Final Four bound

➲ Miami earned its first trip to the Final Four with an 88-81 win over Texas on Sunday. The Hurricanes, who are the ACC's remaining team in the NCAA Tournament, will face UConn on Saturday. SPORTS, B1

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E Street Band guitarist Nils Lofgren, left, and Bruce Springsteen come down the runway to play for the crowd, Saturday at the Greensboro Coliseum.

'Classic Bruce'

Springsteen delivers in Greensboro with a rousing performance

LISA O'DONNELL
Staff Reporter

Trim, toned and dressed in no-nonsense black and gray, Bruce Springsteen stepped onto the stage of the Greensboro Coliseum at 7:43 p.m. Saturday, his famous beat-up Telecaster guitar slung behind his back, twirled his right hand in the air a few times and launched into "No Surrender," kicking off a nearly three-hour concert of sing-a-longs, fist pumps and nonstop groove-busting that surely had thousands of Baby Boomers and Gen X-ers reaching for their Ibuprofen after the show.

In an arena that has been host to so much basketball over the last three weeks, Springsteen's show was a rim-rattling slam dunk, proving that at 73, Springsteen remains an age-defying, transcendent performer, who has apparently decided to flip the bird to Father Time.

It was the kind of soul-lifting concert that twin sisters Bridget Raber and Margaret Casey-Kruger of Myrtle Beach, S.C., had hoped for.

The twins were among the thousands of fans who gathered in the parking lot on a sun-soaked afternoon, priming themselves for the show.

Self-described "New Jersey girls," the sisters were celebrating their 60th birthday. Last week, a friend, unable to attend the show, asked them if they wanted his second-row tickets for free.

E Street Band saxophonist Jake Clemons, left, and Bruce Springsteen come down the runway to play for the crowd Saturday at the Greensboro Coliseum.

Twin sisters Bridget Raber, left and Margaret Casey-Kruger, who are originally from Bordentown, N.J. tailgate before the Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band concert Saturday at the Greensboro Coliseum. The two were celebrating their 60th birthdays.

"Are you freakin' kidding me?" Raber asked.

Raber and Casey-Kruger grew up in central New Jersey and feel a kinship with Springsteen, whose working-class Jersey roots are central to his identity.

"We grew up with him," Casey-Kruger said.

Springsteen's music, they said, reflects the lives of waitresses, factory workers and working people trying to get by.

"It's real life," Raber said. "It's America."

Her sister chimed in: "It's not divisive. It's, 'Let's celebrate our journey.'"

The convivial atmosphere that Springsteen creates in his shows was evident all over the parking lot on Saturday, with folks blasting his music, playing cornhole and sipping on drinks.

On one end of the parking lot, another pair of fans from Jersey — Barbara Frycz and her daughter, Courtney, 23, — sat under a shade tree before the show. Courtney was dressed in one of her mom's vintage Springsteen concert T-shirts.

"I grew up on Bruce Springsteen," said Courtney, who now lives in Raleigh. Saturday's Springsteen was her first.

Barbara saw her first Springsteen show in Princeton, N.J., in 1978, when she was 15. Taking her daughter to see a Springsteen show is a rite of passage, she said.

Greensboro has been a

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LOOK: *To see more photos of the Springsteen show, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.* NEWSVU

UNCSA taps alum to lead orchestra

Robert Franz will be the new music director of Symphony Orchestra

LISA O'DONNELL
Staff Reporter

Already a busy man, Robert Franz's workload is about to increase.

On Saturday, Saxton Rose, the dean of the school of music at UNC School of the Arts, announced that Franz will be the new music director of UNCSA's Symphony Orchestra.

In that role, Franz will conduct three to four concerts with the Symphony Orchestra each year, working with students for three weeks in advance of each performance.

Franz

The position, which had been vacant since 2018, gives Franz considerably more time on a campus he loves. A native of Davidson, Franz graduated from UNCSA in 1990 with a Bachelor of Music degree in oboe performance then became the school's first graduate student in conducting, earning a Master's in 1992.

Franz has been a guest conductor for the Symphony Orchestra over the last year, conducting two concerts, including one Saturday where Rose announced his hiring.

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Overdose deaths on rise in Triad

Officials say increase 'driven by illegally manufactured fentanyl'

RICHARD CRAVER
Staff Reporter

Guilford County had — at 249 — the most confirmed overdose deaths in North Carolina during 2021, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services reported.

Statewide, there were a record 4,041 overdose deaths at an average of 38.5 per 100,000 individuals.

DHHS said more than 77% of overdose deaths in the state "likely involved fentanyl, often in combination with other substances."

The Guilford total went up a stunning 51.8% from 164 in 2020. There were 46.4 overdose deaths per 100,000 residents.

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Weather
A morning shower.
High 77 • Low 49
FORECAST • A10

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