

Build them up and tear them down

If you build it, they will come. If you tear it down, they will flock.

Mike Tyson used to be a street punk with no future. That was before he fought his way to the top, earning millions of dollars and fans, on the way to the summit of his profession.

But just as Americans marveled at the seemingly invincible power of "Iron Mike," they were equally enthralled with his thundering fall from grace with his rape conviction and subsequent imprisonment.

For O.J. Simpson, the path to the top was less incredible, but just as meteoric, as "The Juice" carved himself into a superstar



CHRIS METZ

athlete and a media darling. His sparkling white polo shirts and good looks were a stark contrast to Tyson's dark, thug-like demeanor. But the attention paid to Simpson's current plunge is just another example of America's twisted love affair with its heroes.

The return of Michael Jordan to the NBA is a less-severe example of the rise and fall of a star, but it is a comeback nonetheless. And if there's anything Americans love, it's a comeback.

So just what is it about the roller-coaster ride of these star athletes that so captivates society?

Like in no other society, Americans are content to write off heroes in times of trouble. Tyson, more so than Simpson, went from king to conquered; it just seemed to make sense that a man so violent in the ring would naturally be so out of it too.

While Tyson did have his supporters, he was not backed

by the masses of a flag-waving, I-5 contingent that was there to celebrate O.J. on his pathetic parade through Southern California.

It's clear then that different heroes garner different levels of worship, but it's all part of a pattern that's become all too prevalent in a troubled society.

Whether it's the Simpson case, a case in which America's judgment seems to be clouded by his past exploits, or the case of Tyson, where the public was more than willing to convict the fighter right on the spot, America has a strange relationship with

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Come on



Senior psychology major Terrill Chalmers takes the offensive and challenges junior journalism major Andy Brackensick to a little one-on-one Wednesday on campus.

Sullivan hopes third time's a charm for his Carolina squad

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Trivia buffs need to know only one response to answer several questions about this year's North Carolina basketball team.

- Who's the fifth-year senior whose back problems almost stretched his eligibility even further?
- Who's the first Tar Heel player to go to three Final Fours since 1969?
- And who had a chance at the free throw line to eliminate the need for Chris Webber's infamous time-out call in the 1993 championship game?

The answer to all of the above is 6-foot-8 Pat Sullivan, who chose to redshirt last season and added another year to his eligibility.

That extra year gave him the chance to go to his third Final Four with the Tar Heels, a distinction enjoyed by a precious few. North Carolina (28-5) will face Arkansas (31-6) in the semifinals in Seattle on Saturday.

He'll join the group of Bill Bunting, Rusty Clark, Joe Brown and Gerald Tuttle, members of the North Carolina teams that went to Final Fours from 1967 through 1969.

Those teams didn't get championship rings. The 1967 team lost to Dayton in the semifinals, and the following club was whipped by UCLA and Lew Alcindor in the title game. The 1969 Tar Heels were beaten by sharpshooter Rick Mount and Purdue in 1969.

"To be among some of those players and to be one of only [four] guys to be in three Final Fours at this university is something that I'll always remember," Sullivan said.

Sullivan has one ring, and that's where he becomes the answer to one more trivia question. Before Michigan's Chris Webber called what is likely the most infamous timeout in college basketball history, Sullivan had a chance to keep Webber off the hook.

"Michigan scored on a jump shot and we took the ball inbounds," Sullivan said. "We crossed half-court and the ball was thrown to me. All I could think of was just hold on to it. The reason I said that was because I didn't want to be the one who threw the ball away and someone intercept the pass and go down and dunk it and Michigan be up one."

Sullivan remembers stepping to the line and hearing from Michigan players Jalen Rose and Rob



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Hokies nip Marquette in OT

NEW YORK (AP) — Shawn Smith, who struggled from the free throw line this season, made the two biggest foul shots of his career Wednesday night.

Smith, a 67-percent free throw shooter, made two with less than a second left in overtime to give Virginia Tech a 65-64 victory over Marquette for the NIT championship.

"I wasn't trying to be a hero. I just wanted to win the game," said the junior forward, who made 10 of 12 from the line.

Smith, voted the tournament MVP after getting 24 points and 12 rebounds in the final, was fouled by Faisal Abraham as he went up for a shot under the basket with seven-tenths of a second remaining. He made his first free throw to tie the game, then sank his second after Marquette called a timeout to make him think about it.

"He had to step to the line and make them, and he did just that," said Marquette coach Mike Deane.

After Smith made the free throws, Marquette inbounded the ball to Anthony Pieper just across midcourt, but he couldn't get a shot off before the buzzer sounded.

It was the second NIT title for Virginia Tech (25-10), which also won the final in overtime over Notre Dame in 1973.

"If you want national exposure, this is

how you're going to do it," Tech coach Bill Foster said.

Marquette, which won the NIT in 1970, finished with a 21-12 record.

"It was disappointing the way we lost. We're just going to come back stronger next year," freshman guard Aaron Hutchins said.

Hutchins scored the first basket of overtime to put Marquette ahead 59-57. But Tech, which beat Marquette 57-54 on Jan. 17, then scored six straight points to take a 63-59 lead.

Marquette countered with a 5-0 run, moving ahead 64-63 on a driving layup by Pieper with 18 seconds left. Tech then ran down the clock and Smith was fouled after making a pump fake near the basket.

Deane didn't complain about the call.

"I thought we fouled them," he said. "It was a gutsy call to make, but the disadvantage would have been too great for them if a call wasn't made."

Shawn Good scored 14 points for the Hokies. Hutchins and Tony Miller each scored 15 points for Marquette and Amal McCaskill had 13 points and 15 rebounds.

Both teams shot only 38 percent from the field, but Tech was much more accurate from the line. The Hokies made 20 of 26 free throws, while Marquette missed 10 of 16.

Smith quits Tulsa, reportedly to take Georgia post

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Tubby Smith, who led Tulsa to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 the past two years, resigned today and was expected to become head coach at Georgia.

"Much of the credit for the rise of TU's basketball program to its present level is directly attributable to the efforts and hard work of Tubby Smith and his coaching staff," Tulsa president Robert Donaldson said.

Georgia scheduled an afternoon news conference in Athens to address the Bulldogs' coaching vacancy. Georgia athletic director Vince Dooley was looking to replace Hugh Durham, who was fired March 19 after 17 years.

The 43-year-old Smith took over a Tulsa team that had lost favor in the community since Nolan Richardson left in 1985 for Arkansas. In four years, he restored excitement with an uptempo style.

Replacement player gets the boot from Cincinnati

PLANT CITY, Fla. (AP) — Replacement pitcher Chris Reed was kicked off the Cincinnati Reds team today after being arrested on charges of drunken driving and leaving the scene of an accident.

Reed, 21, of Huntington Beach, Calif., was in a Hillsborough County jail on charges of driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident involving an injury. He had not posted the \$3,500 bond by early afternoon.

ON THE TUBE

March 30

8 a.m.

ESPN —

Women's

tennis,

Family

Circle

Magazine Cup, early

round coverage, day No.

1, at Hilton Head, S.C.

11 a.m. ESPN —

NCAA Hockey, Division I

Tournament, semifinal,

at Providence, R.I.

1 p.m. ESPN —

Senior PGA Golf, The

Tradition, first round, at

Scottsdale, Ariz.

5 p.m. TBS — NBA

Basketball, Atlanta at

Golden State

