons, some horribly painful, some not so much. The great importance is that a team continues to grow and mature, not repeat the same mistakes.

The loss to Duke could end up as the finest blessing in disguise of the season for the Tar Heels. UNC's failure to maintain its concentration and turn

a 10-point lead with two-anda-half minutes left into a 15- or 20-point victory is a poor trait that has become habit as the season has progressed.

"That is one thing we haven't done this year, is when we got



we haven't stepped on their necks," point guard Kendall Marshall said. "Long Beach State, we got a siz-

teams down

Eddy Landreth able lead,

but they hung around. Georgia Tech, I think we got it up to 25, but they got it down to 12.

"We have to learn to step on teams' necks when we get them down, not give them that hope down the stretch that they can win the game."

UNC turned an 11-point lead into an 18-point victory against Virginia in the game following Duke. Such a turnaround could carry Carolina to the lofty goals and dreams it still has for this season.

"We watched the last two minutes and 28 seconds," Williams said. "That is the only part of the tape we watched. ... I said, 'OK, let's learn from it so we don't make those same kinds of mistakes again."

The players do not wish to lose; none want their concentration to fade in the final minutes of games or to commit silly turnovers and take bad shots. But just like making great defense a habitual process, as the Tar Heels have done, the instinct to play smart and together until the final horn must also be cultivated.

"Losing the Duke game helped us get refocused," Zeller said after UNC's hard-fought win against Virginia. "We all came out with the right attitude."

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Rosa Parks, played by Sheila Neville, sits behind the fare box during *Why Should I Mo*ve? David Deming plays the bus driver and Brian Litchfield portrays the white man who demanded Rosa's seat.

Chapel Hill Transit staff performed Why Should I Move?, a reenactment of the day in 1955 in which Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., bus, at University Mall on Feb. 4. The performance was part of the town's celebration of Black History Month.

PHOTOS BY ALICIA STEMPER



The bus driver, played by David Deming, encourages Rosa Parks, played by Sheila NevIlle, to relinquish her seat to a white man.

TRANSIT

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could create would help sales-tax revenues, benefiting the entire

Kleinschmidt referenced stud-

ies done by the town in the '90s showing that light rail along U.S. 15-501, a corridor the commissioners have indicated interest in exploring, would not be beneficial for the county, citing cost and station location issues.

"We determined that 15-501

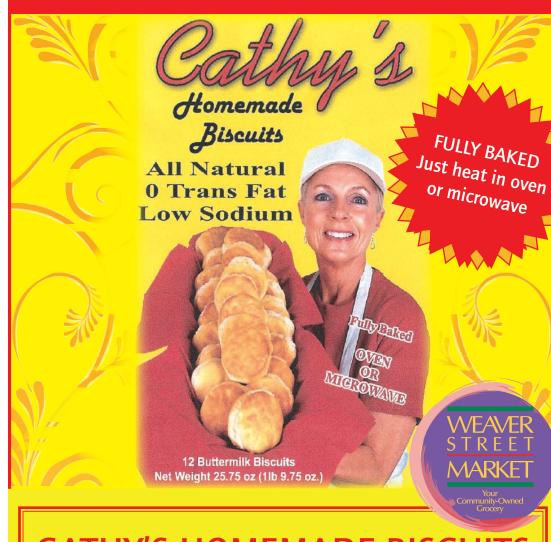
would not be appropriate for light ing that he was "adamantly oprail, but enhanced bus transit would be important for it, and we still believe that," he said.

However, Commissioner Earl McKee again expressed his opposition to the light-rail costs and the possibility of a transit tax, say-

posed" to asking county residents to vote on the tax.

The board agreed to create a timeline for public meetings that would allow for citizen comments on the transit tax.

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