

# Basketball, football tickets within reach at UNC

Freshmen can get front row at UNC basketball games with a little luck.

By Kevin Phinney  
Staff Writer

We all bleed Carolina blue. Our hearts beat in unison with every team on campus. We wear Carolina blue with pride, we sing the alma mater after victories and nothing makes us prouder than beating Duke.

This is what you can look forward to this upcoming year: Filling Kenan Memorial Stadium on game day, turning Boshamer Stadium blue and screaming until you lose your voice while Roy's boys take care of business in the Smith Center.

All you have to do is get there. And for every sport but men's basketball and football you'll just show up and present your One Card.

Football games are a little different. Occasionally, when there is an especially big game, there is a lottery that students enter to win tickets. Last year there were no games that required a lottery.

Basketball tickets are a different story. The second most

sought-after piece of paper on this campus — second only to a diploma — is a basketball ticket.

Though there are a few games over the winter break that are first-come, first-serve, tickets are often distributed through a lottery system. It can be cruel and unusual punishment for some people, but others get lucky.

You will use TarHeelBlue.com for this lottery. Winners of the lottery receive two tickets, meaning you'll never have to go to a game without a buddy.

Carolina Athletic Association President Johnathan Flynn said that while the basketball lottery can be a bit discouraging sometimes, you should never give up.

"Check the 'turn-it-back' line and the stand-by line," he said. "I don't think we turned down a single student all year that tried to get in using the stand-by line, even at the Duke game."

The UNC and Duke rivalry is heralded as one of the greatest rivalries in sports, and you are now a part of that rivalry. The lottery for the Duke game is intense: Everyone applies, and everyone wants to win.

These tickets are extremely hard to come by, but don't worry — every student is guaranteed a ticket to at least one Duke game

while they are here at UNC.

There are certain ways you can increase your chances of getting basketball tickets. One of those is Carolina Fever.

Carolina Fever is an organization that awards points based on attendance at UNC sporting events. Students who have earned a lot of points are more likely to get Duke basketball tickets.

Carolina Fever ticketing and database operations chair Alexandra Cruz was a member of Carolina Fever in her freshman year and attended almost all of the events. The process worked out for her.

"I was on the front row of the risers as a freshman. That's my favorite experience at Carolina," Cruz said.

But it's not all about basketball and football. UNC has an incredible athletics program all around.

Our men's soccer team is the reigning national champion, our field hockey teams are ranked near the top year after year and

we have a women's soccer team that has won more than 20 national championships.

Some of you may want to bring your parents or friends who are not UNC students to games. You can do that, but basketball and football games require that you purchase a student guest pass.

These passes are available on TarHeelBlue.com and usually cost normal ticket prices.

However, when you purchase a student guest pass you are automatically awarded a student ticket as well.

Carolina Fever spokesman Joe Petrizzi advised students to take advantage of their time at UNC.

"You only have these four years to be a student fan," he said.

"For four years, these great athletes that are known across the country are your peers, and they appreciate our support more than anyone else."



DTH/MELISSA KEY  
A newly renovated portion of Kenan Stadium. Football tickets are only occasionally distributed through lottery for big games.

Contact the Sports Editor at  
sports@dailytarheel.com.

## Freshman Year Checklist:

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