Some Final Thoughts 
On NCAA Basketball

Plus... the Conclusion of Baseball Preview

Column by Mike Duffy and Andrew Heitner

Before we jump in to the conclusion of our baseball preview, we have some final thoughts on college basketball. First, we would like to take time out to send our best wishes to Coach Jimmy Valvano in his battle against cancer. It was 10 years ago that Lorenzo Charles capped an incredible season for the N.C. State Wolfpack with his follow-up jump versus Houston in the NCAA championship. Who can forget Jimmy V. practically running the floor looking for someone to hug as the stunned Cougars looked on. Today, Coach V. still proves to be an inspiration to us all as he fights the battle of his life. Here's to you Coach.

Next, we would like all those critics out there to listen to themselves when they say Dean Smith is not a good coach. It started with Cincinnati's Nick Van Exel and continued throughout the Final Four (especially here in Boston). These 'critics' point out that Smith has only won two national championship and that each of these was tainted (see '91 and the phantom Tj), despite the fact that Smith had the likes of Wood, Jordan, Worthy, and Daugherty playing for him throughout his tenure. But they neglect to mention that he made the Sweet 16 more times in a row than Boston College, UMass, and other the other New England teams combined have. They also don't mention the fact that Jordan and Worthy left college early, thus costing him another title. The man will end his tenure at Chapel Hill with more wins in the NCAA than any other coach in history and needs no more wins in the NCAA than any other coach to be considered one of the elite in the business. But they neglect to mention that he has made the Sweet 16 more times in a row than any other coach in history and needs no more wins than any other coach to be considered one of the elite in the business.

Thirdly, we would like to take time to say that it is a crook that head coaches are allowed to freely change teams (see Eddie Fogler at Springer, Eddie Sutton). Meanwhile, the playing staff that includes Mark Gubicza, Jeff Montegomery. 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