

Injuries hamper preseason

Team debuts in Blue-White

BY BILL FIELDS
Sports Editor

The North Carolina basketball team, hampered in preseason by injuries and illness to several players, goes on display at 7:30 tonight in the Blue-White intrasquad scrimmage at Carmichael Auditorium.

Head Coach Dean Smith said Thursday he hadn't decided on the starting lineups yet. Freshman center Timo Makkonen will miss the game because of mononucleosis and senior center Pete Budko, recovering from a stress fracture in his right leg, may play only briefly.

Sophomore forward James Worthy, who had missed the last few practices with a turned ankle, is expected to play, Smith said.

Smith said the number of injuries—6-9 freshman center Sam Perkins also missed a week of practice with a pulled hamstring—has surprised him. "You always have injuries in preseason, the hamstrings, the groin pulls," Smith said. "But I can't remember it happening in the same position. We had one practice and our five biggest people were on the sidelines."

The injuries have caused more of a problem because of the team's inexperience. Seniors Al Wood, Mike Pepper and Budko are back, but the loss of five seniors to graduation and the presence of four freshmen have caused Smith to make changes during preseason practice.

"We're going a little more slowly in putting things in," Smith said. "We're trying to get our execution down. It is a very inexperienced team, yet I think we have some talent."

Leading the way is Wood, a 6-foot-6 forward from

Gray, Ga., who led the Tar Heels a year ago with a 19-point scoring average. Smith said he didn't expect Wood to change his style of play or inherit additional responsibility this season.

"I don't think Al should change a thing in the way he's playing just because he looks around and doesn't see (Mike) O'Koren or (Rich) Yonakor," Smith said. "We expect everybody else to carry their share of the load."

In tonight's scrimmage, Smith said he would look closely at the defensive effort, an aspect he has always stressed. Carolina has worked mostly with man-to-man defense during preseason, but Smith said the Tar Heels may practice some zone coverage in the Blue-White game.

"Defense hasn't been such a problem because we've talked about man-to-man and worked on man-to-man," he said.

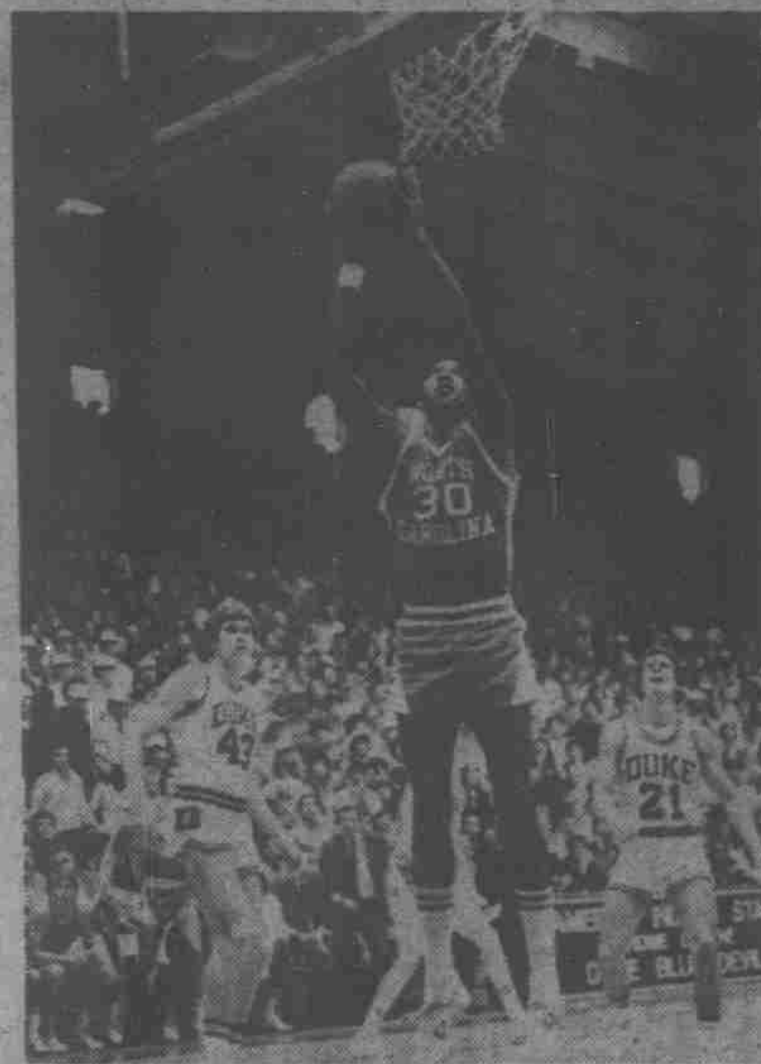
"If we can look good defensively tomorrow, I'll be happy." Returning players that are healthy for tonight's game are Wood, guards Jim Braddock, Jimmy Black and Pepper; forward/center Chris Brust and forward Eric Kenny.

Freshmen Perkins, 6-6 Cecil Exum and 6-7 Matt Doherty will make their first appearance in Carolina uniforms, as will walk-on Job Barlow.

Smith said he wanted the team to avoid being flashy during its first game in front of a crowd.

"I'd like to see that now we're in front of a crowd, we don't try to get fancy and throw passes away instead of making the easy pass."

The most important factor in the Tar Heels' season, Smith said, is keeping key players healthy. "If we can have Worthy and Budko healthy...the health of those



UNC senior Al Wood...Blue-White game tonight

that we are counting on, since we are not that deep—the inexperience will become experience as the season goes along."

Worthy, who missed most of last season after breaking his ankle, said the team's inexperience would present different challenges.

"It will be challenging for us and a lot of fun to prove ourselves," Worthy said. "We can be just as good as any team in the past. We set our goals on a game-by-game basis."

Carolina women's soccer team prepares for final home match

The North Carolina women's soccer team concludes its home schedule against the Raleigh Strikers at 11 a.m. Saturday at Fetzer Field.

Three seniors, Rosemary Carbery, Sarah Marr and Liz Crowley, will be playing in their last game as a Tar Heel at Fetzer Field.

The 16-6 Tar Heels will conclude their season with an appearance in the AIAW National Invitational Tournament in Colorado Springs next week. The eight-

team tournament was just recently put together and is expected to be a basis for a national championship tournament in the future.

"It's very exciting," UNC coach Anson Dorrance said. "I can't say how well we'll do, but it's hard to believe that there is a team too much advanced over us."

Dorrance said the Tar Heels may surprise some people. "This team has both strengths and weaknesses."

Field hockey tries to change familiar plot

By R.L. BYNUM
Staff Writer

Carolina's field hockey team is getting tired of the same scenario and this season it hopes for a much more satisfying conclusion.

For the past three years, the team has entered the AIAW Region II Tournament as state champion, only to fall short of its goal of a regional title.

"We have finished third, second and third," coach Dolly Hunter said, "but I think the team has matured and will be able to handle the pressure this time."

The team not only sees the regionals as a chance to change the trend, it also wants to prove itself. The Heels bring a mediocre 7-5 record into this weekend's eight-team event in High Point.

"It's been hard to bounce back from losses," said junior forward Mary Stewart. "Our record doesn't really show how good we are."

Senior Libby Mathiasen, one of the main cogs in the Tar Heel defense, says that even when Carolina brought a good record into the tournament, things have been the same. "We have been underestimated the last couple of years because we're in North Carolina and still growing."

Carolina's first round opponent at 9:30 a.m. Friday will be James Madison, who crushed the Heels 3-0 earlier, in probably the low point of the season.

"That was our worst game all season," Hunter said. "We didn't use our speed and aggressiveness. We truly believe we have a better team."

Carolina's early season woes seem to be behind them now, as they have reeled off four straight victories. That streak started with a 6-0 whitewashing of High Point on Oct. 14, which Hunter believes was the turning point in the season.

"In that game we jelled and became a cohesive team," she said.

Hunter says that everything seems to be coming together for her team. "We are definitely peaking and are very excited and serious about the chance to prove ourselves."

"Our goal for the tournament will be the finals," said Stewart. "There are two playoff berths, so if we are in the finals, we advance (to the nationals). We are taking every game one at a time, though, and not looking ahead."

If Carolina gets by Madison, the probable semifinal opposition will be powerful Old Dominion, a team with a 10-2 record. A victory against ODU would put Carolina in the finals, most likely against William & Mary.

"The team that wins will be the one that wants it the most, and I believe that all of us want it," Hunter said.

"I think we can place first or second, and if we beat Old Dominion, we're going to the nationals."

Now that's the kind of plot that Carolina can really get interested in.

Heels lead in stats

The 14th-ranked North Carolina Tar Heels lost their top position in one Atlantic Coast Conference statistical category following the 41-7 loss at Oklahoma but still dominate the ACC team statistics.

The Tar Heels are the leaders in total offense and defense, scoring offense and defense and rushing offense.

After UNC gave up 495 yards rushing against the Sooners, Clemson moved into first in rushing defense. The Tigers allowed only 95 yards on the ground against Wake Forest.

The Maryland Terrapins closed in on the Tar Heels lead in total defense. UNC is giving up 250.5 yards a game compared to Maryland's 282.7. Carolina had a 58.8-yard lead before last weekend but they have seen that lead dwindle to almost half that at 32.2 yards.

UNC also saw its lead over Clemson in total offense shrink from 15.9 yards to 9.1.

Things have remained steady in individual statistics. Rod Elkins of North Carolina is still the passing leader, Maryland's Charlie Wysocki is still the leading rusher and Wake Forest's Jay Vercuto is still No. 1 in total offense.

UNC's Amos Lawrence, who rushed for 106 yards against Oklahoma, is still the second leading rusher at 96 yards per game.

The conference's leading scorer is Clemson's kicker Obed Ariri with 70 points. Lawrence and Wake Forest's Kenny Duckett share the second spot with 54 points a piece.

If Ariri wins the scoring title, he will be only the second kicker in ACC history to lead in that department.

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