

Sports

State frontline pulls big disappearing act

By CHRIS SPENCER
Assistant Sports Editor

Chucky Brown sat staring at the floor, burning a hole through the piece of tape that had just been cut off his right ankle. He was sitting in the visitors' locker room of the Smith Center late Thursday night, 10 feet away from any of his N.C. State teammates, just staring at that rolled up, empty piece of athletic tape.

The Wolfpack had just lost a hard-fought overtime battle with sixth-ranked North Carolina, 75-73. State had come out hungry, attacking the Tar Heels inside for various finger-rolls and layups.

But in the second half, that muscle turned to flab, and State wilted in the hot Tar Heel sun. Consider that at halftime, the Wolfpack's front line of the 6-foot-8 Brown and 6-10 Charles Shackelford had totaled six and eight points, respectively. By the time those two had begun stripping their tape off, though, they had finished with a paltry eight apiece.

"They (UNC) were helping out a lot down low," a dejected Brown mumbled after the game. "I guess they were trying to make the guards play them more."

Both Brown and Shackelford said that the defensive pressure seemed to intensify in the second

half. Indeed, you could just see J.R. Reid working on Shackelford in the second half, fronting him and shuffling side-to-side to keep any lobs from getting in. The 6-foot-9 forward held Shackelford scoreless for the final 34 minutes of the contest.

"We really gutted it out and played good team defense tonight," Reid said. Added his counterpart in the paint, Scott Williams, "Sometimes you can just sense when Shackelford is lagging back, both on offensive and defense. We just tried to move him up and down the court."

Brown, though, really hurt his team. As the secondary scorer, he had the shots Thursday night, but for whatever reason he just didn't make the nets quiver.

He finished 1-of-9 in the second stanza, and with Shack shut out, either by the UNC defense or by his own accord, the Wolfpack paint became the Tar Heels' domain.

Accordingly, State coach Jim Valvano blessed out his squad before the post-game press conference. And after Valvano's fireworks ended, Brown was left sitting in that chair, staring at the tape and wondering what might have been if he could have hit a shot.

Wrestlers lose again to 'Pack, 22-16

By JIM MUSE
Assistant Sports Editor

RALEIGH — The UNC wrestlers went to N.C. State on Thursday night bent on revenge. The 15th-ranked Tar Heels still had visions of Jan. 19 in their heads, when they lost to the dreaded Wolfpack in Chapel Hill, 26-12.

Unfortunately, Thursday night's script was much the same as last month's, as N.C. State got off to an early lead in the lower weights and that ultimately made the difference in a 22-16 Wolfpack win.

The seventh-ranked Wolfpack raised its record to 15-6 overall, 4-0 in the conference. UNC dropped to 13-5 and 4-2. All five of North Carolina's losses have been at the hands of Top Ten teams.

The match started inauspiciously for the Tar Heels, who lost all three early weight classes. At 118 pounds, freshman Tim Ellenberger, recently returned from an ankle injury, fell behind quickly, and lost to the painful

tune of 16-1.

At 126, sophomore John Welch gave a heroic effort against State's Michael Stokes, who is ranked fourth in the nation, but came up short. After a 5-5 tie early in the second period, Stokes won a 10-6 decision.

UNC junior Enzo Catullo then came in at 134 against third-ranked Bill Hershey. The cat-quick Hershey kept Catullo at bay, earning a controversial 9-5 decision which gave State an 11-0 lead.

At the end of the second period Hershey had gotten two points for a takedown which appeared questionable. "Enzo never went down on his knee," said Tar Heel coach Bill Lam. "That's the difference between winning and losing this match. The officiating the whole match was just not good."

Next up came senior All-American Lenny Bernstein, taking on State's tough Joe Cesari. After two scoreless and uneventful periods, Bernstein took hold of Cesari for good, gaining

1:53 of advantage time which gave him a tough 1-0 decision. UNC was finally on the board, but still trailed 11-3.

With Bernstein back down to his tournament weight of 142 pounds, sophomore Darryl Clark got the call at 150. Clark, however, was out-gunned against State's second-ranked Scott Turner. Clark's technical fall put the Tar Heels in a deep hole, 16-3.

Senior three-time All-American Rob Koll, the man of many adjectives, once again delivered. Koll raised his record to 32-1 by ripping apart State's Rod Mangrum, 17-4, gaining a major decision and more importantly, four team points.

The 167-pound weight class proved to be critical. The Tar Heels felt the losses of freshmen Jay Landolfo, who separated his shoulder during last week's road trip, and Eric Keyser, who injured his knee. Little-used senior Pete Bearse performed admir-

able, but lost a 10-4 decision in a match which had been tied at 4-4 with just 1:30 to go.

Sophomore Ben Oberly pulled the team closer with a convincing 9-3 victory over State's Mike Baker at 177, and his three-point decision left the Tar Heels trailing by a 19-10 count. UNC needed not only to win the two remaining matches, but had to win them convincingly.

State's Ty Williams forfeited to give UNC six points and let the Tar Heels pull within three, at 19-16. North Carolina heavyweight Pat Crowley, who had just started warming-up, rushed onto the mat with the Tar Heels' hopes of victory resting squarely upon his shoulders.

The sophomore knew that he would have his hands full against State's Mike Lombardo, 27-1 and third-ranked in the nation. Lombardo proved to be too much, using his quickness to earn a 7-1 victory and close out State's win.

V-Day date with Cavs next for Tar Heels

By MIKE BERARDINO
Sports Editor

When sixth-ranked North Carolina travels to Charlottesville for a 4 p.m. Valentine's Day rendezvous with Virginia, you can rest assured it won't be to hand-deliver any floral arrangements. And for that matter, don't expect the Cavaliers to welcome the Tar Heels to University Hall with open arms and a case of Whitman's Samplers, either.

As is seemingly always the case, these are two unfriendly teams.





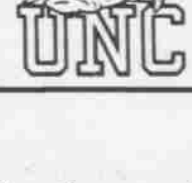
To illustrate that point, one need only to think back about four weeks to the last time the Tar Heels and the Wahoos hooked up on the court. In that one, a 77-52 UNC romp, tempers flared, elbows and forearms flew, and technical fouls were assessed on each team's bench.

North Carolina raced out to a big early lead and never looked back, except to find out who was grabbing them from behind. On two occasions it was John Johnson, the immensely talented Virginia point guard who was whistled for a pair of intentional fouls in the second half. Another time the aggressor was reserve forward Matt Blundin, who treated Jeff Lebo to a blindside forearm shiver that would have made Jack Tatum envious.

Predictably, the teams had to be separated after Cav forward Mel Kennedy and J.R. Reid nearly came to blows following a particularly feisty scrap for a loose ball.

Ignoring the WWF aspects of the Virginia squad for a moment, the Cavaliers will enter Sunday's meeting with a two-game losing streak. On the last Sabbath, the Wahoos were sacrificed to the god of Phi Slamma Jamma, getting embarrassed 81-58 in Houston. That dismal performance followed an encouraging one on Feb. 3, in which Virginia stood toe-to-toe with N.C. State in Raleigh before falling 75-69.

Kennedy, a 6-foot-5 gunner, hit for a career-high 34 points against the

	UNC	Edge	Virginia
Backcourt	Junior Jeff Lebo (14.1 ppg) leads ACC in 3-point shooting percentage (51 percent). Senior Ranzino Smith (13.1 ppg) is back at full strength and can bomb from beyond 19-9, too.		Senior John Johnson (15.4 ppg, 4.4 apg) is the ACC's best point guard and provides some leadership for the Cavs. Senior Richard Morgan shoots 32 percent from trey-land.
Frontcourt	J.R. Reid leads the conference in scoring (19.7 ppg) and pulls in 8.7 boards per game. Scott Williams (12.7 ppg) provides some punch, and Steve Bucknall (8.8) some 'D.'		Mel Kennedy (19.1 ppg, 22.1 in ACC) is the leader here in a munchkin-like lineup. Frosh Kenny Turner (6.3 ppg) has hit some big shots. Bill Batts (8.3 ppg) is average at center.
Depth	Tar Heel reserves have been improving as the year has gone on. Kevin Madden (9.2 ppg) provides the most help, but frosh Pete Chilcutt, King Rice and Rick Fox provide help, too.		The Cavs have 5 extras, with frosh John Crotty (5.6 ppg) and Darrick Sims providing the most help. Matt Blundin and Jeff Daniel seem to be molded in the Sheehy ways.
Defense	The Tar Heels give up 74.8 points a game, good for second to last in the ACC and fairly unusual. Opponents of the men in baby blue shoot .476 against them, which is also high.		The Wahoos are second in ACC scoring defense, giving up a stingy 67.5 ppg, while their opponents only shoot .446 percent against them. A rough team, as seen in Chapel Hill.
Coaching	Dean Smith must be having fun with this bunch of role-playing Tar Heels. He's won 5 in a row against Tom Smith's look-alike since '86. But the Wahoos are tough in University Hall.		Since the Ralph years, Cavs coach Terry Holland has gone far with weak teams, including one Final Four trip. Ditto for this squad, but they lost by 25 in Chapel Hill.

— compiled by Chris Spencer

Wolfpack. In the last UNC-Virginia game, Kennedy, the Cavaliers' leading scorer with 19.1 points per outing, had 23 points and seven rebounds.

Immediately after the blowout in Chapel Hill, Virginia bounced back with impressive home wins over Maryland (84-72) and Georgia Tech (58-55).

The Cavaliers have been tough all year in U-Hall, winning nine of 11 home contests. Virginia's only Charlottesville losses have come to Rhode Island and Duke.

Virginia is 12-11 overall, 4-3 in the ACC, and a win Sunday would no doubt breathe new life into the team's fast-fading NIT chances. It was just

two years ago that the Cavaliers upset top-ranked UNC in Mr. Jefferson's favorite town, at a time when the Tar Heels boasted a 21-0 record.

For that and a host of other reasons, the local FTD shop isn't expected to make any special deliveries to courtside on Sunday.

UNC Athlete of the Week

This week's UNC Athlete of the Week award goes to someone you might remember from Thursday's paper. It's Sharon Couch, the women's track star whose hopes and dreams our own Robert D'Arruda chronicled in a feature story.

We're not sure if this is a record or anything, but it does seem interesting that Ms. Couch's picture will grace our sports page on two consecutive days.

Last weekend at New York City's Millrose Games, the freshman from Rice, Va., qualified for the NCAA 55-meter hurdles championships. Earlier this season, Couch earned a spot in the NCAA field for her performance in the long jump.

Oh, yeah, and Couch is the first freshman to win this award in a long, long time, or since J.R. Reid won it last winter.



Sharon Couch

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TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 16th
Men's Swimming & Diving
VS.
N.C. State
7:00 PM
KOURY NATATORIUM

Brown brings in 19

From staff reports

New UNC football coach Mack Brown reaped a bountiful harvest from his first Tar Heel recruiting class, signing 19 prep prospects on Wednesday.

Included among Brown's initial signees are record-breaking tailback Randy Jordan, of Warrenton, 6-foot-5 quarterback Todd Burnett, of Burke, Va., Alabama 1-A Player of the Year Hamp Greene and local product J.R. Boldin, a 6-foot-2, 240-pound lineman from Orange High School.

Wednesday was the first day of the national signing period, which continues through April 1, and Brown said his staff was still looking to sign up to three more players, preferably cornerbacks.

"For the first recruiting year, I'm really amazed at how well it went," said Brown, who was hired on Dec. 16 to replace 10-year Tar Heel mentor Dick Crum, who resigned on Nov. 30. "I thought three weeks ago if we could have signed 10 young guys we would have been happy."

But Brown signed 19 players, eight of whom are considered among the top 40 prospects in the state. Five others were considered in Virginia's top 25 prep stars, and two more were among Georgia's top 20.

Of particular interest was the signing of lineman Willie Joe Walker, a 6-3½, 250-pound transfer from Garden City (Kan.) Junior College. Walker is a native of Bradenton, Fla.

"We will build our program on high school football players," Brown said. "By and large, we will only go to junior colleges to fill an immediate need."

Brown added that he felt the positions UNC most needed to fill were defensive lineman and defensive back. Boldin, a two-time Piedmont Athletic Conference first-team selec-

tion, should help in the former category.

Also intriguing was the signing of Virginia Beach, Va., twins Curt and Craig Brown, both of whom stand 6-foot-6. Curt is listed as a back, while Craig, 10 pounds heavier than his brother at 215 pounds, plays on the line.

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