

The Daily Tar Heel

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Williams deserves Coach of the Year

With college basketball entering the final week of the regular season, perhaps it is time to recognize the coach who deserves the ACC Coach of the Year. This year's award features two hall-of-fame coaches in UNC's Roy Williams and Duke's Mike Krzyzewski vying for the top accolade.

Some might argue that Seth Greenberg of Virginia Tech is making a late push, but all too often it seems as though the Coach of the Year title is a sympathy award that goes to a coach who manages to string together a decent season despite less than stellar talent. For example, Greenberg won Coach of the Year during the 2004-2005 basketball season when his team limped to a 16-14 overall record.

During the same season, Roy Williams' UNC team won in Blacksburg by 34 points on its way to a 26-3 (14-2) regular season record and a National Championship.

The 2004-2005 UNC team featured a talent-laden roster compared to Greenberg's club. Nevertheless, assembling a talented team should not disqualify a coach for Coach of the Year honors.

In the seven full seasons since Williams was named head coach at UNC, his teams have won the regular season ACC title four times. Despite this astonishing feat, Williams has only been recognized as Coach of the Year once during his ACC tenure.

Williams' Duke counterpart, Krzyzewski, has been similarly snubbed in Coach of the Year voting. Krzyzewski, who has won half of the regular season ACC titles of the past decade, has failed to garner a single ACC Coach of the Year award since the turn of the century.

If not for UNC's performance this season, Krzyzewski might be in line for the honor. However, Krzyzewski was blessed with the return of two senior All-Americans from a national championship team. Coaching a talented team may not disqualify someone for coach of the year, but benefiting from senior leaders can ease a coach's job. There's not as much improvement needed.

In stark contrast, UNC lost six major contributors from last season's team that finished 5-11 in the ACC. The starting lineup is now littered with freshmen and sophomores.

Williams also had to overcome the unexpected departures of David and Travis Wear, senior leader Will Graves and the shocking loss of Larry Drew II.

The Tar Heels are 10-1 since Williams made the bold move to insert Kendall Marshall into the starting lineup. Williams' coaching effort this season is best exemplified in his team's ability to adapt and win games in various fashions.

The Heels have uncharacteristically won contests reminiscent of grueling trench-wars, such as UNC's 48-46 victory over Boston College in Chapel Hill.

On-court results are scrutinized heavily, but managing dynamic personalities and egos is a severely underappreciated aspect of coaching. During the season, Williams lamented, "I've got half of the guys on my team that their mom and dad and their friends and everything think that they're going to make \$88 million. They could give a flip whether we win a game or not."

Roy Williams should be acknowledged for the brilliant job that he has done this season.

TUESDAY:
Matthew Moran extols the merits of being bad.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Connor Sullivan, cpsully@email.unc.edu



The Interview

After a bitterly won election, it falls to Mary Cooper to prove her worth to the students who elected her

The Interview is an opinion page feature of reflections on extended talks with people who affect our community, written by members of the editorial board. Today, Cameron Parker writes about Student Body President-elect Mary Cooper.

It didn't really dawn on Mary Cooper that she was student body president-elect until Saturday morning, when she got an e-mail with the words "Cooper administration."

"No one had ever said that back to me," she said. Before then, "Cooper administration" was a hypothetical. Now it's the real deal.

After winning the election on Friday, it's now up to Cooper to fashion an administration that is as productive and honorable as this election was petty.

She said she started that process the next day, when she met with Student Body President Hogan Medlin for the first of what will be a series of meetings.

They hashed out a schedule for covering all of the necessary ground before the transition. Interestingly, that process is traditionally managed by the student body secretary. Right now, that's Ian Lee — her former opponent.

Cooper grinned when asked how that's going to go over. She gleamed with positive regard.

"I really do respect Ian," she said. "Working with Ian will be great."

A bitter contest

Cooper gets points for keeping relatively positive. Yet in spite of her rosy outlook, she offered a frank diagnosis of the election. Her prescription includes some reform of the Student Code, but she also points to candidate conduct.

"Blaming things on the Code is the easiest thing," she said. But candidates can't hide behind it.

Cooper also suggested that the risk of negative perception was a strong disincentive to candidates coming forward about perceived violations.

But this election proved that candidates have to do a better job with conduct. Standing for principle from time to time — even in the face of bad press — might be a good place to start.

If there are any hard feelings lingering between Cooper and the other candidates, it doesn't show. She disagreed with Lee's refusal to step down from his office and was displeased with some of the conduct of Rick Ingram's campaign. But Cooper is careful to balance negatives with positives.

It might be strategic. After all, Ingram and Lee could conceivably be in the Cooper administration. And enemies within the student government bubble can feel uncomfortably close.

But regardless of motivation, an attitude of reconciliation feels right after all of the drama of the election.

Moving forward

The best way for Cooper to put the election behind her is to push ahead.

Part of this means leading on the issues — but Cooper arguably performed weakly on this front. Most of the endorsements from forums went to Ingram and Lee.

Cooper, unsurprisingly, discounts the value of the various forums as an indicator of platform strength.

"It's really interesting to see who is running the forum, and who is giving the hugs after the forum," she said.

It's true that a lot of politicking goes into them. But her

stance on the debates — where actual platforms get debated — is a little harsh for a candidate who felt that overall, drama distracted from ideas.

Despite this, Cooper is eager for feedback. And she wants to throw herself into her new role right away.

"I want ideas coming in left and right," she said.

Cooper has the right answers, but they are also the standard answers. Every president-elect wants to heal the divisive wounds of the campaign, to be open to ideas and ultimately to deliver. None of them usually do.

Logistically, Cooper said she wants to reach out to committees early

and get buy-in.

She wants to sell committee members on her platform so that her project becomes their project, and that they will feel galvanized to spend a year implementing it.

And this time next year, Cooper wants people to think she succeeded. When asked how people should describe her administration, she answered, "Hard working. Hard working with results that they can see."

"Everyone can relate to hard work."

Hard work is one thing, but it's the results that matter more. Results are what student government needs.

Students need to feel like their government is advocating for their interests — and delivering. The Cooper administration has the chance to break a cycle of disappointment.

That means making student government accessible and welcoming to more than just her former opponents. It means securing student buy-in as well.

The Cooper administration has its work cut out for it.

Charter more charters

NC legislature should eliminate charter school cap

Right now the number of charter schools in North Carolina is capped by the legislature at 100. A bill to eliminate the cap just passed the state Senate and will soon see debate in the state House. Eliminating the cap on charters would be good for North Carolina; the General Assembly should continue to work to pass the bill.

Charters are publicly funded K-12 schools that have fewer restrictions than traditional public schools. They have more freedom when it comes to educational focus, teacher hiring and administrative decision making.

Whether the North Carolina Association of Educators likes

it or not, getting rid of the charter cap would be good for the UNC community because it would increase diversity by giving future teachers and students more opportunity.

Many UNC students consider going into teaching but do not want to major in education. Increasing the number of charter schools would provide more options for students who want to follow a nontraditional path to teaching because charter schools have less stringent teacher certification requirements.

Eliminating the cap would also increase diversity within the UNC student population. Charter schools allow more choice in education and provide opportunities for students who struggle in traditional

public schools.

Private school is not an option for many students whose educational needs are not met by their assigned public school. Charter schools are free and provide a valuable opportunity to serve students with different learning needs. This kind of choice in education allows students to find a school that fits their needs and have a better chance at success in college.

N.C. charter schools consistently rank among the best in the country and have long waiting lists. North Carolina charter schools are a story of success; the General Assembly should act to expand opportunity to more students by eliminating the cap.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:
"The student body president has no power. It has the power of persuasion..."
BOB WINSTON, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:
"Maybe there's a correlation between student attendance and athletic performance."
WSN, ON FEWER BASKETBALL TICKETS BEING OFFERED TO STUDENTS THIS SEASON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Professors can find time to make a big difference

TO THE EDITOR:
The article "First in a generation" (Feb. 25) was a great start to my Friday morning classes. Something about Chris Carter's drive and story was just a quick reminder of the importance of teachers and professors who are deeply vested in the success of their students.

Like Chris, I've found that the people that have pushed me the most or taught me to overcome academic obstacles other than my parents have been my teachers, both in high school and college.

I'll admit, one of my worries about coming to UNC was the large student to faculty ratio. But having spent just one semester here as a freshman, I've come to realize that professors at Carolina have an uncanny ability to play the role of mentor even with such a large student body.

Sometimes, I honestly wonder how between research, advising and lesson plans they find the time to meet with students and discuss anything from a question on a homework assignment to broad plans after college, but somehow they always make room.

So, in summary, congrats to Chris Carter on the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, and hats off to the teacher that pushed him to realize his full potential.

*Swetha Pasala
Freshman
Biology and PWAD*

Ingram's behavior before runoff was unprofessional

TO THE EDITOR:
While the election is essentially done at this point, I feel like throwing my two cents into this discussion.

I have witnessed an extremely childish display from college students who were supposed to professionally campaign for a major position here at the University.

I hesitate to single out Rick Ingram, but he's given me no other choice. While I understand his being upset that an opponent may have been unethical in his campaign, the proper reaction is not to go on a public rampage and turn a simple election into a full-on smear campaign. Even after a run-off election between Lee and Cooper was announced, he continued to make a public display of his resentment.

Lee sent an e-mail to students, including Ingram's supporters, asking students to vote. Of course, he included a link to his platform (as did Cooper) because he, unlike Ingram, was still in the running! Ingram's reaction, visible on Facebook and Twitter, was unnecessary.

Rather than truly endorsing Cooper, as he claimed, he once again went after Lee. I for one am growing tired of this excessive drama. I hope that Ingram will let the matter rest.

*Krysta Workman
Senior
History*

Ease of registration may cause poor attendance

TO THE EDITOR:
After reading the article on the drop in use of tickets for basketball games ("Students get fewer tickets to UNC basketball

games," Feb. 25), I can't help feeling like the University isn't using common sense.

They wonder why tickets have dropped to the point where hundreds of tickets are unused but they fail to remember that by increasing the ease of acquiring tickets (a few clicks and you're signed up for the lottery), they're lowering the value of the tickets to the students.

UNC wonders why students feel free to let their tickets go unused and the answer is staring them in the face: we didn't have to do anything for them. Anyone, basketball fanatics and people who have never been fans in their lives, can sign up for the lottery with the same amount of time and effort (which is near zero).

I'm not suggesting that we institute a Duke-type system where we camp outside for a month (...idiots), but would it be so difficult to imagine having to go register at a specific office for the lottery instead of having it online? This way, the fans who actually remember and care about the games go and the students who aren't particularly fans don't bother.

This increases the value of tickets and would make students think twice before not attending games they have tickets to. That way, maybe my friend that doesn't know what the ACC is or who Roy Williams is doesn't get Phase 1 tickets when I don't get any.

*Michael Hardison
Freshman
Political Science and PWAD*

DTH Quick Hit about book choice was in poor taste

TO THE EDITOR:
I was excited to learn in the DTH of UNC and Duke's choice of "Eating Animals" by Jonathan Safran Foer as the summer reading selection for 2011, then was quickly disappointed by a failed attempt at humor in Quick Hits in writing the book off as simply teaching how to choose between meat and tofu.

Sadly, the Editorial Board demonstrated its lack of familiarity with the book while showing their complete shortsightedness — the connection between what we eat and arguably every major problem the future leaders of North Carolina will face in our local communities, state, and world is incredibly strong and notable.

The Editorial Board fell into an outdated and stereotypical definition of vegetarianism as a philosophy of people that can't bear to think that a cute cow will be killed. If it were to move past this, it would see the links between our food system and obesity, poverty, climate change, skyrocketing health care costs, and the vitality of local communities.

Foer's book poignantly deals with these connections while demonstrating the impact of personal choice and exploring the complex web of factors that bear upon such decisions. Its consideration of personal experience combined with relevant facts is unique, and presents an excellent framework for discussion. To the selection committee: great work. To the DTH Editorial Board: read the book.

*Jonathan Tarleton
Senior
Latin American Studies*

SPEAK OUT

WRITING GUIDELINES:

- **Please type:** Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
- **Sign and date:** No more than two people should sign letters.
- **Students:** Include your year, major and phone number.
- **Faculty/staff:** Include your

department and phone number.

➤ **Edit:** The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit letters to 250 words.

SUBMISSION:

- **Drop-off:** at our office at 151 E. Rosemary Street.
- **E-mail:** opinion@dailytarheel.com
- **Send:** to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515.

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