Tar Heel women win big over holidays

By MARJO RANKIN
Staff Writer

While Tar Heel football fans were gatoring in Florida and the men's basketball team was struggling in London, the women's team was racking up the wins during its busy but productive holiday season.

The Tar Heels began the between-semesters season with a win over East Tennessee and went on to a second-place finish in its own Christmas tournament before sweeping the London Invitational in four games. Upon their return to the United States, the women knocked off seventh-ranked Maryland in what may be the most important win so far this season.

A win at Virginia and a loss to Clemson rounded out the holiday action with the Tar Heels accumulating nine wins and two losses during the stretch.

The Tar Heels and coach Jennifer Alley were hoping for a win over Clemson Monday night to possibly earn UNC a berth in the top twenty. But the win was not to be as Carolina let a 15-point halftime lead slip away and saw Clemson dominate the second half, walking away with a narrow 76-75 win.

The Tar Heels maintain their hectic pace as they return to action at 5:45 p.m. today in Atlanta against Georgia Tech.

Carolina controlled the Clemson game on both ends of the court in the first half as it jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead on two field goals by junior point guard Aprille Shaffer. The Tar Heels built the lead to 18 points as Clemson hit a four-minute drought near the end of the first half.

Freshmen Henrietta Walls and Kathy Crawford took advantage of the Tigers' lapse and combined for 12 unanswered points as the UNC lead was 43-25 with 1:49 remaining in the half.

Clemson rebounded in the second half and scored the first four points—an indication of things to come. Forward Barbara Kennedy and center Sheila Cobb led the Tiger attack. Clemson controlled the second half rebounding game on both ends and held the Heels to only one shot on almost every possession.

"I think the difference (in the first and second half) was our board play," UNC's Alley said. "We weren't getting some follow-up shots and were letting Clemson get two and three shots, especially in the early stretch of the second half."

Senior forward Bernie McGlade led Tar Heel scoring with 23 points while Crawford added 18. Shaffer and junior center Anne Lawrence scored 10 each.

Kennedy scored a game-high 30 points for Clemson and Cobb followed with 14.

Although their troubles surfaced late in the Clemson game, the Tar Heels' problems were few in the Dec. 29-31 London Invitational.

Carolina started the tourney with a 70-62 win over Swedish national team Rank Xerox, the same team it faced in the championship. McGlade led scoring with 18 points while Crawford and freshman forward Deanna Thomas added 10 each.

Holland's Parker Pen was the next UNC victim as the Heels earned a 76-45 win behind McGlade's 19 points. Freshman guard Joni Berry tossed in 12 points for Carolina.

UNC then handed England's No. 1 team an 89-59 defeat, before facing Rank Xerox again.

Rank Xerox again offered the stiffest competition as it played Carolina to a six-point game in the 78-72 championship. McGlade again paced UNC with 17 points while sophomore forward Meredith White had 13 and Berry added 12.

Alley said the tournament was a great morale boost for her team as the players felt a special sense of pride at the awards presentation.

"They were not only representing themselves and the University of North Carolina, but even more, they were representing the United States," Alley said. She also said the tournament helped speed the maturing process for her young team.

"We believed in ourselves after that trip," she said. "Our young kids grew up. They became basketball players instead of freshmen. That carried over into the Maryland game and it helped us at Virginia."

With the championship in London tucked safely away, the only thing that could improve the Tar Heel spirits would be a win over defending ACC champion Maryland. After battling to a four-point halftime advantage at 35-31, Carolina held on to take the 64-62 win in Carmichael Auditorium.

"We did a super job as far as team play is concerned," Alley said. "We played smart; we didn't foul the shooter and give them three-pointers. We were cool and confident during the game and pulled off the win."

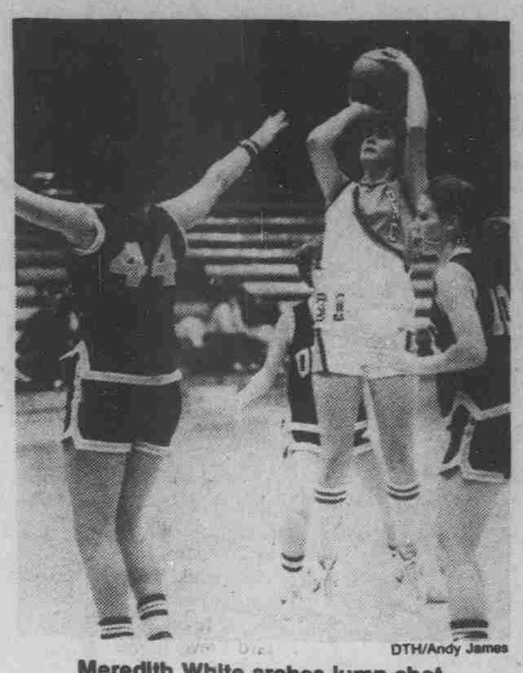
The Tar Heels got balanced scoring from Shaffer with 15, McGlade with 13, Thomas with 12 and Walls with 10.

UNC then traveled to Charlottesville, Va., Jan. 5 and had to go into overtime to bring home a 66-65 win. McGlade and Berry led the Heels with 15 and 14 points respectively.

In December action, UNC lost to Clemson in the championship of the Carolina Christmas Classic, a tournament the Tar Heels have yet to win in its four-year history.

McGlade and Lawrence were all-tournament selections after UNC downed Northern Kentucky 65-64 in the opening round and went on to beat No. 19 Mercer 100-79 in semifinal action. Carolina bowed to the Tigers in the final 80-77.

The Tar Heels also downed East Tennessee 64-54 Dec. 8, in Chapel Hill behind the scoring of Lawrence with 11 and Wells and McGlade with 10 each.



DTH/Andy James

Meredith White arches jump shot

'Homecoming' gets Heels well

By REID TUVIM
Sports Editor

MACON, GA.—With about five-and-a-half minutes left in Monday night's North Carolina-Mercer basketball game here, the Tar Heel's Al Wood showed the 8,000 people in Macon Coliseum what this game was all about.

The junior forward from Gray—just a three-point jump shot from Macon—deflected a pass at the time line and raced in for a thundering dunk shot that woke up the crowd, much of which had come to see the local fellow who had made good in a big-time basketball program.

Another large chunk of the audience was UNC alumni in the area, and they too, went home satisfied as Carolina headed back to Chapel Hill from a long, difficult road trip with an 81-63 win over Mercer.

But the contest didn't start out as a runaway. In fact, the Bears held the lead for the first 7:13—building as much as a seven-point buffer at 12-5—before Rich Yonakor's layup put the Tar Heels ahead at 13-12. Carolina went on to lead at the half by 14, 42-28.

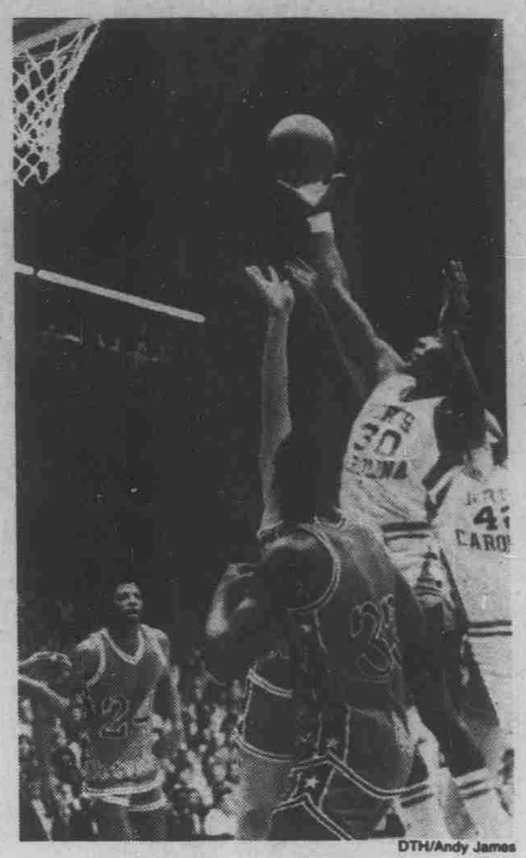
Mercer could cut the deficit to no less than 10 early in the second half, though Carolina head coach Dean Smith said after the game that he felt the game was still undecided until the last few minutes.

While the game served as Wood's "homecoming"—Smith tries to schedule games against teams in his players' home areas—Smith said the contest had a second purpose. "We wanted to experiment with some things and play a lot of guys."

Wood finished with 15 points and six rebounds. "I think he wanted to do well," Smith said. "He was coming home.

"He's a complete ballplayer. I wanted him to shoot more, but I think he wanted to show the people he could do more."

Smith said he felt the game was very physical. "I though we were back at Indiana."



DTH/Andy James

UNC's Al Wood shoots for two
...Heels in middle of busy slate

Wood agreed. "It was real rough on the boards. We weren't expecting it," he said. "It was probably the most physical game we've played. I thought this team was more physical than Indiana."

So did forward Mike O'Koren, who led Carolina with 19 points and 12 rebounds. "I believe this was the roughest game of the year," the senior All-American said. "I remember my sophomore year they showed the same thing."

(In 1978, Carolina defeated Mercer 73-70 in Carmichael Auditorium.)

Carolina showed a strong pressure defense throughout the game, often confusing the Bears with sudden double teams.

"We've got to stay like this, keep the defensive pressure on," O'Koren said. "If we just get our defense going, we'll be OK."

Carolina is now 6-3. Mercer drops to 4-5.

In other non-conference games during the semester break, the Tar Heels finished third in the Phillips International Tournament in London, England, and defeated then-No. 4 Indiana, 61-57, in Bloomington, Ind.

The game against the Hoosiers, played in front of 17,311 in Assembly Hall and a national television audience, was close from the start, with Carolina holding the game's biggest lead—seven points—once in each half.

Indiana played without its leading scorer, Mike Woodson, who is now out for the year with a back injury.

The game was notable for its quick pace, physical board play and Indiana's constant pressing man-to-man defense for the entire game.

"Coach (Bobby) Knight stresses all man-to-man defense," said O'Koren, who played under the Indiana coach during last summer's Pan American games. "It was good to play a whole game against man-to-man. It was like a pro game—fast-paced."

Loss fits day; Deacs tonight

By REID TUVIM
Sports Editor

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.—For the capacity crowd of 9,000 at University Hall, it was a dream come true.

For the Virginia Cavaliers, it was the end to years of frustration.

For the North Carolina Tar Heels, it was a too-fitting end to a day gone bad.

A Friday night and early Saturday morning snow storm dumped more than a dozen inches of the white stuff on Charlottesville, closing the airport and forcing the Heels to bus to UVa—the long way through Richmond and on icy roads—arriving only 90 minutes before tip-off.

Combine Carolina's playing part of the first half like they were still trying to unkink from the six-and-a-half hour trip and a fired-up, hot-shooting Virginia squad and you end up with UNC's worst start ever in the Atlantic Coast Conference, at 0-2.

The Tar Heels go after league win No. 1 again at 9 tonight when the Wake Forest Demon Deacons come to Carmichael Auditorium.

Virginia never trailed, with 7-foot-4 freshman center Ralph Sampson getting the tip and Jeff Lamp the first basket. Lamp ended up with 25 points and Sampson with 21 and nine rebounds.

The first 5:33 was nip-and-tuck with Virginia and Carolina trading baskets to knot the score at 12. The Cavs then proceeded to bang home nine straight points and went up by as many as 15 in the first half before Carolina cut it to nine, at 47-38, at halftime.

Virginia doubled the lead to 18 points at 70-52 with 12:39 left, and that's when Carolina woke up, getting the deficit to a workable seven points in four minutes.

But the patented Carolina comeback was not to be. Untimely turnovers and hurried shots by the Heels kept Virginia up by at least four. The final: 88-82.

"Even with seven or eight seconds left, I didn't feel safe," said Cavalier forward Mike Owens, who scored 14 points on 7-of-10 shooting. "I've seen them win six-or seven-point games in the last minute."

"Obviously, North Carolina did a great job of coming back," said Virginia head coach Terry Holland. "They're a good basketball team. They're very deep and came after us very hard."

"I thought we played well," said Carolina head coach Dean Smith. "We were very pleased with our game except for one thing: I think we rushed the shot a few times when we were down. That's my fault. I should have slowed things down."

The win for Virginia was the Cavs' first against Carolina since the 1976 ACC Championship game.

The Tar Heels will be facing a Wake Forest team tonight that is also 0-2 in conference play, losing to Virginia and Maryland. The Deacs will be without backcourt stallwart Frank Johnson, sitting out this season as a red-shirt with a foot injury.

Senior Benny McKaig has replaced Johnson in the starting lineup, joining sophomores Alvis Rogers, Guy Morgan, Jim Johnstone and Mike Helms.

Carolina's Dave Colescott, who missed the Mercer game with a sore knee from a spill in the Virginia game, is likely to be available for the Wake game, said UNC trainer Marc Davis.

Clemson's Campbell gives Tar Heels trouble, 93-76

By BILL FIELDS
Assistant Sports Editor

CLEMSON, S.C.—Not since Lyndon Johnson reigned at the White House and the Green Bay Packers still ruled the National Football League had the UNC basketball team experienced the same result as it did in Littlejohn Coliseum Jan. 2.

For the first time since 1966 the Tar Heels were defeated in their opening Atlantic Coast Conference game of a season. UNC lost to Virginia four days later in Charlottesville, but Clemson started the year with a 93-76 victory.

The margin was indicative of the entire game, too, as the Tigers built a lead as large as 25 points midway through the second half at 73-48 before 12 straight UNC points reduced the margin to 73-60 with 6:54 left.

Carolina further narrowed the Tigers' advantage to 10 points on an Al Wood jump shot at 5:20, but Clemson regained its form of earlier in the game and the Tar Heels could not cut the lead to less than 10.

"We want to congratulate Clemson on a great performance," UNC coach Dean Smith said. "I thought John Campbell was just great inside. He's so strong and holds off so well in there. Their defense in the first half was just outstanding."

Campbell, a 6-foot-10, 245-pound center, scored 28 and gave UNC an exhibition in pivot play. Just as Clemson showed it is an improved team from a year ago, Campbell demonstrated his individual improvement.

"I have more confidence than I had last year," Campbell said. "It comes from working hard in practice. They've been telling me in practice to take the shot if I have it."

Clemson coach Bill Foster, whose team widened a 37-31 halftime lead into a 14-point edge in just three minutes at the start of the second half, said he hopes that type of surge will continue.

"We did a lot of things well," Foster said. "We got the ball in the hole, and we played good defense. I hope that's going to be a trend at the beginning of the second half."

Nothing much went for UNC, and although the Heels were out-shot from the field only 48-to-44 percent, Clemson hit 60 percent of its shots in the second half.

"I think you saw a great team play out there," said forward Mike O'Koren, who scored 16 points to lead UNC.

O'Koren was followed in the scoring by freshman James Worthy with 15 points and Wood with 14. For Clemson, after Campbell's 28, came reserve forward Fred Gilliam with 15, Billy Williams with 13 and Bobby Conrad and Mitchell Wiggins with 10 each.

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