## 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-

AP Poll

17-0

16-0

15-2

17-2

18-1

17-3

18-1

15-2

14-3

13-3

17-1

16-3

14-3

12-5

13-4

13-4

12-5

14-3

12-5

1239

1171

1096

1042

957

827

680

666

644

443

410

292

245

239

216

198

142

123

1. North Carolina (61)

2. DePaul (1)

4. Georgetown

5. Nev.-Las Vegas

7. Texas-El Paso

9. Memphis St.

3. Kentucky

Houston

8. Illinois

10. Maryland

12. Oklahoma

14. Louisiana St.

15. Wake Forest

18. Georgia Tech

13. Syracuse

16. Purdue

19. Auburn

20. UCLA

17. Louisville

11. Tulsa

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 lobs and 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-

UPI Poll

538

500

454

407

376

202

187

1. North Carolina (17-0) (39)

6. Nevada-Las Vegas (18-1)

8. Texas-El Paso (18-1)

11. Memphis State (14-3)

2. DePaul (16-0)

3. Kentucky (15-2) (1)

4. Georgetown (17-2)

5. Houston (17-3)

7. Illinois (15-2)

10. Tulsa (17-1)

12. Syracuse (14-3)

14. Purdue (13-4)

17. Auburn (12-5)

18. Arkansas (15-4)

19. Louisville (12-5)

20. Oregon State (12-4)

13. Oklahoma (16-3)

15. Wake Forest (13-4)

16. Louisiana State (12-5)

9. Maryland (13-3)

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 quarterback 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

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

ship 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.

forced him to miss the state champion-

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 con-

tinue 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."

The next step toward winning the ACC regular season championship comes tonight in Greensboro against the Clemson Tigers.

The Tigers are 11-6 overall and 2-4 in the ACC. Their 11-6 mark is the worst overall record in the conference, and the Tigers have some injury problems of their own. Tiger guard Vincent Hamilton and forward David Shaffer are both out with injuries - Hamilton with a bad foot and Shaffer with a leg injury.

"Clemson has an excellent basketball team, and I thought they played very well at times Saturday against Duke," coach Smith said. "We've had trouble with them the last couple of years when they have come here, and now we have them in Greensboro."

The game will be televised regionally at

17

17

17

17

16

15

Field Goals

M-A

69-115

52-109

14-21

27-51

1-1

119-227

113-191

22-56

17-39

Pct.

60.0

47.7

66.7

52.9

52.4

0.00

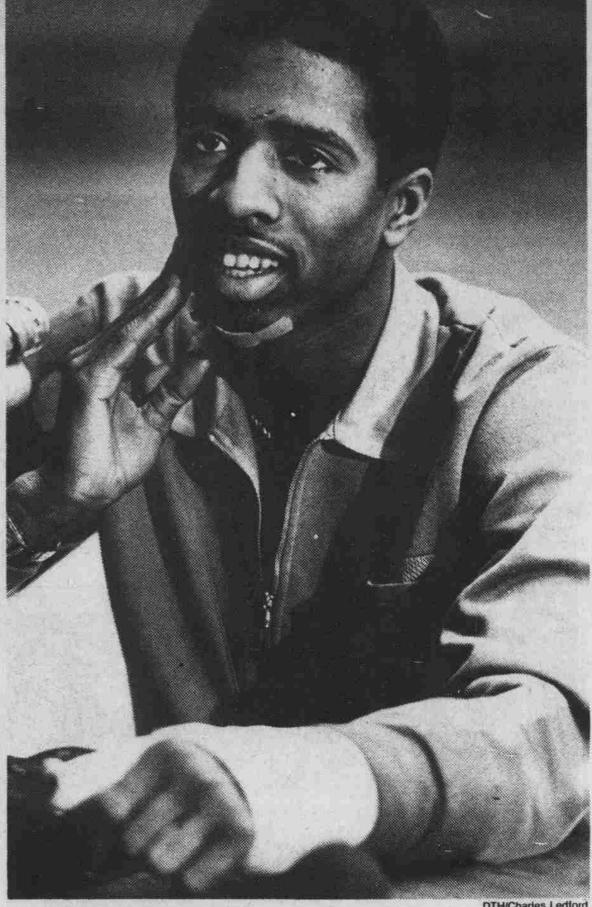
100.0

59.2

39.3

43.6

56.7



170

154

295

299

55

37

171

1360

1076

49-2

10-0

22-0

2-0

38-0

13-0

23-0

26-0

12-0

266-3

111 351-15

25

121

Ave

10.0

9.1

2.5

4.4

17.4

0.0

0.3

17.6

3.4

2.5

10.1

80.0

63.3

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

TO

North Carolina Basketball Statistics

17-0 overall, 7-0 ACC

176

28

503

0.2

10.4

1.6

35.5

29.6

31

327

237

Free Throws

Pct.

78.1

82.4

87.0

80.3

0.00

0.00

81.1

84.6

60.0

83.3

75.0

79.3

62.4

M-A

32-45

14-17

20-23

0-1

73-90

11-13

3-5

35-42

15-20

54.1 = 310-391

43.1 = 161-258

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#### Kenny Smith 17 68-120 Joe Wolf 23-37 17 **UNC Totals** 525-971 452-1049 Opp Totals . 17 Blocked Shots: Perkins 33, Jordan 20, Daugherty 15, Doherty 8, Popson 6, Exum 2, Wolf 1, Makkonen 1.

**Brad Daugherty** 

Michael Jordan

Timo Makkonen

Matt Doherty

Cecil Exum

Steve Hale

Cliff Morris

Sam Perkins

Buzz Peterson

Dave Popson

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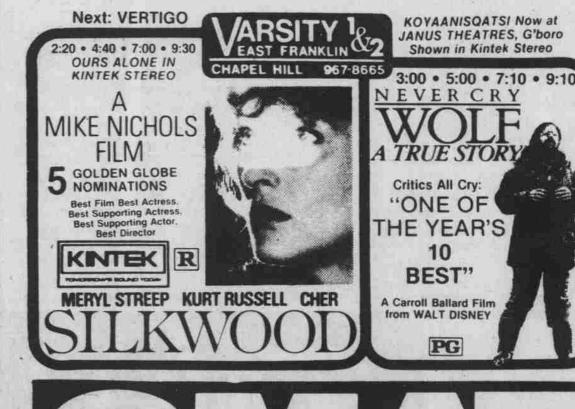
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