

SPORTS

UNC uses composure, team unity to rally past Jackets

By Pete Zifchak Staff Writer

Each time the North Carolina women's basketball team steps onto the court, the first thing that is noticed is its superior size and physical strength compared to the opposition.

But as the game progresses, it becomes apparent that the Tar Heels' stature does not dominate the game. UNC's composure on the court is what sets it apart from the other teams in the league.

That composure was never more present than in Sunday's 72-68 overtime defeat of Georgia Tech. The victory was the team's seventh conference win in a row. The No. 16 Tar Heels now stand at 16-2 overall and lead the ACC with a 7-2 mark.

After being out-hustled on the offensive Wake

scored against Radford last month, tallied 15 Saturday. Nine of the 6-foot-9 center's points came from the free-throw line, as UNC continually fouled him late in the game.

"Maybe they looked at the stats and tried to figure out who had the lowest free-throw percentage," said Hicks, who had entered the game averaging 70.6 percent from the charity stripe — neither his team's worst nor its best mark.

Rogers added 17 points, and forward Trelonnie Owens scored 16 — 12 in the first half.

On the defensive end, Wake's zone shut down UNC's inside game, limiting Lynch and centers Eric Montross, Kevin Salvadori and Matt Wenstrom to a combined 18 points on 7-of-24 shooting.

"I think that what we've faced in the past, they've really packed it in on us," Montross said. "They were holding a lot. That's not an excuse, that's just a part of it. They really were packing it inside and we weren't hitting our outside shot."

North Carolina shot 32.5 percent from the floor in the second half and 40.6 percent for the game. Only Brian Reese (7-of-12 shooting), Derrick Phelps (4-of-4) and Pat Sullivan (3-of-6) shot 50 percent or better.

To make matters worse for North Carolina, Montross fouled out of the game with four points and 11:45 remaining. His final two fouls came in a span of seven seconds.

"Once he got the ball, we just tried to get down on him and try to maintain him and not let him get in a position where he wanted to be," Rogers said. "It caused him a little frustration and he

started pushing people. It got him out of his game.

"From then on, we were able to take control and put more points on the board."

Indeed, Rogers put 11 of his 17 points on the board after Montross had fouled out. Although UNC cut Wake's lead to 15 with 10:00 left, the Tar Heels would come no closer as Rogers scored five straight points to give the Deacons a 67-47 lead at the 8:18 mark.

Lynch said that unless UNC improved its play against the zone defense, more trouble may lurk ahead for his team. "That was the first time we've really seen a team play zone the entire game," he said. "In order for us to be a better team, we have to prepare for that."

As the final seconds ticked off the clock, Wake fans, clad in black "Screamin' Demons" T-shirts, stood on the scorer's table, ready to jump onto the court. When the buzzer sounded, chaos abounded as they swarmed the court, lifted Deacon players in the air and climbed onto the baskets.

After finding his way off the court, Odom warned against making too much of one win. He remembers a similar situation after Wake upset then-No. 1 Duke last Feb. 23. The Deacons then lost five of six games to end the season.

"This is not the game," Odom said. "I don't care how much our fans or any other fans want to make it the game."

In the UNC locker room, there were no celebrations for Smith to worry about. "I think we were ready to play," Montross said. "I thought we were. Everybody seemed to be into it.

"But you never know, I guess."

Onesty Hall Pool.

The UNC men, ranked 15th, fell to 7-4, 3-1 in the ACC, as the Wahos won 129-114. UVa. moved to 9-0, 3-0.

The Cavalier women defeated UNC 154-146, upping their record to 8-1, 4-1. The Tar Heel women, ranked 14th entering the competition, are now 8-2, 3-1.

UNC's Sarah Perroni starred on the women's side, winning the 50-, 100-, and 200-yard freestyle events. Perroni also anchored the victorious 400 freestyle relay. David Monasterio shined for the Tar Heel men, winning the 200 individual medley and the 200 butterfly.

knows the capabilities of the Tar Heels and is ready for UNC's next contest, against 11th-ranked Virginia Wednesday night.

"We've got to be focused and we've got to come out there with fire in our eyes, with a confidence that we can beat them because we know in our hearts that we can."

Stephanie Lawrence, a 6-foot-1 sophomore who scored the Tar Heels' final points in regulation on a 3-pointer, realizes that it is not one player that makes a team. UNC possesses the conference's leading scorer in Tonya Sampson, but its gaudy record is truly a team effort.

"We all understand that it takes five of us to play defense and five to run the plays and five of us just giving all we've got to win the games," Lawrence said.

Suddreth also knows that Sampson's most valuable asset is not her prolific scoring, but her team motivation. "If you look at the whole picture, each player on the floor kind of molds together," Suddreth said. "When Tonya has a good game and she's having fun then we all get out there and it's contagious."

The fun is just beginning for UNC. Virginia visits Chapel Hill Wednesday night and the Tar Heels return the favor less than a week later in Charlottesville. Jammed in between the Virginia contests is an away game against Wake Forest.

The Tar Heels have a chance to prove that they belong with the best in the nation in the next two weeks. A win against Virginia and they will be long against Wake Forest.

Wrestling

At 142, UNC's Josh Miller totally controlled Brian Black 14-2, with Black's two points coming on escapes. Mike Chase, David Reynolds and Damon Michelsen all held on in close matches to win in their divisions.

Wrestlers also top Clemson

CLEMSON, S.C. — UNC's Rick Hall beat Clemson's Scott Engel at the

heavyweight position to give the Tar Heels a 20-18 win against the Tigers Friday night.

Clemson maintained at least a four-point lead in the match until UNC's Damon Michelsen pinned Clemson's Aaron Strobel in the 190-pound weight class at 5:40, pulling UNC within one point.

North Carolina lost four of the first

five weight classes, with only T.J. Jaworsky (134) recording a 15-3 win against Clemson's Marcus Pollock.

The Tar Heels bounced back to win four of the last five weight classes, with Marc Taylor (158), Stan Banks (167), Michelsen and Hall winning their matches.

Clemson fell to 9-8-1 overall and 0-1 in the ACC.

Bowl

Haley knocked the ball loose from Kelly at the goal line to defensive tackle Jimmie Jones, who took two steps into the end zone for the score that put the Cowboys ahead for good.

With and without Kelly, who reinjured his right knee with 6:52 left in the first half, the Bills couldn't produce when they had to.

Frank Reich spelled Kelly and drove Buffalo from its own 33 to the Dallas 3 and a Steve Christie field goal made it 14-10 with 3:24 left in the first half.

But Aikman drove Dallas 77 yards in 5 plays, hitting Irvin for a 19-yard TD on his favorite slant across the middle.

Childress

sense that Childress was ready to take over the game and put it out of reach in one fell swoop.

"He came just in time," Rogers said. "When he hit his first one and then hit his next one, it was like, 'Get it back to him and let him shoot some more.'"

Childress went on to score 15 of the Deacons' next 17 points, hitting six consecutive 3-pointers in a 20-4 Wake streak that sealed the deal at 59-36.

Late in the first half, Childress had issued a warning of what was to come. Childress' 3-pointer at the 2:41 mark put him in the scoring column for the first time, giving Wake a 28-25 lead that it would never relinquish.

The display was enough to send Wake coach Dave Odom into an emotional frenzy regarding his sophomore star.

"I think he (Childress) said to anybody that was watching or listening, 'I will not back off. I will not let my team back off. And we may lose, but we're going to lose doing what we do best.'"

"There are a lot of things he can improve on. But he can never improve on his nerve. There's not a more nifty player in this league — not one."

Saturday, Childress' nerve — or more accurately the well-trained nerves in his right arm — put on a rarely seen show

Wake 88, UNC 62 Saturday

Table with columns: UNC (62), min, m-a, m-r, o-t, a, pf, tp

Table with columns: WAKE FOREST (68), min, m-a, m-r, o-t, a, pf, tp

Table with columns: UNC (62), FG, FT, 3-point goals, Rebounds, Turnovers, Blocks, Fouls

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Technical Fouls — none. Attendance — 14,475.

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