

UNC's Georgia Peach Breaks Out of Slump, Hits 6 Treys Vs. Wake

BY ERIN PARRISH
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — A cold rain fell outside Lawrence Joel Memorial Coliseum Saturday afternoon, but inside the arena North Carolina's Stephanie Lawrence could feel the sun shining through the clouds.

With a game-high 22 points, including a 6-for-9 effort from behind the 3-point arc, Lawrence snapped out of the shooting slump that has frustrated the 6-foot-1 swing player all season.

"Stephanie was hot," UNC head coach Sylvia Hatchell said after her team's 85-42 trouncing of struggling Wake Forest.

Lawrence set the tone for the game with her scoring rush during the first two minutes of the contest. She nailed a 17-foot jumper after 12 seconds, capitalized on a Wake 30-second violation with a 3-pointer from the left side and, for good measure, sank another 2-point shot. As her team was held scoreless during Lawrence's seven-point tear, Deacon head coach Karen Freeman stood on the sidelines in shock as Lawrence's shots continued to fall.

"I watched them going in and kept looking at the stat sheet saying, 'I know she's not shooting like that for the rest of the year,'" Freeman said.

Freeman's out-sized Deacons tried to stop the Tar Heels' imposing inside game by forcing them outside, but Lawrence's hot hand stymied Wake Forest's strategy. UNC shot better from 3-point range than from anywhere else on the court.

"It was pretty much like trying to plug a dam today," Freeman said.

Lawrence's performance was bolstered by a relentless defense that created offensive opportunities. Lawrence credited her teammates for getting her open shots.

"My teammates are hitting me when I'm open and when I have shooting opportunities," Lawrence said. "You know, if they don't pass me the ball, I can't shoot it, and they're finding me in transition and in plays when my man is helping out on them."

Freeman agreed that the Tar Heels had fine-tuned their offense to maximize Lawrence's outside shooting.

"Stephanie knows that if she misses it, somebody's going to get it, so the pressure's off. All she's got to do is shoot it," Freeman said. "Shooters are like that. If all they've got to do is shoot, then they're going to hit it."



UNC's STEPHANIE LAWRENCE had hit just 28 percent of her 3-pointers before her outburst at Wake.

Until the Wake Forest game, the Morrow, Ga., senior's 3-point shooting percentage had been hovering just above 28 percent, well below her 40 percent average last year. Lawrence holds the UNC records for highest season 3-point percentage and most 3-point goals made in a game. She said that realizing she was not performing as well this season was difficult for her.

"I had a lot of evaluating to do with myself, not only with my shot, but my commitment with basketball," Lawrence said.

Before Charlotte Smith hit her game-winning 3-pointer against Louisiana Tech (on a Lawrence inbound pass) and sealed the Tar Heels' 1994 national championship, Lawrence had already made her version of "the shot." In the second round of the 1993 NCAA tournament, she sank a 3-pointer with 6.5 seconds left in overtime to take North Carolina to its first trip to the Sweet 16 since 1986.

Now, in her final season, Lawrence is dedicating herself to picking up where she left off, helping the team to win ACC and NCAA titles and shrugging off questions about her lost faith in her shot.

"I don't think I ever lost my confidence, it was just a matter of me putting the ball in the hole," Lawrence said. "Every shooter will go through a slump every once in a while, and it's good thing I went through mine early."

VIRGINIA

FROM PAGE 12

8-0 ACC) 77-60 in last year's ACC tournament final, tonight offers the Tar Heels another chance to exact a little revenge.

That's right, No. 3 North Carolina travels to University Hall tonight to challenge one of its biggest rivals, the first-place Cavaliers. The game, which tips off at 9 p.m., will be televised on Home Team Sports.

Last year, UNC lost to the Wahooos 77-75 at home Jan. 12 and 83-74 Feb. 9 in Charlottesville, Va.

"Virginia has always been a big rival of North Carolina," senior guard Stephanie Lawrence said. "And we always play tough any time we meet them."

In its two wins last season, Virginia seemed the more confident team. UNC kept both games close until the final few minutes, when foul trouble became the Tar Heels' biggest nemesis.

But North Carolina did trounce the Wahooos in the ACC finals.

"I think we have a lot of confidence with our winning the ACC tournament last year," Lawrence said following the 85-42 win over Wake Forest. "I think that makes a big difference with our conference going into the game with Virginia. It's not a question in our mind whether we can beat them. It's a matter of we've got to get out there and play."

"Getting out there and playing" should be the easy part, though. Walking off the court and to class the next day may be the hard part.

One can place a safe wager that this game will be physical.

"We know that we've got to play intense on every possession because that

THE LOWDOWN ON TONIGHT'S GAME

No. 3 North Carolina (19-1, 7-1 ACC)
at
No. 12 Virginia (15-3, 8-0 ACC)

G GILLINGHAM, 6-7
Averaging 1.8 blocks and five rebounds so far this season.

F TONYA COOPER, 5-9
Has been starting over freshman sensation Tracy Reid lately.

F CHARLOTTE SMITH, 6-0
Only averaging eight points over the last two games.

G STEPHANIE LAWRENCE, 6-1
Led all scorers with 22 points in Saturday pasting of Wake.

G MARION JONES, 5-10
Already sixth on UNC career steal list with 154 steals.

G TORA SUBER, 5-7
Super sophomore dishes out 4.6 assists per game this season.

G JENNY BOUCEK, 5-8
Junior guard is pulling down 4.3 rebounds per game.

F MONICK FOOTE, 6-0
Named the 1994 Gatorade High School Player of the Year.

F WENDY PALMER, 6-2
Leading ACC in points per game and rebounding.

C JEFFRA GAUSEHOHL, 6-6
Averaging 11.7 points and 5.4 rebounds per game this season.

Game: No. 12 Virginia (15-3, 8-0) at No. 3 North Carolina (19-1, 7-1).
Time: 9 p.m.
Location: University Hall, Charlottesville, Va.
Radio: WCHL 1360 AM
Television: Home Team Sports
Series Record: Virginia leads 22-19.
Keys for Virginia: Get the ball in Wendy Palmer's hands. Palmer, a 6-foot-2 junior from Timberlake, has dominated UVA. opponents this season. She leads the ACC in scoring and rebounding. Handling the ball against UNC speedster Marion Jones may also be a key.
Keys for UNC: The Tar Heels need for Charlotte Smith to break out of a recent slump. Smith, who only scored seven points in last Wednesday's loss to Duke, will need to stay out of foul trouble.
Virginia Bench: Forwards Charleata Beale (7.9 points per game) and Amy Lofstedt (7.6 points per game) are the first off the UVA bench.
Tar Heel Bench: Freshman forward Tracy Reid has been relegated to duty off the bench as of late. However, she did score 13 points and grab five rebounds vs. Wake Forest. UNC head coach Sylvia Hatchell has said that Reid needs to work on her defense.
Prediction: Virginia 73, UNC 70.
COMPILED BY JAMES D. WHITFIELD

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 12

"It burned me up to see her stroking it, actually," Freeman said.

Not to mention the next dimension of speed Wake faced in UNC's Marion Jones.

"That's a whole other dimension," Freeman said. "That's the major difference between the men's game and women's game, is the speed at which people move."

"We play against guys in our practices, and they're not as quick as Marion."

Speed, hitting the shots and tenacious defense made things click for UNC and kept the Deacons asking what happened.

Lawrence scored the first seven points of the game, including a 3-pointer from the side to jump-start the Tar Heels to a 9-0 lead. Wake finally scored its first basket

could make the difference in the game," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "It'll be a great game. It'll be very physical."

The most physical player could be UVA's Wendy Palmer. The Timberlake

Carolina's offensive prowess.

"They did a better job against our zone," she said. "They stayed in an offensive set that was more geared to faking it inside. They don't miss too many in the paint, and if they miss it, they rebound it."

Lawrence opened the second half with yet another 3 from the baseline, keeping UNC's intensity high.

The Tar Heels continued to pound the Deacons, but with just over 12 minutes left in the game, the pounding got a little harder.

At the 12-minute mark, Jones swiped the ball just after getting her second personal foul and was off to the races. She dashed down the court, twisted to the hoop, slashed underneath and got the layup and the foul. Jones finished the three-point play by nailing the free throw, which put the Tar Heels ahead 62-26.

But Freeman credits the change to North

more than two minutes into the game on a 17-foot jumper by Val Hodge.

Wake battled to within six points with 13:20 remaining in the first half on a baseline shot from sophomore guard Stacey Hawes.

But the Deacs could never shut the gap. UNC closed the first stanza 40-17 when Jones found UNC center Gwendolyn Gillingham at the baseline to knock down a last-second jumper.

UNC faced a different situation going into the break from the teams' first game.

"At our place (Carmichael Auditorium) at halftime, it was a one-point game, and they scored 67 points," UNC head coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "We were trying to get our defense back, and it's amazing how things will smooth out when you get your defense back."

But Freeman credits the change to North

Jones have just a little star status. Smith, the second woman to dunk in a game, ranks second in the ACC in scoring. She has averaged 17.8 points per game, and averages 9.8 boards per game.

UNC vs. Wake Forest Score Box

North Carolina	40	45	85
Wake Forest	17	25	42

UNC: Cooper 2-4 0-0 4, Jackson 3-7 1-2 7, Smith 3-9 3-5 3, Lawrence 8-11 0-0 22, Jones 6-10 1-1 13, Gear 3-7 2-2 9, McKee 2-3 0-0 4, N. Walker 0-2 0-0 0, Reid 6-7 1-2 13.5, Walker 0-0 2-3 2, Gillingham 1-4 0-0 2, Suddreth 0-1 0-0 0. Totals: 34-65 10-15 85.
WF: Hodge 4-12 0-0 8, Seawright 2-6 0-1 4, Walker 2-9 0-4 4, Mulholland 8-20 1-1 15, Hollifield 0-2 1-3 1, Hawes 2-8 0-0 5, McMillan 0-2 2-2 2, Hains 1-2 1-1 3, Quinn 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 17-60 5-42.
Three-point goals — UNC 7-13 (Lawrence 6-8, Gear 1-3, Cooper 0-1), WF 3-12 (Mulholland 2-6, Hawes 1-4, Hollifield 0-2). Rebounds — UNC 42 (Smith 8), WF 38 (Mulholland 10). Assists — UNC 15 (Jones 4), WF 15 (Hollifield 6). Total Fouls — UNC 17, WF 16.
Attendance - 2,845

'Oh, What a Night': Gymnasts Roll Radford

BY SARAH MANEKN
STAFF WRITER

When freshman Mary Jo Austin's floor routine began, the North Carolina gymnastics team started to dance.

"Oh, What a Night" was accompanying Austin's routine, and it encapsulated the spirit of the Tar Heels' meet against the Radford Highlanders.

The Tar Heels achieved their goal of breaking 183 points by wiping out the Highlanders 184.225 to 179.525.

"It was a great meet," sophomore Molly Gardner said. "We were really enthusiastic, and we'll just keep getting better."

North Carolina started off the meet strongly by turning in one of its best vault performances ever. Freshman Susan

Cunningham won the event with a 9.625, and fellow freshman Amanda Mitchell tied for second with a 9.55.

A triple jumper and long jumper in high school, Cunningham has tremendous power in her legs. On her vault — a front handspring/front flip — she achieved great height and distance.

"Our vault performances tonight were the best I've seen in almost 10 years at Carolina," UNC coach Derek Galvin said.

The Tar Heels' execution on the uneven bars was not quite as successful.

"Our bars routines have been getting a lot better in practice," Galvin said. "But we didn't hit them tonight as well as we were capable of hitting them."

Still, the Tar Heels performed well on bars. Gardner's back straddle release from the high bar to the low bar punctuated a solid routine, leading to a second-place finish and a 9.2 score.

Mitchell fell on her first move on the high bar, but on the next event, the balance beam, she showed why Galvin said she's one of the top beam performers he has coached in his 22-year career.

"The fall off the bars shook me up a little," Mitchell said. "But I knew that I had to get myself together, forget about the last two events, and move on."

And did she ever.

Mitchell mounted the beam into a completely inverted vertical position with her arms wrapped under the apparatus for support. She then completed her series with ease, combining challenging athletic moves with fluid, graceful dance elements. Her score of 9.75 won the event and was the highest score awarded at the meet.

Austin also turned in a strong beam routine. Her mount wowed the crowd with its combination of flexibility and strength, and she stuck her dismount with both feet.

Overall, though, the team's performance on the beam was not as consistent as it was last weekend at William and Mary.

"I think we were nervous on beam," Galvin said. "It was our first home meet of the season, and I think the early-season jitters got to us."

But the butterflies gave way to confidence as the Tar Heels moved on to their final event, the floor exercise. Even in the three-minute warm-up period, UNC's tumbling was aggressive and well-executed.

Cunningham led the Tar Heels with a 9.35 on floor, resulting from a solid routine and effortless tumbling. Mitchell, Gardner and Austin also turned in enthusiastic and solid performances.

Galvin got his wish for an active and responsive crowd when the Tar Heels were on the floor. The audience clapped to much of the floor music and applauded loudly at the tumbling passes.

Tar Heels Doubles Team Advances to ACC Semis

BY ALEC MORRISON
STAFF WRITER

Though it struggled in the singles draw, the UNC women's tennis team found success in its top doubles duo in the ACC Indoor Championships this weekend.

The UNC tandem of Ariana Cervenka and Freddy Uihlein rolled past the opposition to reach the doubles semifinals, which will be played today at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center. After defeating Liz Henkin and Beth Hutton of Maryland 6-1, 6-3 in Saturday's first round, Cervenka and

Uihlein beat Emily Hill and Whitney Sharp of Virginia 6-2, 6-3 on Sunday.

UNC head coach Kitty Harrison attributed Sunday's victory to a solid doubles performance.

"They played great doubles, they really did," she said. "They meshed together really well. They were closing on the net, hitting good overheads, first serves, getting good returns. All the fundamental things for doubles were there."

However, Harrison said the level of competition for Cervenka and Uihlein will be much higher when they face Alison

Cohen and Jen Fiers of Virginia in today's semifinal.

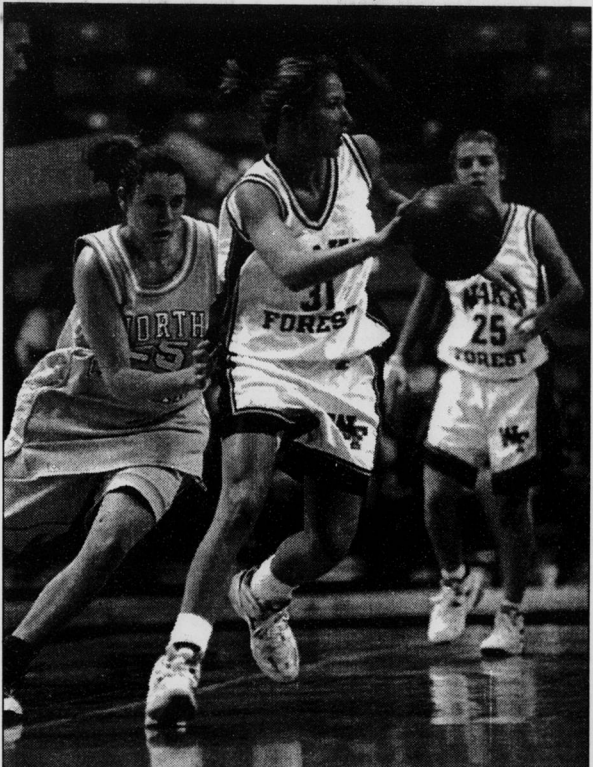
"This Virginia team is very strong," she said. "Usually, you can hope that one player is weaker on the baseline or at the net, but I don't see any weaknesses in this team. Still, if we hold to our fundamentals, we could win it."

While Cervenka and Uihlein were successful in the doubles draw, the UNC singles players were unable to survive past the second round. Cervenka won her first-round match against Sara Salam of Maryland 6-1, 6-0 but fell in the second round to

Duke's Laura Zifer, 6-3, 7-5. Uihlein was defeated in the first round by Virginia's Emily Hill, 6-1, 6-1.

Three other Tar Heels played: Sara Cranford fell to Heather Wimerley of Georgia Tech, 6-3, 6-1; Porter Glass lost to Jen Fiers of Virginia, 6-0, 6-1; and N.C. State's Margie Zimmer defeated Inge Commissaris, 6-0, 5-7, 6-3.

The ACC Women's Indoor Championships conclude today with the singles finals scheduled for 9 a.m. and the doubles semifinals and finals following at approximately 11:30 a.m.



Stephanie Lawrence (25) played defense this weekend in addition to making six 3-pointers. She's chasing Wake's RaeAnna Mulholland in UNC's 85-42 win.

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