

SPORTS

'I miss a shot, they say I can't play'

By GREGORY CLAY
Sports Writer

Hidden talent sometimes characterizes a great ballplayer. But for Dudley Bradley it has brought some ridicule.

A product of Edgewood, Md., Bradley averaged 24 points and 16 rebounds a game in high school. He turned down about 500 schools, including Marquette, Michigan, Indiana and, of course, Maryland, to come down south and be a Tar Heel.

"As far as the team is concerned, my role is to go in the game and play good defense, make a good pass and maybe take a shot if I'm open," Bradley commented. "Phil (Ford) sometimes tells me I am the first Black player to play defense better than offense. I don't have any pressure on myself to do anything great."

Dudley doesn't think the team has had an easy game thus far this season. He says it's hard to get up for every game because every team is shooting at Carolina.

Bradley has drawn much criticism from observers in the way he complements Dean Smith's bench strength. "Many people say I'm not a good offensive player. They see me come in and miss a shot, so they say I can't play.

"I'm not used to coming off the bench. I

think I will reach my peak, but I'm really not in the game long enough to get 'loose' and hit the jumper."

Commenting on his social life, Dudley said that, being a student, he doesn't try to appear above anyone else around campus. He tries to speak to people, especially Black women. If a girl is going to be nice to him, he said, then he'll be nice to her.

"I'll always remember when my mother told me that if I saw someone walk over water and then followed him, I'd know I was in the wrong footsteps unless that someone is God. And so far I've never seen anyone walk on water. Everyone I've seen has two feet on the ground and isn't above anyone else."

Since Walter Davis is a senior, someone will have to replace him next year. Head Coach Dean Smith employs a system which gives seniors first priority for positions, then juniors, sophomores and finally freshmen.

If Dudley can improve the weakness that he knows exists in his shot selection, he could be the man next year in Walter's place.

He will just have to wait his turn of the cycle like anyone else since no one's expecting him to "walk over water."



Bradley: no pressure to do anything great.

Small aggressive on J. V.

By SKIP FOREMAN
Assistant Sports Editor

Sorry, ladies, but Rochelle Small's play against East Carolina was more reminiscent of a man's type of game than any girls that have handled themselves on the court.

Not to subtract from Ms. Small's femininity, for that in itself is quite obvious. But, after all, how many girls are there that have scored 23 points and snatched 19 rebounds lately?

That's what "Roche," as she's referred to by teammates and friends, did to her recent opponents from Greenville. Despite being shackled by three fouls, and hemmed in by a zone defense, she played extremely aggressive basketball. She had very little trouble asserting herself against the Pirates, grabbing rebounds with the intensity few females have shown in the game.

For example, during one flurry beneath the boards, Small and the opposing center came down battling for the same rebound. Both players went down in a heap, and a jump ball was whistled. Somehow, a bell for the start of a round would have been more appropriate. Small got up, frowning, upset, like her territory had been invaded. The way she'd been controlling the boards, for anyone else not clad in blue and wearing number 45 to get a rebound was almost a crime.

To look at her play, you'd just know she has been playing basketball since time. But this is Rochelle's first year of competition.

"This is a new experience for me," she said. "My high school didn't have a basketball team (for girls). Girls' basketball just didn't exist in 4-A schools." The most experience she'd gained prior to this season was in intramurals. Then, she said, she just made up her mind to play.

"I enjoy every minute of it, but it's a lot of hard work, though. We practice a good two hours."

Small said she is content with junior varsity basketball, and is not looking forward to varsity competition. If her performances equal or exceed what she personally did to ECU, varsity Coach Angela Lumpkin will be asking for a room next to Rochelle's in Morrison.

"This is my first experience, my new experience. Everything I know about basketball is what my coach and teammates taught me. I've had to catch up six years to most of these girls out here."

Small calls basketball "an outlet from books." As far as ECU, and future opponents may be concerned, they all wish "Roche" would take up reading again.

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