

Adam Lucas, Steve Kirschner & Matt Bowers. *Redemption: Carolina Basketball's 2016-2017 Journey from Heartbreak to History*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2017. 214 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 978-1-4696-3211-7.

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When the final whistle blew on the basketball court in Houston, Texas in April 2016, Justin Jackson, Joel Berry II, and Theo Pinson felt heartbreak, but also made a collective vow that they would return to the national championship game in 2017 and win a championship for the UNC Tar Heels. In *Redemption: Carolina Basketball's 2016-2017 Journey from Heartbreak to History*, Adam Lucas, Steve Kirschner, and Matt Bowers chronicle the UNC Tar Heel basketball team's effort to turn "defeat into victory" by winning the championship in 2017 one year after suffering a heartbreaking loss in the 2016 campaign to Villanova University. By doing so, they accomplished the same feat as UNC (1982 and 2017), Duke (1991), and Kentucky (1998).

Ultimately, Lucas, Kirschner, and Bowers structure their book by including key victories of the regular season (accompanied by color photographs and player quotes) as well as facts about the 2016-2017 UNC basketball team and Coach Roy Williams. Specifically, readers will encounter the following features: memorable events of the season such as the "Late Night With Roy" program, the team trip to Ft. Bragg to practice in front of the troops (October 2016), and a visit from President Barack Obama to the UNC campus (November 2016). Also, there's a special section for Coach Roy Williams coaching highlights: (2007 Naismith Hall of fame inductee and the first coach to win three NCAA national championships at his alma mater) and UNC player profiles (Justin Jackson becoming the 14th player to win ACC Player of the Year honors and Kennedy Meeks being one of six UNC players to start in two different NCAA title games during the 2016 and 2017 seasons). The authors do not include any index or extensive bibliography in the book, but do include color photographs and mention specific player recollections about the 2016-2017 basketball season.

Adam Lucas is a columnist for GoHeels.com, the official website of Carolina Athletics. In addition to *Redemption: Carolina Basketball's 2016-2017 Journey from Heartbreak to History*, he has written, *Carolina Basketball: A Century of Excellence*. Steve Kirschner is Senior Associate Athletic Director for Communications at the University of North Carolina. Matt Bowers is Associate Director of Athletic Communications at UNC Chapel Hill. Lucas, Kirschner, and Bowers have co-authored *Led By Their Dreams* and *One Fantastic Ride* which detail the 2005 and 2009 national championship teams, respectively.

This book is intended to help readers gain a glimpse into the emotional journey of the UNC men's basketball team as they traveled from heartbreak to redemption. Because of its specific scope and subject matter, *Redemption: Carolina Basketball's 2016-2017 Journey from Heartbreak to History* would be suitable for inclusion in any academic, public, or special library with a collection focusing on North Carolina sports history.

David W. Young
University of North Carolina at Pembroke