

Sports

Heels take on Rivers of South Bend

By JAMES SUROWIECKI
Assistant Sports Editor

UNC plays a return engagement Sunday (1 p.m., NBC) with the boys who bear the name of the Emerald Isle. Last year, the Fighting Irish journeyed to Chapel Hill and dropped a hardfought 73-61 decision. That loss was primarily the result of an Irish scoring drought of eight minutes during the second half.

This year, Notre Dame will be lucky if the game is close enough for such a drought to matter. The Irish lost to graduation silky smooth forward Ken Barlow, inside banger Tim Kempton and Jim Dolan, he of the soft passes. As a result, the bruising power game they played last year has been lost.

In its place is a phenomenally deliberate offense which stresses taking only very good shots. The offense, though, allows more freelancing than in past years, primarily with regard to Notre Dame's big gun, junior David Rivers.

Rivers is Notre Dame's biggest weapon, and in some respects

appears to have improved his game over last year despite suffering a near-fatal car accident. He is scoring slightly less, but has more assists, more rebounds and more steals per game. In addition, Rivers has not ignored the possibilities of the three-point line.

The big man inside for the 10-5 Irish is senior captain Donald Royal, a fine player in the paint who can also put the ball on the floor when needed. Royal is averaging 14.0 points and 6.3 rebounds a game. Perhaps the outstanding characteristic of his game is his free-throw shooting. The story goes that in a high school game, Royal was fouled by Benoit Benjamin (now of the NBA) and had a chance to win the game with a free throw. He missed, and dedicated himself to becoming awesome at the charity stripe.

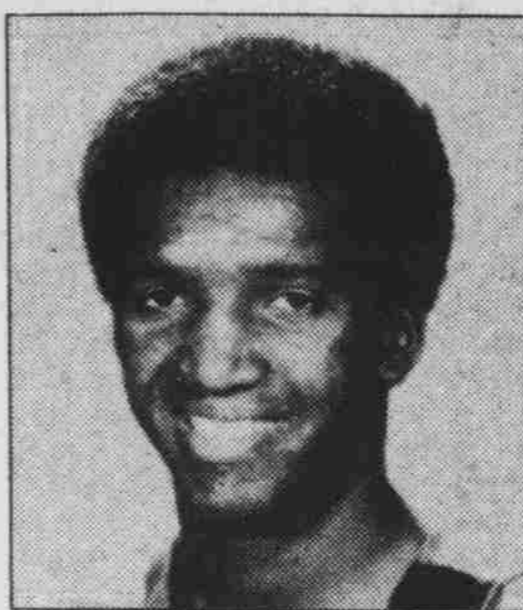
The Irish have more than just Royal and Rivers, though. Senior guard Scott Hicks has found his game offensively, averaging 11.5 points a contest. Hicks now looks comfortable shooting from down-

town, and has improved his ballhandling enough to give Rivers a respite at the point, from time to time.

The brightest prospect the Irish have is sophomore swingman Mark Stevenson. The 6-6 Philadelphia product has continued to build upon a solid, if unspectacular, rookie campaign in which he shot .585 from the field and .841 from the line. He has shown a gift for inside play in addition to his outside shooting and averages 9.5 points a game.

Notre Dame knows what it is like to be touched with the luck of the Irish, something the Athletic and Convocation Center will have to be full of if an upset is to materialize. That luck, perhaps better termed a refusal to die, manifested itself in one stretch this season when the Irish won nine of 10 games, but disappeared as they dropped two consecutive close decisions.

The first was a heartbreaking 57-55 loss to Daryl Prue-led West Virginia, and was followed by a galling defeat in Pauley Pavilion. That loss came courtesy of six



David Rivers
... leads Irish attack

turnovers in the final two minutes and a 25-foot Reggie Miller bomb.

Notre Dame rebounded by rolling over Dayton 66-55 on Tuesday night, and played Marquette last night. The Irish seem to be back on track, but certainly a kiss on the Blarney Stone couldn't hurt, either.

UNC teams competing in distant venues

By BOB YOUNG
Staff Writer

Well, it seems everybody involved with North Carolina winter sports will be working for the weekend. Unfortunately for Tar Heel fans, all the teams will be competing a long, long way from home.

Let us begin with action taking place on the hardwood...

The men's basketball team will venture into the deepest corners of South Bend, Ind., on Sunday to square off with the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, led by David (Old Man) Rivers. The game is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. and will be shown nationally by NBC.

The women's hoops team will also see action. The Tar Heels will be playing in the House That Lefty Left as Maryland provides the opposition Saturday at Cole Field House. UNC will try to improve its 12-6 record against the 25th-rated Terrapins at 7:30 p.m.

Also competing on the boards will



Bill Lam
... takes wrestlers to Clemson

be the members of the UNC track team. Friday night, the two-mile relay team of Johan Boakes, Clive Harriott, Dave Fuhrmann and Kyle Lowe, along with sprinter Brad Sullivan represent UNC at the Millrose Games in Madison Square Garden, New York City. If they can make it there, they can make it anywhere. Other members of the team will go to the Bud Light Invitational in Fairfax, Va., on Saturday.

But now, out of the hardwood and onto the mats...

The fifth-ranked UNC wrestling team will face the Clemson Tigers

Saturday night at 7:30 in a matchup of traditional ACC powers. The Tar Heels will try to maintain their undefeated record against Clemson, which has failed to beat UNC in each of their 12 previous meetings.

The fencing teams have quite heavy schedules carved out for themselves. The women's and men's squads will face MIT, Brandeis, Northwestern, St. John's, Wellesley (for the women), Brown and Harvard. The women compete against the crowd in Waltham, Mass., on Saturday, while the men go at it in Cambridge, Mass., on Sunday. The women then turn around and tussle

with Temple and Princeton on Sunday.

That's it as far as mats and boards go. On to things more liquid...

The Tar Heel swimmers and divers head for the hills of Charlottesville, Va., to tangle with the Cavaliers on Sunday. The women will get things underway (and underwater) at 1 p.m. followed by the men at 4 p.m.

That's the UNC sports agenda. Unless you have wheels and time at your disposal, you're out of luck. No wonder Genesis picked tonight, tonight to play at the Smith Center, it seems Phil & Co. are the only show in town.

Womens's basketball beats USC

By MIKE BERARDINO
Assistant Sports Editor

Much like Dean & Crew did against Clemson, the North Carolina women's basketball team overcame a sluggish start with a strong second half to down South Carolina, 67-46, Wednesday night in Columbia, S.C. Dawn Royster led the Tar Heels with 20 points and 11 rebounds, while reserve forward Chrissy Watts scored all 17 of her points in the decisive second half. Royster's board total gave her 1,001 in her college career.

The win, North Carolina's third in a row, left UNC with a 12-6 record. The Lady Gamecocks dropped to 9-8.

Trailing by three early in the second half, the Tar Heels ripped off a 12-0 run over the next seven minutes to go up 35-26 at the 10:47 mark. Watts capped the surge with a 10-foot jumper.

Another UNC spurt, this one a 9-0 number, made it a 55-36 game with five minutes to play.

The game was tied at 21 after one half, as neither team shot very well. The Tar Heels went without a field goal for the game's first 10 minutes en route to shooting 24 percent (6-for-25) in the opening period. South Carolina wasn't much better, hitting just 29 percent from the floor before the break.

"They just controlled the tempo in the first half, so we thought we would press them in the second half to make them pick up the tempo," said UNC coach Sylvia Rhyne Hatchell.

The adjustment apparently worked, as the prior effectiveness of South Carolina's slowdown tactics was erased by the Tar Heels' defensive pressure. UNC shot an even 60 percent in the final 20 minutes, while limiting the hosts to 33 percent.

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