

Daugherty used to watch others: now he is looking for respect

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Staff Writer

By his own admission, Brad Daugherty watched a lot of basketball games last year.

And not all of them from the sidelines.

By the 11th game of the 1982-83 season — a 73-58 North Carolina win over Missouri in the Rainbow Classic in Honolulu — the freshman from Black Mountain had made enough defensive progress to start at center for the defending national champion Tar Heels.

There he was, starting — and still watching the game. Daugherty spent the early part of the season as a spectator in the lane.

"Last year I felt a little... I guess you'd say intimidated. I expected them (opposing players) to have the good moves and I didn't expect to stop them," the now-learned sophomore said.

So he watched. And what good viewing it was. Steve Stipanovich, close-up, scored 12 points in the Missouri game while Daugherty went 1-for-2 from the floor, 2-for-3 from the line and picked up two rebounds and three personal fouls.

And he got to inspect Maryland's Ben Coleman. Daugherty's notes on him say, "really skillful and strong. He plays a unique style of basketball." While he wasn't taking short-hand, Daugherty pulled in five rebounds and scored one point.

And so it went. Two points here, four there. "Then I started understanding what coach Smith was saying," Daugherty said. "I learned my lesson of sitting back and not really attacking."

Then, the numbers came. Ten points against N.C. State, 18 against Duke, 15 against Georgia State. At Maryland, 12; Duke, 11; and 15 in North Carolina's 64-51 loss to Georgia in the finals of the NCAA East Regional.

"People came at my position last year," Daugherty said. "This year I want respect."

This year, he should get it.

"Last year I was out there to be looked for to post up a lot. Now, it's more to get the ball, to really want the ball and to shoot the 10-foot jump shot," Daugherty said. "I'm expected to shoot a little more. I'm really expected to rebound. Last year I really didn't go the the offensive boards the early part

of the season. I wasn't used to going in after I'd blocked my man."

This year is different. Daugherty came into North Carolina last year at 245 pounds; now, after a four-day-a-week weight training program, he is a slimmer, stronger 237.

"Now I can use more strength to move people," he said.

Now the spectator can stay off the court.

Most of the watching Daugherty is doing now comes in practice, which is more competitive than ever. "It's no longer the white team (first team) always kills the blue," he said. "Sometimes the blue even wins."

But Daugherty is sounding a bit competitive himself this year. "I want to be the best defensive player on the team," he said. "I want to be a leader by the time I'm a senior."

Daugherty calls Matt Doherty the best leader he's ever seen. "I want to be just like that. If I was a leader, that would help me to keep trying all the time, knowing that people were looking to me."

Part of Daugherty's desire to be a leader seems to center around using leadership as a means of overcoming the laziness that troubled him last year. That laziness, he said, came from playing against smaller players in high school.

"Last year I had an excuse," he said. This year, without the excuse, Daugherty is working harder.

"I've really worked hard on being enthusiastic in practice, which is hard because you get so tired."

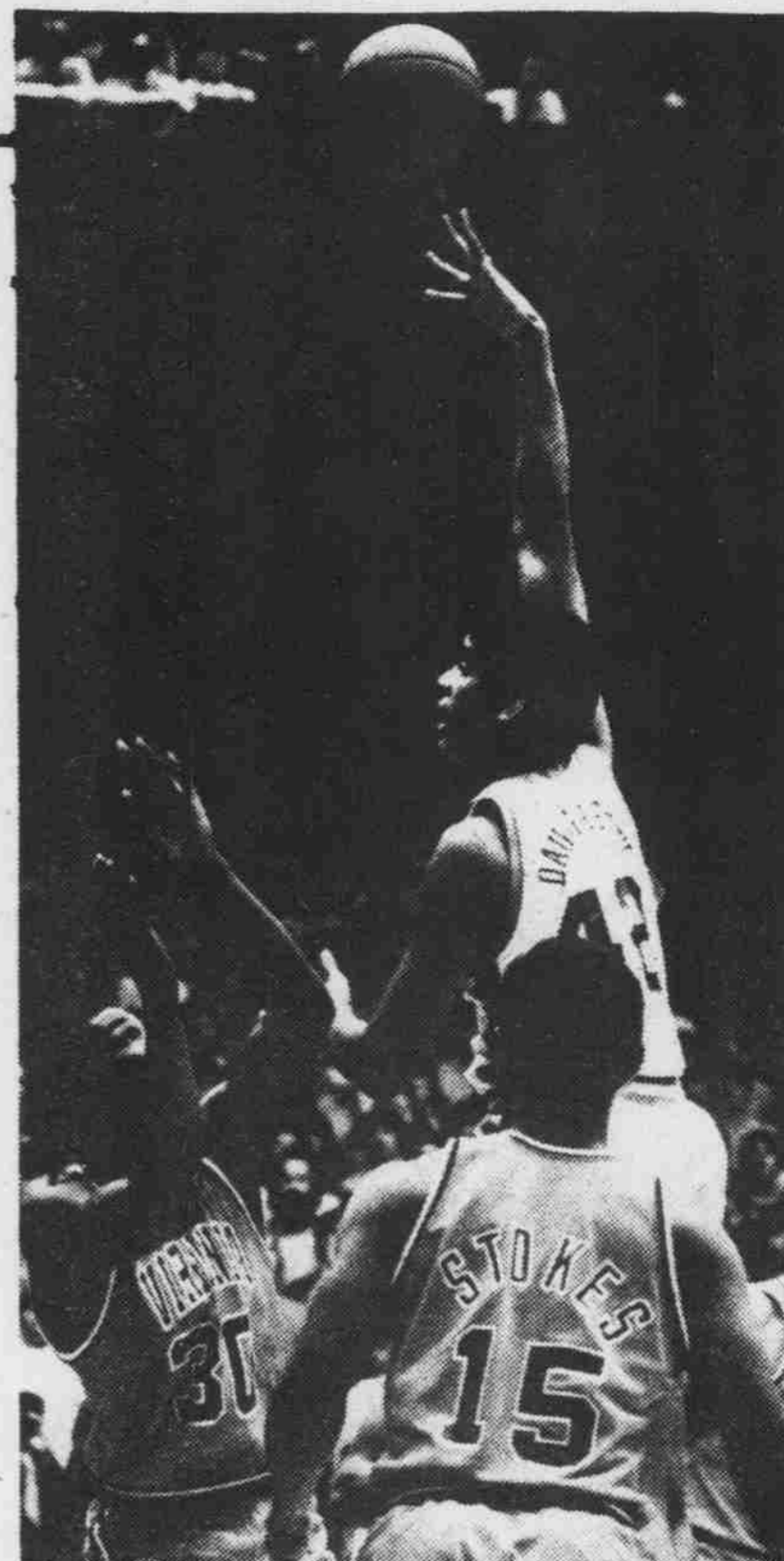
One thing that Daugherty wasn't prepared for last year was the competitiveness of college players during a game. "It's not as many people view it on TV," he said. "If you could hear what people are saying you'd know how bad they want to win."

The competition took Daugherty aback last year. But he proved himself *to himself* in the second part of the season. "I know I'm just as capable as anyone else in the NCAA — in collegiate basketball," he said.

Daugherty finished last season with an 8.2 point per game scoring average and a 5.2 rebounding average.

This year, he expects more.

He can't wait to play Missouri again to improve on that four-point outing in his first start last year. He wants to con-



Brad Daugherty hopes a year of experience has helped to make him a more dominant center.

centrate more. He wants to be a leader, he wants to score more, rebound more. He wants to be the best defensive player on the team.

After an 8-for-10 from the field, 22-point performance in the second Blue-White game, it's beginning to look like Brad Daugherty may get a good part of what he's after.

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