

115-75 season opener

# Heels romp past Bison

by Jim Thomas  
Assistant Sports Editor

Three weeks ago UNC Coach Dean Smith said his starting five players, with four regulars and three possible All-America candidates returning from last year's 23-8 Atlantic Coast Conference champions, had as much talent as any team he'd ever coached.

There were few dissenters Saturday after the nationally fourth-ranked Tar Heels raced past Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference's (MEAC) Howard University. It was a 115-75 season opening rout in Carmichael Auditorium before a sellout crowd of 8,800.

As in the ACC Tournament last March, sophomore guard Phil Ford led the Tar Heels' fastbreaking attack. He darted between the bewildered Bison, dashing a UNC single-game record with 14 assists. The previous mark of 13 was set by Larry Brown, now coach of the Denver Nuggets of the American Basketball Association, against South Carolina in 1963.

Most of Ford's assists went to center Mitch Kupchak and forward Tommy LaGarde inside, who scored 24 and 20 points, respectively, on a combined 19 of 27 from the field.

Although Carolina held a 54-33 halftime lead, the score was tied at eight after 6 1/2 minutes.

The Bison later outscored the Blue team 5-0 in a two-minute stretch to cut a 10-point UNC lead to 28-23, but the Tar Heels soon took control of the boards.

When Kupchak took a lob pass from Ford for a layup with 6:39 left in the first half it signaled the start of the UNC romp.

In the next three minutes, the Tar Heels reeled off 14 straight points for 42-23. Freshman Dudley Bradley's layup on a Buckley assist with 12 seconds remaining gave Carolina its 21-point halftime lead.

Contributing to Carolina's breakaway in the first half was an injury to Howard's largest player ever, 6-9, 230-pound John Mullen, in the opening minutes. With no one over 6-7, the Bison were unable to match the Tar Heels' board strength. For the game, UNC outrebounded Howard 55-24 with Kupchak grabbing 14 and LaGarde nine.

First-year Howard Coach A.B. Williamson got only five points from Chapel Hill native Vadnay Cotton, a first-team All-MEAC choice last year. Cotton, a 6-6 forward who averaged 17 points and eight rebounds a game, saw only 20 minutes of action because of a curfew violation.

With Cotton subpar, Howard's offense consisted mainly of Ellsworth Hart shooting from the ozone. Hart, with an unorthodox left-handed push shot, hit on half of his 26 attempts from the floor for 30 points.

Howard shot 41 per cent from the floor while Carolina connected on 51 of 82 attempts for 62 per cent.

In the second half, the Tar Heels continued to press full-court and fastbreak

HOWARD (75)						
MP	FG	FT	Rb	A	T	
Taylor	37	8-12	3-5	5	0	19
Glover	30	5-15	0-0	5	2	10
Mullen	10	0-2	0-0	2	1	0
E. Hart	24	13-26	4-5	2	1	0
Council	30	2-8	4-4	0	6	8
T. Hart	20	1-1	0-0	0	2	2
Hartless	22	0-5	1-2	4	0	1
Cotton	24	1-4	3-3	3	0	5
Parker	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moutry	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	200	30-73	15-19	25	12	75

NORTH CAROLINA (115)						
MP	FG	FT	Rb	A	T	
Davis	24	7-10	1-1	5	1	15
LaGarde	26	9-13	2-4	9	0	20
Kupchak	25	10-14	4-5	14	2	24
Kuester	20	2-4	0-0	0	7	4
Ford	26	7-11	1-2	2	14	15
Buckley	12	4-6	4-4	6	2	12
Crompton	12	5-9	1-2	7	2	11
Chambers	12	2-3	0-0	0	2	4
Hanners	17	1-3	0-0	0	5	2
Bradley	12	2-3	0-0	4	4	4
Zelagiris	8	1-2	0-0	2	0	2
Coley	3	0-1	0-0	1	0	0
Valentine	3	1-3	0-0	1	0	2
TOTALS	200	51-82	13-18	54	39	115

Howard..... 33 42-75  
North Carolina..... 54 61-115

Total Fouls—Howard 22, North Carolina 22.  
Fouled Out—Glover.  
Officials—Cooper, Harrison.  
Att.—8,800.

until Smith pulled the starters with the score 86-51. The reserves played the last 9:37 of the game as all 13 players who dressed saw action.

Carolina's 100th point came with 5:11 remaining on a three-point play by Buckley. "It was a spirited opener," Smith said. "We played hard and were extremely unselfish, something we need to do to win. Our rebounding was strong and Kupchak and Davis were strong defensively. But it's too early to get excited, we will have a long way to go."

The Tar Heels travel to New York Thursday to take on Seton Hall as part of a doubleheader in Madison Square Garden. Carolina then returns to Chapel Hill on Saturday for its next home game against Virginia Tech.



UNC sophomore guard Phil Ford drives in for two of his 15 points against Howard Saturday. Ford handed out 14 assists to break the previous UNC single-game record set by Larry Brown, now coach of the American Basketball Association's Denver Nuggets, against South Carolina in 1963.

# Ford 'passes' record

by John Hopkins  
Staff Writer

There is always a chorus of cheers—or boos depending on the site—when UNC goes into its cursed, but imitated stall offense—the four corners.

Or as the local bumper stickers proclaim, "Ford Corners."

Phil Ford, as a freshman last year, teased and frustrated opponents all over the Atlantic Coast Conference floors with his dribbling, weaving, driving and just pure speed as the main player in the UNC four corners spread offense.

Ford also employs a crowd-pleasing style in the full-speed game. In Carolina's 115-75 thrashing of Howard University in Carmichael Auditorium Saturday, where the slow-down game was not appropriate, Ford made the sell-out crowd understand another of his roundball strongpoints—passing.

The Rocky Mount sophomore consistently broke the Bison press with his ball control and deft passing, recording 14 assists. That total broke the UNC single-game record of 13 assists set by Larry Brown 12 years ago.

The record was announced to the crowd with 1:16 left in the contest. Ford, who sat on the bench and watched the blue team put up the finishing points against the Bison, got a standing ovation.

Last year he led the team in assists with 161.

Saturday, Mitch Kupchak and Tommy

LaGarde were the chief beneficiaries of Ford's exploits, as the 6-2 guard blazed his way around the Bison defense. Ford pulled up at the free throw line and dished off to the big men underneath. Kupchak had 24 points and LaGarde 20.

Ford said that he was unaware that he had anything going with the assists as he relaxed in the Tar Heels' dressing room.

"We were just running our regular press offense," he said. "They were double teaming (guard) John Kuester, and he was doing a great job of getting me the ball. And I ended

up out in front of everybody. "I guess that's what enabled me to get so many assists. Credit should go to him." UNC Coach Dean Smith was less restrained with his assessment of Ford's play.

"Ford was unreal," Smith said. "I don't think many people will be pressing us this year, because you see what Phil can do to the press. "Certainly Larry Brown was one of the great players we've ever had in the backcourt, and I think it's fitting that Phil broke his assist record. "I'd hate to press Phil Ford. Even if I were in shape."

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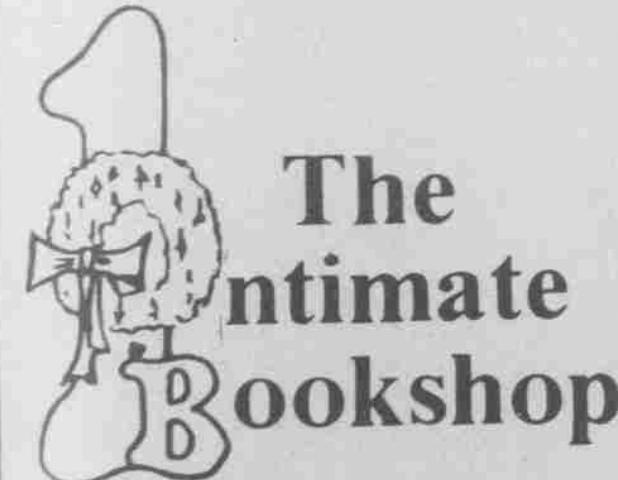
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HI, MARK—WHAT'S DAD! JUST TRYING TO GET YOUR HARD-GOING WHAT WORKING SON TO ON? ARE YOU TAKE SOME TIME DOING OFF TO GET IT UP? ON!

HEY! CAN I GET IT ON, TOO?

NO, DAD, NOW GO BACK TO BED!

WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN THE CAR, SIR!