

Sports

	UNC	Edge	Wake Forest
Backcourt	King Rice is at the top of his game - outplaying Hurley and Corchiani back-to-back. Hubert Davis is scoring inside & outside, just like a great shooting guard.		Derrick McQueen has struggled and lost confidence at the point. David Carlyle has replaced Robert Siler at shooting guard, with equally inconsistent results.
Frontcourt	Heels' inside scoring has keyed their turnaround. Williams dominated again vs. State. Chilcutt, Madden, Lynch, Fox seem to tough to key on anyone.		Wake's strength has still been a disappointment. Sam Ivy, Chris King, Anthony Tucker are tough scorers inside 15 but seem to disappear in the crunch.
Depth	It's no mistake that Lynch's minutes have increased and UNC has played better. Role players, like Denny & Rodl, finally seem to know their roles.		Wake is weak off the bench. Antonio Johnson backs up both guards and small forward, while Ralph Kitley and Phil Medlin are big-time bangers, but little else.
Defense	The Tar Heels will have to continue their dominance of the inside against Wake's tough frontline. Rice should be able to force McQueen into mistakes.		UNC should have a field day inside. Wake has no shot-blocker to stop Williams and its post defense is very soft. McQueen is quick on the ball.
Coaching	All you doubters should be ashamed. Dean has UNC at the top of the ACC again. The intensity is up a notch and the players understand their roles.		Dave Odom is still a question mark in his first year. This team was supposed to make waves but lacks a focus. The talent is there; the Deacs need a leader.

— compiled by Mark Anderson

Tar Heels look for fourth ACC win; Deacs are next

By MARK ANDERSON

Assistant Sports Editor

What is wrong with the Demon Deacons?

This was supposed to be a breakthrough year for Wake Forest, a team that hasn't had a winning season or reached postseason play since 1985. New coach Dave Odom inherited four returning starters and Georgetown-transfer Anthony Tucker. Some publications predicted the Deacons could finish as high as second in the ACC.

But all has not gone according to plan. Both a winning season and the NCAA Tournament are now question marks, as Wake Forest heads into the Smith Center tonight with a 7-9 mark, 0-5 in the ACC. They aren't exactly improving either; eight of those losses are in their last nine games and Saturday's 97-69 loss to Duke may have been the season's low point.

"It's the poorest we've played, there's no question about that," Odom said. "Sometimes you've got to bottom out before you can build."

Not everyone seems to agree with Odom. The honeymoon is over in Wake Forest, and Deacon fans are beginning to ask questions, such as "Why is this team even in a position to 'bottom out'?" Odom, a former Virginia assistant coach, has failed to provide a focus for the Deacons. They often look lost

offensively — a sin for a team this talented.

The Duke game is an excellent example. Wake Forest turned the ball over 25 times and shot 40 percent from the floor.

"Fundamentally, we are a poor team right now, and that's the crux of our problem," Odom said.

The Deacons' strength is their frontline, but even that has been disappointing this year. Tucker, Sam Ivy and Chris King were listed as one of the best forward groups in the country during the preseason, but have failed to dominate. All three have similar styles — a decent 15-foot jumper with better moves close to the basket.

Tucker, a 6-8 sophomore, is the most impressive athletically. He runs the court well and has showed signs of taking over games. Ivy, a 6-7 senior, has never recovered his sophomore form (18.6 pts, 7.6 rebs), but is still the closest thing Wake has to a go-to man.

King, a 6-8 sophomore, can also be that man at times. After leading the Deacons in scoring and rebounding as a freshman, people were predicting stardom for King this year. He hasn't been able to live up to his consecutive 30-point outings at the end of last season (34 vs. N.C. State, 31 vs. Duke in the ACC Tournament), but he has been near the top of the ACC in shooting

percentage all year.

The trio's problem has been a tendency to disappear when the Deacons need them. No one has stepped forward as a dominant player or as a leader, meaning Odom can never be sure who will come to play.

The key to the frontline's inconsistency is the struggles of the man trying to get them the ball, Derrick McQueen. The 5-11 sophomore is another who has failed to live up to his freshman season. He has lost a lot of confidence, not what the leaderless Deacons need from their point guard.

David Carlyle, a 6-8 senior, has replaced 6-3 junior Robert Siler as the shooting guard. It sounds like a broken record, but Carlyle has also been unable to recover his sophomore form. The Deacons have been weak from the outside and Carlyle's declining skills (1-9 vs. Duke) have not helped. Siler, a jumping-jack, now provides the Deacons only punch off the bench (20 points vs. Duke) and is their best defensive player. Antonio Johnson, a 6-4 senior, is a solid back-up at both guard positions and small forward.

Ralph Kitley, a 6-10 senior, and Phil Medlin, a 6-9 sophomore, provide beef off the bench. Neither player has any offensive skills or fits with Wake's up-tempo game. Both also play surprisingly soft post defense.

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Track tunes up in home meet; Waller qualifies for nationals

By STEVE WALSTON

Staff Writer

You could almost hear a pin drop in the Tin Can Sunday as Tisha Waller prepared for her third and final attempt in the women's high jump.

But the instantaneous applause that echoed throughout the Joe Hilton Indoor Track & Field Complex confirmed that the third time was indeed a charm for the UNC sophomore. Waller cleared the bar, set at 5-11 1/2, to become a provisional qualifier for the NCAA Championships March 9-10 in Indianapolis. Her prodigious leap highlighted a day filled with personal bests for Tar Heel tracksters in the Carolina Indoor Invitational.

Waller had nearly decided not to compete before the meet began, since she was the only female competitor in the event. And few would have blamed her or any of the other North Carolina athletes for sub-par performances, in light of the fact that the team had returned only 10 hours earlier from the Santee-Marriott Invitational at Virginia Tech.

"When I first got here, I felt like asking the coach to just let me practice," Waller said. "But I'm glad I jumped and really proved myself wrong. It means a lot to me (qualifying for the NCAAs), especially doing it on my last jump."

In the men's 35-pound throw, Sean Murray followed up a personal best performance at Virginia Tech a day earlier with a strong showing of 56'1". On Saturday, he managed a throw of 56'3", beating last year's ACC champion in the process.

"I felt pretty good today," Murray said. "Yesterday, I was really glad to win, because the competition was better; today, it was mostly my teammates and a few unattached guys."

"The competition helps to get me more fired up, but I try to stay focused and concentrate on setting certain goals for each meet. I was pretty psyched up today."

Junior All-America Sharon Couch was her usual outstanding self. She won the long jump with a distance of

20'1 1/2", placed third in the triple jump and won the 60-yard hurdles with a time of 7.88 seconds.

Couch and senior Kim Austin dominated the three events, with Austin winning the triple jump (39'7 3/4") and finishing runner-up to Couch in the long jump and hurdles.

Couch said motivation was a problem due to the lack of outside competition. Duke, East Carolina, N.C. Central and N.C. State sent only a few athletes, while a few unattached performers, including UNC coach and former decathlete Kevin McGorty, also competed.

"It's difficult to get up for the meet when you're competing against the people on your team," Couch said.

Competing in multiple events is a challenge, but Couch is a solid performer in each of her events.

"It takes a lot out of me mentally," she said. "Physically, I'm in shape and could compete forever, but there is a mental strain if you don't do as well as you want to in one event and you still have to go on to the next event. It's more mental than physical."

Young talent is prevalent among this year's Tar Heel tracksters, as evidenced by freshman Lynda Lipson's victory in the women's shot put competition.

Lipson's winning distance of 43'1/2" was two feet greater than that of her nearest competitor.

"It's the best I've ever thrown, but there's still room for improvement," Lipson said.

Harlis Meaders captured top honors in the men's shot put (50'11 1/4"), William Darity tied for first in the high jump (6'10"), and Kevin Brown (pole vault) and Scott Fletcher (hurdles) finished second only to Kevin McGorty. In the pole vault competition, Brown bettered his previous best by one foot.

UNC head coach Dennis Craddock lauded the performances of Waller and Brown, but noted that Tracy Cooke and Kendra Mackey suffered injuries during the weekend competition.

"You have to take the good with the bad," Craddock said. "But I feel good about where we are. We have good team spirit, and everybody's working really hard."

Duke

pointers, was the primary reason the Tar Heels were able to whittle away at the deficit. She led the Tar Heels with 23 points off the bench.

Duke got its biggest spread with 13:17 to go in the game. Kost made a pair of free-throws to give the Blue Devils a 60-48 lead. UNC clawed back to within two on several occasions but could not tie the game until Williams' shot with 12 seconds left.

Duke never could put the Tar Heels away. After Kim Oden fouled out with 1:39 left, Kost completed a three-point play to give the Blue Devils an 85-77 lead. Two Lamb three-pointers trimmed the score to 85-83, however.

The Blue Devils led 87-83 when LeAnn Kennedy went to the line to shoot two. She made the first but missed the second. But Lamb snatched the rebound and scored to cut the deficit to one. Morgan made one of two free

throws with 30 seconds left to put Duke up 88-86.

North Carolina's leading scorer and rebounder, forward Heather Thompson, collected 10 rebounds but made only 1-of-11 field goal attempts. Williams had 16 points and seven boards.

The Tar Heels return to action tonight at 6 p.m. against the ninth-ranked Virginia Cavaliers. UNC has not beaten Virginia in six tries under Hatchell. The Cavaliers, 15-3 and 3-1 in the ACC, are coming off a 97-77 blowout win over Georgia Tech on Saturday. Virginia lost at Duke 84-74 last week for its only ACC loss.

Saturday
Duke 90, UNC 88

UNC — Thompson 1-11 0-1 2, L. Kennedy 3-6 4-10, Williams 6-12 4-16, Johnson 3-9 2-2 9, Anderson 3-9 0-0 6, Oden 6-11 1-3 13, Lamb 9-14 0-0 23, Waddell 1-2 0-0 3, K. Kennedy 1-1 0-0 2, Montgomery 2-7 0-0 4. Totals 35-81 11-18 88.

Duke — Williams 2-8 0-0 4, Meier 6-13 8-12 20, Kost 9-13 7-10 25, Morgan 4-7 1-2 12, McDonald 9-16 1-2 23, McKisson 3-5 0-0 6. Totals 33-62 17-26 90.

Halftime Score: Duke 48-40. Three-point goals — UNC 7-15 (Johnson 1-4, Lamb 5-9, Waddell 1-2), Duke 7-9 (Morgan 3-3, McDonald 4-6). Rebounds — UNC 41 (Thompson 10), Duke 45 (Kost 16). Assists — UNC 13 (Johnson 10), Duke 19 (Morgan 7). Fouls — UNC 20, Duke 17.

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