

Men's basketball scare nationally ranked UNC

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UNC Asheville men's basketball team traveled to Chapel Hill last week and gave the No. 25 University of North Carolina a scare at the Dean Smith Center.

The Bulldogs, fresh off a monumental 116-58 win against Virginia Intermont last Saturday, went into Orange County Tuesday night looking to pull off an even bigger upset than their regular season opener, a 70-69 overtime victory at Auburn on Nov. 12.

Adversely, Carolina went into the Nov. 23 contest with back-to-back losses hanging over their heads. The Tar Heels lost to the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers and the Vanderbilt Commodores in the previous weekend's Puerto Rico Tip-Off tournament. As a result, the Tar Heels plummeted 17 spots from the NCAA's No. 8 rank just days later.

UNC looked to bounce back from their two straight losses in front of a raucous sky blue-clad home crowd, but the Bulldogs proved to be no cupcake for the traditional Atlantic Coast Conference powerhouse program.

Although UNCA rallied late to almost close what was a 22-point Tar Heel lead deep in the second half, **Bulldog Head Coach Eddie Biedenbach** and his squad fell to UNC skipper and Asheville native Roy Williams' bunch, 69-80.

The Bulldogs trailed by only 13 at the half, and while standout performances from junior guards J.P. Primm and Matt Dickey led the way, some of UNCA's bench players stepped up in the final period to keep Carolina's fast-paced offensive tempo at



Photo courtesy of UNCA Athletics

Junior guard Matt Dickey takes firm control of the Auburn Tigers.

bay.

Both Primm and Dickey have scored double figures every game this year. Primm, who entered the contest with an average of 15 points per game, posted a season-high 21 to go along with his three assists and four rebounds of the night. Dickey, who averages 20 points per game, dropped 15 points along with four rebounds and four assists.

UNCA's guard tandem may have paced

the Bulldogs, but contributions from forward Jon Nwannunu and fellow sophomore guard Jaron Lane helped keep the grudge match of UNC system schools very close in the late going.

Nwannunu, a junior college transfer from Indiana, registered eight points and five boards in 23 minutes of play off the bench. Although Lane shot only one-for-eight from the field, his five rebounds in 26 minutes of playing time proved key to

UNCA's comeback efforts against the Tar Heels.

UNCA put up a good fight well into the game's later stages, but they suffered a prolonged scoring drought in the closing five minutes of the contest, which prevented them from overcoming the Tar Heels' slim, single-digit lead.

"In the second half, I thought we were much better at limiting their fast breaks," Biedenbach said. "They run the ball hard and they are going to come at us both ways, the offensive and defensive ends."

UNC sported a team free throw percentage of nearly 75 percent for the game, but the Bulldogs could not capitalize on the Tar Heels' crucial missed attempts from the charity stripe in the second half. Although UNCA committed only 10 turnovers, a season low, they struggled from the floor and shot only 37 percent as a team.

The Bulldogs were forced to compete against a stout UNC interior without senior forward John Williams, who sat out the second half with a concussion. Highlighted by their highly touted junior center, 7-footer Tyler Zeller, the Tar Heels outrebounded the Bulldogs 48 to 27.

"We weren't on the offensive boards at all," Biedenbach said. "They shot too many layups in the first half and got too many offensive rebounds and defensive rebounds."

As Zeller exploited the Bulldogs' inside game, the talented UNC big man went for a career-high 23 points. That mark broke his personal best, set just one game prior, where he scored 20 against Vanderbilt. Zeller also grabbed seven rebounds in last Tuesday's in-state roundball rivalry.

SEE SCARE PAGE 19

Bulldogs spear the Spartans back to South Carolina

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The UNC Asheville women's basketball team is dominating the court at the start of the season, posting a 3-1 record after their win against USC Upstate.

The 95-76 victory against the Spartans ignited new momentum for the Bulldogs.

"I thought we came out with a great deal of energy," **Head Coach Betsy Blose** said. "We were able to get out and run and get a

lot of easy baskets in transition. I thought we were pretty consistent throughout the game."

The leading scorer was **junior guard Lindsey Thompson**, who scored a career-high 26 points in the Nov. 23 game.

"I didn't know how many I had," Thompson said. "I was shocked when they



Betsy Blose

told me."

Behind her was senior guard Kendall Shepard, who contributed 19 points of her own. Both shot 100 percent from the free throw line.

"We've got contributions from a lot of different people. Kendall Shepard and Lindsey Thompson continue to play very, very well for us. They've been pretty consistent from the get-go," Blose said.

Two other Bulldogs were in double figures against the Spartanburg-based team. Redshirt sophomore Kelli Riles had 12

points, and sophomore Breaira Barksdale had 15.

"Kelli Riles continues to do a great job on the defensive board, and we had a pretty solid play from Breaira Barksdale. She's definitely one of the reasons we're able to control the tempo," Blose said.

To start off the game, Thompson made a layup that Upstate forward Madisen Webb immediately returned.

Upstate put up three shots from behind

SEE BULLDOGS PAGE 20