

SPORTS

UNC chemistry upset by loss of Kenny Smith

By MICHAEL PERSINGER
Assistant Sports Editor

Basketball teams sometimes play late into the season before finding a combination that works just right. North Carolina was getting close to finding that perfect combination, that chemistry that comes only with a perfect blend.

Exit Kenny Smith, the Tar Heels' point guard and only the fifth freshman ever to start his first game for a Dean Smith team. Goodbye, chemistry. For now, anyway.

Kenny Smith is lost for at least four weeks with a broken left wrist. Without him, the Tar Heels' hopes for an unbeaten season and a national champion-

ship have been dimmed until that delicate chemistry can be regained.

"Before Kenny got hurt, we were a team that was playing like a team," coach Smith said. "Ironically, the part of our chemistry that we hadn't found was a first substitute.

"Kenny has given us a few more fast break baskets and a few more easy baskets with his speed. Everybody has gotten used to Kenny. All the little lob passes in our offense — the players knew how Kenny would handle them."

It isn't as if the Tar Heels haven't got a backup at point guard. Steve Hale, a 6-2 sophomore, and Buzz Peterson, a 6-4 junior, will fill in for the injured Smith. "We have a lot of experience in situa-

tions like this," coach Smith said. "But in each case ideally you would be prepared for that. We haven't always gone on playing great. You have to worry in a case like that because you have to play with what you have.

"We try to build depth," Smith added. "In 1982, I didn't play enough people, and an injury then would have been devastating. But Steve (Hale) has played there (at the point) and has experience. Buzz (Peterson) hasn't played there that much, but he's an experienced player, just not at quarterback."

Hale gained valuable experience a year ago as a backup to Jim Braddock, and Peterson was in the running with Hale and Smith for the starting job at the point this season before asking to be moved back to shooting guard. Peterson will now serve as Hale's backup in addition to his regular duty as backup for Michael Jordan and Matt Doherty.

"The biggest problem is that now you don't have a replacement," coach Smith said. "Buzz hasn't played any quarter-back since Greece (during an exhibition tournament in October), except against LSU."

Coach Smith said that if there was foul trouble at point guard, Doherty would be next in line. If further injuries occurred, James Daye, a sophomore, could be brought up from the junior varsity team.

Kenny Smith, who said he was more worried about having a broken jaw than a broken wrist on the play in which he was injured, will continue to run and practice in hopes that he might return this season. "I'm doing all the running drills and some shooting," Smith said. "In the position the cast is in, I can do just about anything except dribble with my left hand."

Smith suffered a stress fracture in his leg as a high school senior, an injury that

forced him to miss the state championship game.

"The doctors told me then that I would be out for six or seven weeks, and I was only out for four," he said.

For the sake of team chemistry, Tar Heel fans are hoping that history will repeat itself and Smith will make a swift recovery. But for the time being, North Carolina will do without him and continue to strive for its goals.

"We want to make sure and make the NCAAs, and we should be able to do that," coach Smith said. "And we'd like to win the regular season championship."



DTH/Charles Ledford

Freshman guard Kenny Smith was averaging 10.1 points a game on 56.7 percent shooting before a broken wrist sidelined him.

AP Poll			UPI Poll		
1. North Carolina (61)	17-0	1239	1. North Carolina (17-0) (39)		599
2. DePaul (1)	16-0	1171	2. DePaul (16-0)		538
3. Kentucky	15-2	1096	3. Kentucky (15-2) (1)		500
4. Georgetown	17-2	1042	4. Georgetown (17-2)		454
5. Nev.-Las Vegas	18-1	957	5. Houston (17-3)		407
6. Houston	17-3	935	6. Nevada-Las Vegas (18-1)		376
7. Texas-El Paso	18-1	851	7. Illinois (15-2)		352
8. Illinois	15-2	827	8. Texas-El Paso (18-1)		322
9. Memphis St.	14-3	680	9. Maryland (13-3)		202
10. Maryland	13-3	666	10. Tulsa (17-1)		187
11. Tulsa	17-1	644	11. Memphis State (14-3)		173
12. Oklahoma	16-3	443	12. Syracuse (14-3)		116
13. Syracuse	14-3	410	13. Oklahoma (16-3)		90
14. Louisiana St.	12-5	292	14. Purdue (13-4)		72
15. Wake Forest	13-4	245	15. Wake Forest (13-4)		66
16. Purdue	13-4	239	16. Louisiana State (12-5)		64
17. Louisville	12-5	216	17. Auburn (12-5)		49
18. Georgia Tech	14-3	198	18. Arkansas (15-4)		37
19. Auburn	12-5	142	19. Louisville (12-5)		34
20. UCLA	12-4	123	20. Oregon State (12-4)		24

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North Carolina Basketball Statistics

17-0 overall, 7-0 ACC

Player	G	Field Goals			Free Throws		Reb	Ave	A	TO	S	PF-D	Pts	Ave
		M-A	Pct.	M-A	Pct.									
Brad Daugherty	17	69-115	60.0	32-45	71.1	97	5.7	25	32	8	49-2	170	10.0	
Matt Doherty	17	52-109	47.7	50-64	78.1	67	3.9	69	41	14	24-0	154	9.1	
Cecil Exum	17	14-21	66.7	14-17	82.4	14	0.8	5	8	4	10-0	42	2.5	
Steve Hale	17	27-51	52.9	20-23	87.0	14	0.8	33	32	13	22-0	74	4.4	
Michael Jordan	17	119-227	52.4	57-71	80.3	98	5.8	32	40	24	41-1	295	17.4	
Timo Makkonen	8	0-4	0.0	0-0	0.0	5	0.6	1	4	0	6-0	0	0.0	
Cliff Morris	6	1-1	100.0	0-1	0.0	1	0.2	1	2	2	2-0	2	0.3	
Sam Perkins	17	113-191	59.2	73-90	81.1	176	10.4	31	29	18	38-0	299	17.6	
Buzz Peterson	16	22-56	39.3	11-13	84.6	14	0.9	30	11	8	13-0	55	3.4	
Dave Popson	15	17-39	43.6	3-5	60.0	21	1.4	4	6	3	23-0	37	2.5	
Kenny Smith	17	68-120	56.7	35-42	83.3	28	1.6	89	53	25	26-0	171	10.1	
Joe Wolf	16	23-37	62.2	15-20	75.0	35	2.2	7	9	2	12-0	61	3.8	
UNC Totals	17	525-971	54.1	310-391	79.3	603	35.5	327	268	121	266-3	1360	80.0	
Opp Totals	17	452-1049	43.1	161-258	62.4	503	29.6	237	296	111	351-15	1076	63.3	

Blocked Shots: Perkins 33, Jordan 20, Daugherty 15, Doherty 8, Popson 6, Exum 2, Wolf 1, Makkonen 1.

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OH MY GOODNESS... RALPHE... I HAVE A VERY LOW TOLERANCE FOR PAIN RALPHE...
HOWDY FELLAS! BOY, THEY WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT ALL THE ICE DOWN HERE... I JUST SAW DEAN MARTIN TRYING TO STRIKE THE SOUTH ATLANTIC WITH A GIANT SWIZZLE STICK!
SPEAKING OF HAND WARMERS, LET'S BRING BROOKE AND THE GIRLS OUT...
QUICK RALPHE! SHOOT ME!