

The Battalion Sports

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Tar Heels overtake Hoyas for NCAA title

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — When coaches and fans gather to talk about the 1982 NCAA championship basketball game, the overwhelming first thought surely will be "What a great game that was."

The North Carolina Tar Heels and Georgetown Hoyas put on a championship game Monday night that was worthy of an Academy Award, with which it had to compete for national television ratings.

The Tar Heels' 63-62 victory over the Hoyas set a standard by which championship games will be measured.

"I thought it was one of the great basketball games," said Tar Heels' Coach Dean Smith,

who had lost in his three previous trips to the NCAA title contest. "Maybe I think that way because I was involved in it. It will be interesting to see what other people think. There was tremendous talent on the court."

That talent produced 40 minutes of excitement and intensity in which the lead changed hands 15 times. And there were plenty of oddities for future trivia experts. North Carolina literally did not have a shot go through the basket for the first eight minutes of the game, but trailed by only four points because of four goaltending calls made on Patrick Ewing, Georgetown's 7-foot freshman center.

"I try to block everything I



can," said Ewing, who scored 23 points to lead his team, but wound up committing five goaltending violations.

James Worthy, North Carolina's 6-9 junior forward, voted the game's outstanding player,

scored 18 of his career-high 28 points in the first half but Eric Floyd and Ewing each managed 10 during the first 20 minutes to allow the Hoyas to escape with a 32-31 halftime advantage. However, things were just warming up.

A three-point play by Ewing put Georgetown ahead by four midway through the second half, but Worthy brought the Tar Heels storming back with a series of dunk shots. Ewing picked up his fourth foul with 5:32 to go and two free throws by North Carolina's Jimmy Black put the Tar Heels in front by three.

Then North Carolina's Matt Doherty, with his team leading by one, missed the front end of a

one-and-one free throw with 1:19 left and Floyd's off-balance 8-foot jumper with 56 seconds to go (leaving him with 18 points) sent the Hoyas in front by a point.

North Carolina took time out with 32 seconds left and worked for what turned out to be a 15-foot jumper by Michael Jordan with 15 seconds to go and was the game winner.

Georgetown did not use a time out, hoping to catch the Tar Heels off guard. But when Fred Brown tried to pass the ball to Floyd, he wound up throwing it right into the hands of Worthy, whose steal clinched the championship. It made no difference that Worthy missed two free throws with two

seconds remaining.

"Floyd was open," said Brown, "but they were overplaying me. Worthy just made a great play."

Thus Smith, who was completing his 21st year of coaching at North Carolina, finally won his NCAA crown. And in doing so he defeated his good friend John Thompson, who has coached Georgetown for the last 10 years.

"I've thought about it (winning the first title), but it wasn't that big a thing," said Smith, whose team finished with a 32-2 record. "I think I was out-coached, but fortunately I had the players that played extremely well. It was important for the team to win, not me."

"I thought it was a great

game," said Black, who made only one turnover despite a night-long press thrown at the Tar Heels by the Hoyas. "The audience (a Louisiana Superdome crowd announced at 61,612) probably was on the edge of their seats, too. It's the type of game you expect in a national championship."

Even Georgetown players realized they had played in a game that was special, which seemed to take some of the sting out of the loss.

"All I know," said forward Eric Smith, "is that two good teams were out there playing tonight. They happened to come out on top. In a couple of days I might be able to sit down and think about how good we played."

History repeats

NC's victory over Georgetown similar to 1957 clincher

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — North Carolina's James Worthy after his team's one-point NCAA championship victory over Georgetown that the Hoyas have nothing to be ashamed about after losing.

"Georgetown is the toughest team we played all year," said Worthy, who scored 28 points and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. "They're a great defensive team."

Following Jordan's basket, Georgetown had a final chance to set up. But Fred Brown threw a pass into Worthy's hands with five seconds to go and that was all for the Hoyas.

"I was cutting to the corner and we spread out their defense," Floyd said of Georgetown's final play. "We had them in several disadvantages. We had confidence in every player out there that he could shoot the ball and make it. We just didn't pull it off."

championship basketball teams, but it is a time barrier shattered by the remarkable similarities between the two squads.

The 1957 and 1982 North Carolina units both finished the regular season as the No. 1 rated team in the UPI poll — the only two times in school history they have accomplished that feat. The 1957 team set a school record with 32 victories and the 1982 team matched it.

The 1957 team had to fend off an intimidating 7-foot center, Wilt Chamberlain of Kansas, to win No. 32 in the NCAA championship game by one point, 54-53. The 1982 team also had to fend off an intimidating 7-footer in Ewing.

Frank McGuire, the coach of that 1957 team who was on hand at the Superdome for Monday night's triumph over Georgetown, said: "It (the national championship) means so much to the state and to the people."

Defensively, the Hoyas had a most difficult assignment. How to stop the inside twosome of Worthy, an All-America who hit 13-of-17 shots, and center Sam Perkins.

Much of the responsibility fell on 7-foot freshman Pat Ewing (23 points, 11 rebounds) and Ed Spriggs, the one-time postal worker who has helped anchor the Hoyas' front line all year.

"He's so good around the basket," Spriggs said of Worthy. "We did all we could on him. And then they started hitting from the outside in the second half which made them doubly tough. But Worthy is so good."

While many teams do not dare go man-to-man against North Carolina, that was not the case with the Hoyas, who stuck with such a defense for much of the way.

"We felt our man wasn't hurting us," said Georgetown Coach John Thompson. "But when we were in the zone, Worthy was flashing through the middle and hurting us. We felt more secure in our man-to-man."

The Hoyas, as it turned out, were in a matchup zone when freshman Michael Jordan hit a 17-footer from the left side with 15 seconds to go, winning it for the Tar Heels.

"I think we made them take the shot we wanted them to take," said All-America Eric Floyd, who had 18 points and five assists. "Fortunately for them it went in. Jordan's a great shooter and he made a tough shot to beat us."



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