

Tar Heels’ Davis gets 2-year extension through 2030

BY AARON BEARD
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North Carolina coach Hubert Davis has another two years on his deal and a new general manager to help the blueblood men’s basketball program deal with the changing landscape of college athletics. Davis has signed a two-year extension running through the 2029-30 season to lead his alma mater. And on Tuesday, the school announced Davis had hired basket-

ball agent Jim Tanner as the program’s first-ever executive director and GM. UNC also posted an updated contract for Davis on its official athletics site, with that deal reached in July and signed in December. It pays Davis an average of \$3.2 million in base salary and supplemental pay, up from about \$2 million on the previous deal reached in July 2022 that ran through the 2027-28 season.

Notably, the base salary increased from \$400,000 annually to \$1.25 million, more than tripling the amount owed to Davis to buyout the remainder of the deal if UNC ever decided to make a coaching change. It also includes \$750,000 in additional pay from an apparel deal with Nike and a media-rights deal with Learfield, a \$50,000 expense allowance and another \$1.25 mil-

lion in annual available bonuses. The 54-year-old Davis played for the Tar Heels under late Hall of Famer Dean Smith and spent a dozen years playing in the NBA. He later left an ESPN broadcasting job to work as an assistant to another Hall of Famer in Roy Williams in 2012, then took over as head coach in 2021 when Williams retired. That change coincided with the arrival of a new era in college athletics with

players able to profit from their athletic fame with name, image and likeness (NIL) and move freely between schools through the transfer portal without sitting out. And at UNC, Davis’ tenure has had some wild swings, starting with an unexpected first-year run to the NCAA title game. His second team won 20 games but became the first preseason No. 1-ranked team to miss the NCAA Tournament, Last year’s group won the

Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season race and claimed a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament, while Davis was named ACC coach of the year. This year, UNC opened the year at No. 9 in the preseason AP Top 25 before falling out amid a series of losses in marquee matchups. But the Tar Heels (18-11) have won four straight and five of six as they battle to end up on the right side of the NCAA bubble.

CALDWELL

FROM PAGE B1

championship match against world champion Jordyn Raney, but was unable to continue due to an injury, resulting in a default loss. Justin Klidzejs went 3-1 in the 126-pound weight class also finishing with second place honors, contributing 23.5 points to the Tigers overall score. Klidzejs kicked off his championship journey in the first round, where he faced Daniel Fickas from Owensboro, securing a technical fall victory, 18-0, in just 2 minutes and 36 seconds. He then pinned Zaven Branch from McCracken County in 4 minutes and 49 seconds to advance to an intense semi-final match against Kevondre Young from Christian County. Klidzejs took just 3 minutes and 32 seconds to pin Young to punch his ticket to the finals but eventually fell to Brennen Clifford of Union County. In just his second year of varsity wrestling, eight grader Bradley Asher secured a fourth-place finish in the 157-pound weight class earning 14 points for the Tigers and his first ever trip to the state tournament. Asher battled back from a 14-9 quarterfinal loss to Cade Turner from McCracken County to pin Henry Caudill from Hopkinsville in a quick 53 seconds. Con-



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Logan Brown finished second in the 138 pound weight class of the First Region tournament over the weekend, securing his spot at the state meet.

tinuing his momentum in the third consolation round, Asher faced Eric McCarthy from Owensboro Catholic, winning by fall in one minute and 43 seconds, to advance to the consolation semifinals. In the final match for third place, Asher found himself once again up against Cade Turner, where he fell two minutes and 18 seconds later, concluding his tournament run in fourth place. Donovan Rogers finished fifth in the 144-pound weight class, contributing 11 points to the Tigers’ overall score. Rogers faced a setback in the quarterfinals, where he was pinned by Evan Pyles from Paducah Tilghman in 2:33. In the consolation rounds, he rebounded with two quick victories over Braylyn Stevens

from Calloway County, winning by fall in 2:04 and pinned Andrew Kraft from Hopkinsville in just 53 seconds. However, his momentum was stalled in the consolation semifinals against Kameryis Rodriquez Cline from Owensboro, where he lost by technical fall in four minutes. Rogers regrouped to secure fifth place against Brayden Mattingly from Apollo, winning a closely contested match 5-4 to secure his place as an alternate. Dawson Harris will also be an alternate after finishing fifth in the 285-pound weight class. After a first-round bye, Harris advanced to the quarterfinals, where he defeated Tristen French from Owensboro Catholic 8-7. In the semifinals, he faced Austin Cummings from Union Coun-

ty and was pinned in 1:37, sending him to the consolation rounds. In the consolation semifinals, Harris bounced back from a loss to Treshan Crenshaw from Christian County to claim the fifth place match against Anthony Hester from Apollo, winning by fall in 2:21. Caldwell had two other wrestlers, seventh grader Ethan Klidzejs and senior Cale Goodwin earned regional medals with sixth-place finishes. Goodwin, who competed in the 190-weight class, began with a quarterfinal victory over DeAsian Harris from Christian County but was then pinned by Cameron Vinson from Union County, moving him to the consolation bracket. After a conso-



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Caldwell County eighth grader will make an appearance in the KHSAA State wresling meet in the 157 weight class after landing a fourth place finish at the regional meet.



JARED JENSEN | The Sun
The Caldwell County wrestling squad cheers on one of their own Saturday during the First Region meet at Paducah Tilghman High School.

lation bracket loss to Lane Parrish from Calloway County, he was set to compete against Tavious Walker from Apollo for 5th place but had to forfeit due to medical reasons, concluding his final tournament run in sixth place. Also adding six points for Caldwell was Elijah Kirby. Kirby went 2-2 in the 132-weight class.

Caldwell placed sixth overall out of 15 schools. Union County won its 22nd straight team title with 339 points. Paducah Tilghman was a distant second with 254.5 points while Christian County claimed third with 151 points. The KHSAA State Wrestling Championships begins on Thursday at Alltech Arena in Lexington.

SPLIT

FROM PAGE B1

physicality from both teams with very few fouls called. This type of game is what postseason play is all about, something that bodes well for both teams heading into the postseason. Lyon turned up the physicality down the stretch after finding themselves down 25-17 after the first frame. A full court press and trap game around the perimeter eliminated a lot of the open shots that St. Mary found in the opening quarter. This slowed the scoring down in the second quarter to just a 31-28 ballgame still in favor of the Vikings. The Lyons were able to find 11 points in the second with

strong performances from Nolan Coffman and Isaac DeFew. Despite the trap game, the Vikings came out in the second and turned up the heat again, getting up 40-30. But, in true reigning state championship fashion, whenever the Vikings found themselves on a run, the Lyons would answer right back. This was apparent in a 25-21 third quarter performance, leading to a 56-49 St. Mary lead heading into the final frame. Free throws would become key down the stretch for the Vikings as the game found itself with a single-digit deficit at several points in the fourth quarter. St. Mary put on a 9-for-14 performance from the charity stripe in the final eight minutes, while Lyon

never made a trip to the line, but instead continued their hot hands from beyond the arc. Cooper Collins would be the main contributor of the Lyons 3-point shooting with five made deep balls to lead the Lyons with 19 points. Collins and the Lyons would turn up the defensive pressure once against, but the Vikings would work their way through it to come away with the 75-64 win. Behind the 29 points from Sims was 18 points from Andrew Puckett and 15 points from Griffin Mayes, nine points from Brett Haas and Four from Ashton Spurr. For Lyon County, Nolan Coffman added 14 points, Isaac DeFew put up 12, Carsen Collins had 10, Bray Kirk had five and Korben Lucas added four.

LYONS

FROM PAGE B1

the frame. The Lady Lyons established a 40-27 advantage going into the final period. Despite some late-game pressure from Livingston, including back-to-back 3-pointers that narrowed the score to 41-34, Lyon County’s defense held strong to secure the win.

Piper Cotham was undoubtedly the star of the night, finishing with 25 points, including four triples, and contributing significantly to her team’s offense. Jenna Coursey added 12 points and was instrumental in the paint, while Lily Perry’s rebounding (12 boards) helped Lyon County gain key possessions. In post-game interviews, Coach Dawn Cotham reflected

on the team’s mindset during the crucial moments of the game. “We came out in the first and I feel like we weren’t locked in, but when we saw that we were only up by seven, we knew we couldn’t let up,” she said. With the victory, Lyon County improves to 21-8 and looks forward to Thursday night’s championship against Crittenden County.

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