This year's Final Four, well, at least two of them, suit Jeff Lebo just fine even though his alma mater — North Carolina — fell just short of a trip to Houston.

Lebo, who recently completed a historic first season in charge of East Carolina's men's basketball team, said in a Thursday interview at his office that he's a fan of the improbable runs both eighth-seeded Butler and 11th-seeded Virginia Commonwealth have put together to reach college basketball's hallowed ground. That both teams have accomplished what they have while maintaining, perhaps even feeding off of, their underdog status is particularly satisfying to the coach of a team that has been a perennial underdog in most of the games it played.

“It just goes to show you that, if you get a chance to get in, a lot of different things can happen,” said Lebo, who led the Pirates to an 18-16 record, their first winning season since the 1996-97 campaign. “I don't think Butler, unless they win their tournament, gets in. VCU, (a lot of people said) they shouldn't have gotten in. ... I still believe that, obviously with this happening, there's a lot of other teams that, had they had the chance, could have done some damage in the tournament.”
While he's paid attention to March Madness, Lebo said he hasn't had a lot of time to reflect on ECU's own surprising March run, which featured two wins in the Conference USA tournament and culminated with an overtime home loss to Jacksonville in the CollegeInsider.com Invitational Tournament on March 15. The Pirates had never won a C-USA tourney game before and they hosted a postseason contest for the first time in school history as well.

Lebo's club also doubled the previous school record for league victories with 10 — tournament included — and recorded a win over Memphis, another first for ECU. The victory against the Tigers in the regular season home finale hammered home for Lebo what a loud Minges Coliseum crowd, and there were many of those during the season, can mean to the Pirates.

“We generated a lot of buzz and a lot of excitement about basketball (in Greenville),” Lebo said. “The crowds here were. ... I was just stunned. I really was. I had heard about a couple of games that occurred in the past (in Minges), but I think we had some consistent crowds and I was overwhelmed with how loud and how much of a homecourt advantage our place can be. That helped us win games.”

The day after the Jacksonville loss, Lebo was on the recruiting trail to try to fill the void that will be left by the departure of four seniors and the absence of sophomore guard Wakefield Ellison, who decided to leave the program. Three early signees — guards Shamarr Bowden (6-foot-3), Paris Roberts-Campbell (6-3) and Paul Stone (6-6) — along with 6-8 South Carolina transfer forward Austin Steed, 6-1 redshirt junior Miguel Paul and 6-6 rising junior guard Maurice Kemp out of Miami Dade College should offset what Lebo will lose.

But three of the Pirates' top four scorers — Jontae Sherrod, Jamar Abrams and Brock Young — have all exhausted their college eligibility. Rising senior forward Darrius Morrow (6-8) was a dominant force in the paint the second half of the season and started 33 of ECU's 34 games, as did sophomore guards Corvonn Gaines (6-4) and Erin Straughn (6-6). Robert Sampson (6-8) put in yeoman-like work during his limited playing time as a freshman and, like Morrow, Gaines and Straughn, will be asked to carry more of the scoring load next season.

“We do have some guys that I think got some valuable minutes coming back, but we're going to miss a lot of scoring,” Lebo said. “Some other people are going to have to step up and take over. ... We've got a good recruiting class, we think, coming in and we'll try to add to that (but) we've got some holes to fill.”
(Florence, SC)

**USC archaeologists locate wreck of Confederate gunboat**

A University of South Carolina archaeologist has found the wreck of C.S.S. Peedee, a Confederate gunboat that was destroyed by Confederate forces so it would not be captured by Union forces, in the Pee Dee River.

The discovery comes 18 months after underwater archaeologist Chris Amer confirmed the presence of two of three cannon from the gunboat in the river: a Confederate Brooke rifled cannon and a Union Dahlgren smooth-bore, 9-inch shell cannon near the Confederate Mars Bluff Navy Yard.

"This isn't a boat resting neatly on the river bottom," Amer said. "The remains are as messy as the history that put it there. Together, the wreck and cannon tell a story about the little known but very important role that inland Confederate naval yards played in the Civil War. Hidden along interior rivers, the naval yards let Confederate forces build and protect gunboats and support vessels."

Amer said that after an unsuccessful three-week search in July to determine whether the elusive third cannon was hidden under the Dahlgren or under a handful of artillery shells on the river's bottom, he returned in September to follow up on clues about the Peedee's location.

The clues included some data from downstream that he gathered in 2009 and a personal account by a man who claimed that he witnessed a salvage operation of the Peedee in 1954.

"Michael Hartley, an archaeologist in North Carolina, said he was 12 years old when he watched a group of men salvage a boiler and parts of C.S.S Peedee at Mars Bluff," said Amer. "He said the water was low and that he made a detailed map of its location."

Hartley, once on staff at USC's South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA), gave Amer a file that he had created on C.S.S.
"I was able to go right to the spot," said Amer. "Hartley's account matched up with magnetic readings that I took of a 25,000-square-foot area."

In November, Amer used sonar to search for the debris and found evidence of the wreck: ripples on the sand where sediment had built up over debris, magnetic "hits" in straight lines depicting the iron bolts along bedding timbers and a tree stuck on something substantial on the river's bottom, possibly ship timbers.

"It's in pieces and buried, although I'm not sure just how deep," Amer said.

The condition of the wreck doesn't surprise him. After all, he said, the Confederate commanders set the 170-foot gunboat ablaze and blew it up in 1865 so it wouldn't fall into the hands of Gen. William T. Sherman's northward advancing Union troops.

He said in the early 1900s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers further damaged the wreck while clearing the river channel for boat traffic.

Disruptions to the wreck occurred in 1925, Amer said, when propellers were salvaged, and again in 1954, when Hartley witnessed the salvaging of two engines, a boiler, propeller shafts and a 30-foot section of the stern.

With the mystery of the wreck solved, Amer will resume efforts to locate the third cannon.

Amer said he will ask local loggers in the spring to move the logs holding the Brooke in preparation for raising the two cannon. He said he also wants to determine whether a field of logs carpeting the river bed close to where the other two cannon were found, is covering the missing cannon.

The logs are a remnant of the Mars Bluff Navy Yard, one of seven inland Confederate naval yards and the one where C.S.S. Peedee was built and later used for logging activities.

While Amer has worked to locate the cannon and gunboat, his colleague, Dr. Jon Leader, a SCIAA research associate professor, is searching for the naval yard.
Like the third cannon, the land portion of the Mars Bluff Navy Yard remains elusive.

Leader's initial search, using ground-penetrating radar and remote-sensing technologies with students from USC and East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies field school, uncovered early occupations by Native Americans, but no evidence of the naval yard. He said he believes it may be on adjacent property along the river, which he will investigate this spring.

The entire SCIAA project is funded in part by a $200,000 grant from the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation in Florence. Once the cannon are raised, plans call for them to be preserved at a conservation laboratory at Francis Marion University under Leader's supervision.

SCIAA, part of the College of Arts and Sciences, was established in 1963 as a University of South Carolina research institute and a cultural resource management agency for the state of South Carolina. For more information, visit the website www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/.
The defense in the capital murder trial of James Richardson rested its case Thursday after two days of testimony and without calling Richardson to the stand.

Attorneys Thomas Moore and Jeff Cutler called seven witnesses whose testimony suggested someone other than Richardson may have pulled the trigger in a drive-by shooting that killed Edgar Landon Blackley and Andrew Kirby outside The Other Place nightclub on June 30, 2009.

Richardson, 33, a former J.H. Rose High School athlete and professional basketball player, did not take the stand before his attorneys rested their case at 2:10 p.m. in the trial's 10th day of testimony.

The defense and prosecution are expected to make their closing arguments after proceedings resume at 9 a.m. today. Richardson could face the death penalty if convicted of the first-degree murder charge. The jury can consider no other charges during its deliberations.

The final witness was Dearl Powell, a Greenville bail bondsman and close friend of Richardson.

Powell said Richardson arrived at his home at 7:05 p.m. on the night of June 29, 2009, in a white BMW. He stepped out of the rear seat behind an unidentified driver, Powell said.

Richardson stayed at the house until close to 10 p.m., then borrowed Powell's bronze-colored Cadillac and left alone, Powell said. Two dark-skinned black men were in the
BMW, but Powell did not recognize who they were, he said. One had a do-rag on his head; the other, in the driver's seat, appeared to have braided or twisted hair, he said.

Powell, under cross-examination from District Attorney Clark Everett, said neither of the men were Corio Arrington or Richardson's brother, Andre, whom Arrington said earlier was with him and Richardson at The Other Place Just before the shootings occurred.

Powell said Richardson returned his keys to him between 2:30 a.m. and 3 a.m. on June 30. He saw car lights but could not identify the make of the car in which Richardson left. Richardson appeared to have a bruised face and blood on his arm and shirt, he said.

Powell next spoke to Richardson on the phone about two days later. He told Richardson that police were looking for him and he needed to come back to Greenville. Everett asked Powell why he did not promptly report seeing Richardson.

“...You heard on the news that the shooter in this case was driving a white BMW, and you say you knew for an absolute fact that James Richardson was driving your Cadillac. And you didn't tell a soul that for over a year,” he said.

Powell told Everett that at some point he did tell Greenville police Det. Scott Stanton about it.

Also on Thursday, defense attorneys tried to introduce the testimony of an expert on memory. Outside the presence of the jury, Judge W. Russell Duke denied the request. Lori Van Wallendael, a research psychologist from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, told Duke that perceptions and memories of a dramatic event can be influenced by alcohol, race, media accounts and the fact that the event was traumatic.

Van Wallendael had visited the crime scene, studied witness statements and listened in court to live testimony of several state witnesses to help the jury understand why they might hear different descriptions of the events.

In support of an objection by Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Robb, Duke said he was barring Van Wallendael's testimony because she did not review the defense witness testimony or statements.

Duke allowed the defense to present documents to the jury related to the conditions placed on the drug arrest and plea arrangement of Corio Arrington, which unfolded while police were investigating The Other Place shootings.

The defense attorneys' intention, they told Duke, was to allow the jury to determine whether Arrington's reduced charges and bond were tied to his testimony against Richardson.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com and 252-329-9771.
Suspended players must work way back

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, March 31, 2011

East Carolina baseball coach Billy Godwin said on Wednesday afternoon that his pair of suspended pitchers must work their way back into active duty with the team.

Following Tuesday night's win over UNC Wilmington, Godwin announced the indefinite suspensions of juniors Kevin Brandt and Patrick Somers, both left-handers, for violating team rules.

In the wake of the announcement that Wednesday night's home game against Elon was postponed due to rain, Godwin reiterated his thoughts on the players, who did not make the trip to Wilmington.

“I think the time frame is up to them,” the sixth-year head coach said after the team returned from a local batting cage. “They've got to do some things for me, and I anticipate it will be soon if they do the things I ask them to.”

Godwin said both pitchers are still actively practicing with the team, which departs today for a three-game weekend series at UAB.

 Runs at last

After building an 18-5 record that included eight one-run wins, the Pirates finally got their first offensive outpouring of the season in their 20-5 shelling of the Seahawks.

The Pirates also cranked a season-best 20 hits and were boosted by six UNCW errors.

“It was just a matter of time before we found the holes and the gaps,” said Godwin, whose team had six players with multiple hits against the 'Hawks. “I thought our guys were locked in and very aggressive (Tuesday). It was nice, I can assure you that.”

Jack's bat

Freshman Jack Reinheimer was brought to ECU to be a stabilizing force in the middle of the Pirates' infield, but he's proven just as valuable at the plate. Against UNC Wilmington, Reinheimer led the Pirates' barrage with three hits and four RBIs. Even with all of the newness for the Ardrey Kell High School product — the adjustment from high school to college ball, new composite bats and a concentration on small-ball techniques at the plate — the first-year man from Charlotte is on a roll.
“I feel like just the pace of the game, so far, has been the biggest adjustment defensively and offensively,” said Reinheimer, who leads the Pirates with a .343 average and has driven in 11 runs. “We're seeing pitchers throwing 90 miles per hour on average every game, and that's something you don't see in high school.”

The setup
ECU (2-1 Conference USA) will look to build on its big midweek win and also its walk-off victory last weekend against Memphis when the Pirates square off with the Blazers (14-10) beginning at 7:30 p.m. EDT on Friday in Birmingham, Ala.

Winners of eight of their last nine games, the Pirates face a UAB team which is 11-1 at home and is coming off a 5-1 win over Alabama on Tuesday night, and which opened C-USA play by taking two of three from Marshall.

Patrick Palmeiro has three home runs, seven doubles and 17 RBIs to pace the Blazers, while Jamal Austin leads the team with a .378 batting average and 16 stolen bases.

The Pirates also announced they will make up Wednesday's rainout against Elon on April 6.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252)329-9595.
State health plan passes House
BY MICHAEL BIESECKER AND CRAIG JARVIS - Staff Writers
RALEIGH–Teachers and state employees will be required to pay individual health insurance premiums for the first time and face higher co-pays and deductibles under a bill headed to the governor's desk.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Bev Perdue was mum Thursday on whether the governor, a Democrat, will sign the Republican-backed measure, which is aimed at keeping the State Health Plan solvent through 2013 by closing a $515 million shortfall expected between revenues and medical claims. In past years, such gaps have been plugged with taxpayer money.

The state's teachers and many retirees say the bill violates a decades-long compact in which government workers accepted lower pay than they might earn in the private sector in exchange for relatively generous benefits. GOP legislators counter that the state is broke, and that it is high time for state workers to start paying their fair share of health costs.

"We've kicked the can down the road long enough," Majority Leader Paul "Skip" Stam, a Republican from Apex, said before Thursday's final vote in the state House.

The bill was fast-tracked through the Republican-controlled legislature over the last two weeks in a series of votes that fell largely along party lines.

Amendments proposed by Democrats were either swiftly voted down or ruled out of order. The bill now goes back to the Senate for another vote because of changes the House made. The Senate is expected to accept the revisions.

"It's a radical change for state employees," said Rep. Darren Jackson, a Raleigh Democrat. "It deserves more than a couple of days of deliberation."

The State Health Plan insures 663,000 government employees and their dependents. Though government workers in North Carolina have no collective bargaining rights under state law, the partisan fight over benefits
is playing out amid the backdrop of a national struggle between public-sector labor and conservative lawmakers.

"Government employees being a 'special class' treated better than everybody else is why the [General Assembly] turned over in 2010," Rep. Glen Bradley, a GOP freshman from Youngsville, posted on Twitter this week.

"Keep it up, Dems," he added.

$1,800 pay cut
Brian Lewis, the legislative coordinator for the N.C. Association of Educators, bristles at characterizations of fat-cat government workers. North Carolina ranks 46th in the nation in teacher pay, he said.

"A starting teacher with a master's degree in North Carolina makes $33,000 a year," Lewis said. "We've had three years of flat salaries, we've been furloughed, we've had our bonus pay taken away, where the state said if you meet these student achievement benchmarks you'll get a bonus. All these promises broken."

Under the GOP bill, state workers would pay $10.86 or $21.72 per month starting in July, depending on their coverage level.

Existing premiums for dependents would rise by 5.2 percent a year for the next two years. That could raise premiums for family coverage from $580 per month to more than $660 by 2012.

There are also sizable increases in co-pays to see a doctor or to get prescription drugs.

Lewis said that, on average, the bill amounts to $1,800-a-year pay cut for teachers.

But the debate over the legislation has caused something of a schism between the teachers group and the State Employees Association of North Carolina.

Dana Cope, the executive director of the state employees group, has argued that paying insurance premiums is inevitable, and that there are some reforms to like in the new bill.
The measure would move oversight of the State Health Plan to a new board of trustees housed in the state treasurer's office. State employees and retirees would hold four of the eight seats on that new board.

The bill also would make the terms of the State Health Plan's contract with insurance giant Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina public for the first time. It also repeals an unpopular plan to force higher medical costs on employees considered a higher risk of health problems, such as those who smoke or are obese.

**Override vote uncertain**

Chrissy Pearson, spokeswoman for Perdue, said the state's chief executive hasn't made up her mind whether to sign the bill. Based on the votes at the legislature this week, Republicans don't appear to have the super-majority needed to override a veto.

"When it gets over here she'll examine it very carefully and she'll go through an analysis with her staff to make sure we've got all the ramifications," Pearson said of the governor. "She'll look at it carefully, but has not decided yet whether she'll sign it."

John McDonnell of Progressive Benefit Solutions, a Raleigh firm serving private employers, said health insurance plans without individual premiums were once considered standard. But over the past 30 years, health care costs have skyrocketed at a rate often two or three times that of inflation. For the most part, employers have sought to pass those costs on to their workers.

"In the private sector cost shifting has happened in a number of different ways - higher deductibles, higher co-pays and higher premiums," McDonnell said. "This is a stage in the evolution of health care for employees, whether private or public. They [state employees] are pretty much the last ones."

And with medical costs rising and many state workers aging, the health plan's costs are not expected to decrease. That means state workers, like their private sector counterparts, could see more changes in the years ahead.

For Michael Salisbury, a former DMV license examiner who retired in 2008, the proposed change is a violation of trust. He said GOP legislators are
seeking to balance their budget on the backs of state workers, while simultaneously giving tax breaks to corporations.

"I know there's a lot of ways they could cut the budget without hurting people who have been loyal to the state," said Salisbury, who lives in Wallace on a fixed income. "I slaved away for the state for 30 years. I kept my end of the bargain. And now these people, who are probably not hurting for anything, are coming in and taking away what we were promised for all those years."

michael.biesecker@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4698

**Changes to the State Health plan**
Workers would pay $10.86 or $21.72 per month starting in July, depending on their coverage level.

Retirees would pay $16.72 or $21.72, depending on whether they're eligible for Medicare.

Existing premiums for dependents would increase by 5.2 percent a year for the next two years, raising premiums for a family from $580 per month to more than $660 by 2012.

Co-pays to see a doctor or to get prescription drugs would increase.

The bill creates a new board of trustees and shifts oversight of the plan to the state treasurer's office.

The terms of the plan's contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina would become public.
Runners get down to essentials in a victory lap through the D.H. Hill Library at N.C. State University. About 100 people shed their outer clothing for donation to the Raleigh Rescue Mission, then ran a mile around campus.

Strip 'n' run for a cause
BY STEPHANIE SOUCHERAY - Staff writer
Mother Nature played an early April Fools' joke on the runners who agreed to strip down to their skivvies as part of N.C. State University's first Nearly Naked charity run on Thursday night.

By 9 p.m., student runners were shivering in NCSU's Brickyard as a freezing mist made their clothing choices, or lack thereof, not only comical but cruel. "If this is some April Fools' joke, I'll be mad," said Cody Davis, a sophomore from Morrisville.

Davis was one of the first to gather for the run. He had read a Facebook message detailing the run but was afraid the hundreds of people who replied "yes" to the event would be no-shows.

About 100 students arrived wearing old sweats they stripped off to donate to Raleigh's Rescue Mission. Underneath the old clothes were boxers, briefs, Speedos and bikini tops.
Most students heard about the run, which was not officially sponsored by the university, through Facebook and the social event company Wiggio.com. Some were dismayed at the lack of planning.

"This is the most poorly organized charity run I've seen," said Alex Leszczynski, a sophomore from Raleigh. Many students did not know where the race started, and some didn't wear clothes they wanted to donate, instead arriving scantily clad and, in some cases, barefoot.

"This is one of the things I can cross off my life list," said Laura Marston, a junior from Charlotte. "It's a cool cause, and I can say that I did this crazy thing in college."

Other students ran in lieu of studying. With finals in three to four weeks, many students said they needed a ridiculous stress-buster.

"I should be studying," said Trinity Hampton, a freshman from Florida. Hampton and her friend wore matching red thongs over black shorts to show their Wolfpack colors. Red scarves and hats completed the look.

The runners made a short loop up to Hillsborough Street; most finished in less than 10 minutes. Then, a few brave souls trotted off to the university's library to give those who were studying a shock.

stephanie.soucheray@newsobserver.com or 919-829-8983
U-Va. freshman dies after falling from rooftop
By Jenna Johnson

A group of University of Virginia students were exploring the Physics Building rooftop late Sunday night when a first-year student slipped, fell 40 feet and landed on concrete, according to police.

Thomas W. Gilliam IV, 19, was rushed to the hospital and declared dead early Monday morning. University officials called the fall a “tragic accident” in a statement. Police don’t suspect foul play or alcohol were involved, and they don’t think this was a suicide.

Gilliam’s death brings attention to a dangerous campus pastime — accessing the rooftops of locked buildings late at night by scaling walls, breaking in or traveling through the underground utility tunnels that crisscross campus. The sport has been called “after-hours adventuring” and “urban exploration” by the Charlottesville media, but it’s better known on campus as “steam tunneling.”

“Steam Tunneling is something of a tradition at UVA. Unfortunately, it’s probably one of the most dangerous, and one of the least understood, as well,” according to the now-defunct blog, “The Bold and The Ruthless,” which detailed how to access the tunnels, venture into locked buildings and onto forbidden rooftops. The blog mentioned the “amazing view” of Monticello from the top of the Physics Building.

The activity is already forbidden by university policies, but officials announced this week that those policies will now be strictly enforced and students will be prosecuted if they are found participating, according to The Daily Progress newspaper. The university is also increasing evening police patrols, changing the access system at the Physics building and installing locked gates or steel plates in the steam tunnels.
Gilliam’s grandparents live in Charlottesville, but his parents often moved and Gilliam had lived on three continents. Most recently, the family lived in Ireland, where Gilliam attended middle and high school, according to his obituary. At U-Va., Gilliam was a member of the First-Year Council and had applied to be a resident assistant in the fall.

“By all accounts, Tom was a bright light,” President Teresa A. Sullivan said in a statement. “Those who knew him thought him destined to lead an interesting life that would include his deep faith, his interest in caring for those less fortunate, and world politics.”

U-Va. isn’t the only school where students venture underground and on top of buildings. While these spots can be dangerous for students, it’s sometimes difficult for officials to fully barricade miles of tunnels or dozens of rooftops that need to be accessible to utility workers.

At MIT, some students call it “tunnel hacking” and organize tours of the miles of tunnels under campus. Last fall Georgetown University officials investigated a “loose hanging rope” that resembled a noose and was suspended from a pipe in a locked utility room in the sub-basement of Healy Hall. The area is off-limits to students but appears to have been illegally accessed using underground utility tunnels.

At U-Va., the Bold and The Ruthless blog was taken down this week to comply with “the letter and now intent” of university rules, according to a note on the Web site Wednesday afternoon. “For ourselves, we will undertake none of the proscribed activities and we strongly encourage former readers of this site to do likewise.”
Judge lets former Duke lacrosse players pursue civil lawsuit against prosecutor, investigators

By Associated Press, Thursday, March 31, 10:45 PM

RALEIGH, N.C. — Three former Duke lacrosse players falsely accused of rape five years ago can pursue a lawsuit against the ex-county prosecutor and police investigators who handled their case, a federal judge in North Carolina ruled Thursday.

U.S. District Judge James Beaty said in his decision that the players can pursue claims such as malicious prosecution, concealment of evidence and fabrication of false evidence. He dismissed several other accusations, such as intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Richard Emery, an attorney for one of the former players, Reade Seligmann, said they are prepared to vigorously pursue the case.

“The opinion is what I would call, overall, a ringing success for the boys,” Emery said. “We’re glad that we’re moving ahead with the case.”

An attorney for former District Attorney Mike Nifong and a spokeswoman for the Durham Police Department didn’t immediately return calls seeking comment.

Beaty criticized the size of the 162-page lawsuit. He said it forced the court to “undertake the time-consuming process of wading through a mass of legally unsupportable claims and extraneous factual allegations.”

“Going forward, the parties are encouraged to make every effort to reduce the volume of filings and to avoid unnecessary rhetoric,” he said.

Seligmann, Collin Finnerty and Dave Evans were indicted by a Durham County grand jury in 2006 on charges of rape, kidnapping and sexual offense. The case arose from a stripper’s allegations to police that she was raped at a lacrosse team party at which she was hired to perform. More than a year later, North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, whose office had taken over the case from Nifong, announced that all charges would be
dropped and declared the players innocent victims of a “tragic rush to accuse.”

The civil lawsuit filed in 2007 claims that Nifong and the investigators knowingly and intentionally concealed critical DNA evidence and produced a misleading DNA report. It calls the criminal case against the players “one of the most chilling episodes of premeditated police, prosecutorial and scientific misconduct in modern American history.”

Among the people cited in the lawsuit are former Durham city police chief Steven Chalmers, police investigators Benjamin Himan and Mark Gottlieb.

Brian Meehan — the director of DNA Security Inc., which conducted the DNA testing that proved key to unraveling the case — is also named in the suit, as is the lab. The case does not name accuser Crystal Mangum.

Beaty, meanwhile, also issued two other rulings Thursday in lawsuits filed by former players who weren’t charged in the investigation. He dismissed many of the claims in those cases, including all those filed by parents of players, but is allowing several other claims to go forward.

The Durham police investigators who handled the lacrosse case, Duke University and Duke President Richard Brodhead are among those who still face claims in those cases moving forward. Duke and Broadhead face claims that they abused a confidential relationship and common law obstruction of justice.

Duke spokesman Mike Schoenfeld said the university will vigorously defend the case.

“Many of the claims in the lawsuits have been dismissed and the few claims remaining are substantially narrowed, as we had hoped,” he said.