

The Daily Tar Heel

NCAA Women's Basketball Championships, Stanford Regional, Sweet 16

29-30 March 2014



*I'm a Tar Heel born,
I'm a Tar Heel bred.
And when I die,
I'm a Tar Heel dead.*

- Tag to the UNC alma mater

Stephanie Mavunga scores for 12th-ranked Carolina in its 65-58 upset of No.8 South Carolina.

I'm a Tar Heel born ...

Our peeps were in town, so Stephen Stock and I decided we should roll out the blue carpet.

We spent the weekend showing members of the University of North Carolina pep band and cheerleaders around our corner of the world while they were here for the Stanford Regional of the NCAA Women's Basketball Championships.

Stephen's son could have been in the tuba section but – after being in Texas last week for the first two rounds of the men's tournament – Michael decided to remain in Chapel Hill this time because of an excuse I never contemplated when I was a UNC cheerleader: "I have a big test this week."

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Stephen Stock, second from right in the white cap, and some of the band, cheerleaders, director and coaches who ventured out to the Golden Gate Bridge in a driving rain storm.

I'm a Tar Heel born ...

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Some of the fun of the weekend was revealing new things to students eager to learn – earthquake faults hiding in plain sight, the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, trees older than their grandparents, Dungeness crab and sourdough brought over the mountains by North Carolinians and others who ate their fallen fellow travelers when stranded by blizzards in the Sierra (George Donner was from Salem, now part of Winston-Salem, N.C.)

But really the best part was being with a group of people neither mourning nor moaning lost pasts and change but eager to create more change to make the world better – people soon to be teachers, social workers, a slew of medical professionals, musicians, scientists of assorted stripes, maybe a writer or two, nerds and geeks.

Youth isn't wasted on the young; it's wasted on people who abandon it.

Stephen and I share a church in San Jose, a home state, an alma mater and a journalism calling, although he went into broadcast work and is an investigative reporter at our local NBC station.

He grew up in Swannanoa near Asheville, and his home room teacher at Owen High School in Black Mountain was Roy Williams, who now coaches UNC's men's basketball team. He played soccer for Anson Dorrance

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Mid-span on the Golden Gate where the suspension cables dip low enough to touch and feel the vibrations and power of the bridge itself 220 feet above the water.



Stephen with Matt McClure, assistant director of bands at UNC. Matt was a band member at the University of Tennessee and now teaches saxophone in the music school at Carolina in addition to his band job. All 275 members of the football marching band play in one of the five pep bands that support men's and women's Olympic sports (about 50 members each) and one of the two basketball pep bands with about 135 members each.

I'm a Tar Heel born ...



Cable car ride through the Financial District, Chinatown and North Beach to Fisherman's Wharf.

– Continued from previous page at Carolina, perhaps convincing Dorrance to switch to the women's team, which has won 21 of the 31 soccer championships since the NCAA took over women's sports.

Stephen and Michael, a statistics major, produce videos for the marching band like this – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqQlfF7jaZw>.

This newsletter is going to the usual list plus all the Carolina students on the trip as a keepsake.

Two seniors



Tiffany, who plays bass drum, graduates in May with a degree in international relations focused on public health. She will enter the school of public health in the fall. Her work may take her abroad.



LaShawna, who plays cymbals and is from Reidsville, will graduate in biology and enter dental school this fall.

TITLE IX

My alma mater – as much as I love it – would not have sent this women’s basketball team, this band and these cheerleaders anywhere if Title IX hadn’t made it do so.

Title IX, enacted by Congress in 1972, is publicly identified with college sports. Without it, my wife Emily would never have been able to run track and cross-country at Wake Forest because schools couldn’t be persuaded to provide girls and women equal athletic opportunities.

But Title IX is much bigger – it applies to all educational opportunity. No student is unaffected. Emily’s mother could not enter Carolina until she was a junior because there wasn’t a law to force UNC to admit women on an equal basis with men. That’s illegal today. And she graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

Title IX has increased the number of women in law schools by 600 percent and in medical schools by 500 percent.

Without disparaging the service of those in the military, only a tiny minority of the wars we have ever fought were about protecting the rights of Americans. That’s because our rights to vote, to speak, to worship and an enormous number of other things are not now and rarely have been threatened by foreign adversaries.

American rights are won and lost every day in courtrooms, school boards and legislatures between people struggling for equal rights and those seeking to protect the privilege afforded by their gender, race, religion or numerous other conditions and situations by which they believe society should be organized and controlled.



Celebrating the victory

The Game

You’re absolutely right in thinking it’s ridiculous that the flagship universities of North and South Carolina should travel to California to play a basketball game, especially when South Carolina was the top-seeded team in the region.

However, the NCAA – governing body of major college sports – does not currently award its championship events to the states of Mississippi and South Carolina. That’s because of the venerated status that Confederate flags have on the grounds of their state capitols.

North Carolina’s leading scorer, with 19 points, was Diamond DeShields, a freshman from Norcross, Ga. Her father, Delino, was a Major League infielder for 13 years with the Montreal Expos, Los Angeles Dodgers, St. Louis Cardinals, Baltimore Orioles and Chicago Cubs. Her mother, Michelle, was an All-American in track and field at the University of Tennessee.

Key to the outcome was the free-throw shooting of Brittany Rountree of Jacksonville, Fla. An 85% shooter from the line, she hit 5 of 6 in the last 1:14.

The Job ...



The NCAA requires all schools in its men's and women's basketball tournaments to bring pep bands and cheerleaders to every game. The nearly \$1 billion it earns from these events – mostly from television rights – pays the cost. At Carolina, that means on game day athletes hear their fight songs and cheerleaders when they head to the team bus, even if it's in an otherwise deserted parking lot at the Marriott Santa Clara, and even if players make the walk in widely separated groups of two or three.

... and the Tools of the Trade



From packing tubas for the bus to packing themselves and their gear into the bus, game day is about logistics and sharing the load.