

Razorbacks, fans enjoy title fever

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Corliss Williamson may have thought he'd started a fad.

Williamson, named most valuable player in the NCAA championship game at Charlotte, N.C., in which Arkansas beat Duke 76-72, shaves his head bald.

Among the crowd of 3,000 who turned out to welcome the Razorbacks at the airport Tuesday was Arkansas student Toby McCarter, his head shorn clean — until he turned around and showed the back.

There, you could read the word "hogs" spelled out in the only hair the barber left.

"I'm just showing support for my Hogs," Carter said. "I couldn't go to Charlotte, so I thought it was the best thing I could do."

Nolan Richardson got a special welcome. As the weary coach left the plane Tuesday, the chant rose from the crowd: "No-LAN, No-LAN, No-LAN."

"It's a great feeling to finally win it, but I go back to work tomorrow," Richardson said at Drake Field.

"I've not been to sleep yet. I can hardly wait to get home," Richardson said above the roar of the crowd.

Scotty Thurman, whose arching three-pointer with 50 seconds left put Arkansas ahead for good, also was ready for bed after making the rounds of the Tuesday morning news shows.

"I just got a little time to sleep on the plane," Thurman said.

Junior Clinton McDaniel beamed and waved his arms at the crowd. "This is what Arkansas basket-

ball is all about," he said of the fans.

Winning the championship "hasn't sunk in yet, and I haven't had much time to think about it," said junior Corey Beck. "But the fans were great, and this is real great to see them here today."

The players waded through the crowd, smiling and shaking hands. Fans waved signs that said "Razorback Hogs Are Tough, Talented and Intelligent" and "Duke Who?"

A special ceremony was planned for today in Bud Walton Arena, where the team will receive the CNN-USA Today championship trophy.

"We don't have to talk about respect anymore," said Arkansas athletic director Frank Broyles. Winning the tournament "gives you a different level of acceptance, and the respect will be there," he said.

Broyles, who is being treated for an irregular heartbeat, did not watch the game on the advice of his doctors.

"I'm proud for Nolan because I've been with him every step of the way," said close friend Andy Stoglin, coach at Jackson State and Richardson's assistant at Western Texas College when the team won the junior college championship in 1980. Stoglin also was an assistant at Tulsa, where the Richardson-coached Golden Hurricane won the NIT in 1981.

"No one gave him credit, not even when he was 37-0 and won the junior college championship," Stoglin said. "He got credit for having good players. But Monday he showed he could coach, and by beating Mike Krzyzewski in North Carolina, he showed a lot of people that he can make good coaching decisions."

Defeat can't take away Krzyzewski's success

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski has his own meaning of success.

"Some people would define winning as the two national championship banners in the end zone. ... Some would define winning as who has the highest score at the end of the game. I have never used that definition here at Duke," Krzyzewski said Tuesday, a day after the Blue Devils dropped the national championship game to Arkansas 76-72.

"I quite simply use the definition of always trying your best. I don't worry about what other people think or what people think about putting expectations on individuals or the team. That will never change."

The team returned for a welcome-home party at Cameron Indoor Stadium, but the gathering soon turned into an emotional farewell by Krzyzewski to seniors Grant Hill, Antonio Lang and Marty Clark.

"No team that I have coached has had more heart than this basketball team," said Krzyzewski, who started to cry halfway through his 15-minute speech to about 2,000 fans.

"It's true and it's not just an emotional statement. This team was truly a team. They invigorated me. Are you kid-

ding me? In four years they've won 118 games. And they've really had fun doing it."

Although the Blue Devils had been to six of the previous eight Final Fours and won titles in 1991 and 1992, the team's run toward the 1994 NCAA title certainly was unexpected.

Duke finished 28-6 after searching for early-season chemistry with the loss of all-time assists leader Bobby Hurley. It never dropped out of the top 10 and won the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title over favored North Carolina, last year's national champion.

Clark became Duke's sixth man off the bench, a dependable shooter and ballhandler Krzyzewski could count on for instant offense.

Lang was the unsung forward playing alongside Hill, and late in the season became one of the team's emotional leaders.

And Hill became one of the game's most complete players. When Duke needed a clutch shot, rebound, assist or steal, it was the All-American who usually produced.

"It took a lot of character and a lot of dignity to play the way we played (against Arkansas)," Lang said. "As long as we left that out there on the court, then I'm satisfied."

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