

Life Without Cory, the Sequel: No. 16 Cavs Cope With Injury

BY JACSON LOWE
SENIOR WRITER

Don't think Cory Alexander isn't important to the Virginia Cavaliers. The first page of the Wahoos' media guide season outlook says in bold letters:

A healthy Cory Alexander, four returning starters and a promising freshman class have helped generate expectations of a successful 1994-95 campaign.

After going 18-13 last year and shooting under 40 percent from the floor for the season, UVA. couldn't wait to get its leader back. Alexander missed all but 11 minutes of the 1993-94 year with a broken ankle.

But this year things were to be different — and they were until Feb. 8, when Alexander once again went down with another ankle injury against N.C. State.

"Cory has a stress-type fracture in the inside bone of his right ankle, in the same general area of the injury he suffered in November of 1993," said Dr. Frank McCue, UVA.'s team physician. "It's not displaced, and it's a new fracture; it's not

the same fracture as the one he suffered last season. He will not play again this season."

And with that, head coach Jeff Jones and his troops must push onward without their floor leader once again. It's not going to be easy. Before the injury, Alexander had returned to the form which made him a second-team All-ACC selection in his sophomore season.

He was averaging 16.6 points and 5.2 assists per game. More importantly, he was the coach on the floor helping to orchestrate, among other impressive performances, a 23-point second-half comeback against Duke in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

With the Waynesboro, Va., native relegated to pine time for the remainder of the



UVA. point guard CORY ALEXANDER broke his ankle Feb. 8 vs. N.C. State.

season, more pressure is being put on sophomore Harold Deane to take on the ball-handling chores. Deane, a first-team All-Freshman in the ACC last year, paced the Cavaliers to the conference tournament finals against North Carolina. Jones said that he feels Deane is ready for the leadership role on the court.

"Given the experience last year and what he has gone through this year, Harold has improved as far as running the show," Jones said. "If we need to, we can put the ball in his hand the entire time and have him handle it in some ways the same way Cory did or the amount of time Cory did and feel comfortable with that."

But more importantly, Deane, along with freshman Curtis Staples, has been able to pick up the scoring void left by Alexander's injury. In Wednesday's 64-58 thumping of hapless Duke, the backcourt duo combined for 31 points.

"Harold and Cory are different," Jones said. "Harold is a little less of a penetrator than Cory. He's more of a power player, making stronger moves to the basket."

THE LOWDOWN ON SUNDAY'S GAME

C RASHEED WALLACE, 6-10
Hit 8-of-12 shots for 24 points
Jan. 18 against Virginia.

F DANTE CALABRIA, 6-4
Broke out of a mini-slump vs. Tigers, making 3 of 4 treys.

F JERRY STACKHOUSE, 6-6
Held to a season-low seven points vs. Clemson.

G DONALD WILLIAMS, 6-3
His 24 points Thursday night, tying season-high.

G JEFF McINNIS, 6-4
Dished out 11 assists against Clemson Thursday.

No. 1 North Carolina (20-2, 10-2 ACC)
at
No. 16 Virginia (17-6, 9-3 ACC)

G CURTIS STAPLES, 6-3
On line to set UVA.'s freshman mark for 3s in a season.

G HAROLD DEANE, 6-1
Struggled against Duke, going 2 for 12.

F JAMAL ROBINSON, 6-7
Shooting 85.3 percent from the free throw line

F CHRIS ALEXANDER, 6-9
Takes pride in being a defensive stopper

C JUNIOR BURROUGH, 6-9
Wahoos' leading scorer (16.7 ppg) and rebounder (8.0).

Game: No. 2 North Carolina (20-2, 10-2) at No. 16 Virginia (17-6, 9-3).

Time: 3:45 p.m. Sunday.

Location: University Hall, Charlottesville, Va.

Radio: WCHL 1360 AM, WTRG 100.7 FM

Television: ABC-TV (WTVN-11)

Series Record: UNC leads 105-38.

Keys for UNC: Getting on the defensive boards.

The Wahoos have not been known as a great shooting team in the last few years, but they aren't afraid to crash the boards. UNC must limit them to one shot.

Keys for Virginia: Keep Junior Burrough and Chris Alexander out of foul trouble. Georgia Tech found out the hard way how effective Rasheed Wallace can be down low when Eddie Elisma got into foul trouble.

Tar Heel Bench: It still remains to be seen how much Pat Sullivan will be able to contribute. If nothing else, he can take a couple of fouls away from Wallace and Jerry Stackhouse. Pearce Landry continues to play well, and Serge Zwicker causes fits in the paint with his wingspan.

Cavalier Bench: It got a lot shorter with Curtis Staples starting in Cory Alexander's place. Freshman Norman Nolan provides some depth.

Prediction: UNC 74, Virginia 69.

COMPILED BY JACSON LOWE

Sullivan Returns, Contributes 'Little Things'

BY JACSON LOWE
SENIOR WRITER

They rose to their feet, 21,572 strong, and applauded his return. He checked in at the scorer's table with 13:58 left in the first half, and for the first time in 680 days, UNC's Pat Sullivan took to the court in a regulation game.

"It really was nice to have that reaction, that ovation when I first went in there," the Bogota, N.J., senior said. "It kind of gave me chills up and down to be out there with those guys."

And why shouldn't it? After redshirting the 1993-94 season as a senior to benefit the good of his team, Sullivan returned this year with big hopes. But those hopes were dashed in the form of a back injury so severe, surgery was needed to repair the damage. The 66-39 blowout of Clemson Thursday night was a long time coming for UNC's co-captain.

"Basically it was just a blessing to have this jersey on tonight," he said. "There was talk before I had my surgery that I might never be able to come back. I might not ever play basketball again. It just feels good to be back out here again."

And it was the same ol' "Self" on the hardwoods — his nickname an oxymoron in terms of his unselfish style of play. At 10:32, UNC point guard Jeff McInnis penetrated and dished to Sullivan. Despite a chorus of "Shoot!" from the stands, Sullivan hesitated and dished to Donald Williams for a 3-pointer that turned out to be a four-point play. His contribution to an already-lopsided lead would come later.

With 3:25 left in the first stanza, Sullivan found himself in the same place he made his last contribution to his team, 15 feet from the basket in a one-and-one situation. Twenty-two months ago, it was for a national championship. Thursday, it was for his first points of the year. Both shots found nothing but net.

"I wasn't really worried about my free throws, because that's all I've been shooting the whole time I've been rehabbing," he said. "I felt good about that — it was the outside shot that I passed up when Jeff threw me the ball, and I got it to Donald. I was really scared to shoot that one — I didn't want to shoot an airball in front of all

those fans."

Sullivan might not have had 100-percent confidence to begin with, but UNC head coach Dean Smith had no problem letting him play 16 minutes against the Tigers.

"I put him in the game with four minutes left to go in the Michigan game in the national championship," he said. "Do I have confidence in him? Certainly."

Smith has always said it's the little things about Sullivan's game that make him valuable, and one of those little things happened with 0.4 seconds left in the first half. Sullivan lobbed the ball inbounds to Serge Zwicker, who promptly scored his only

bucket of the night before the buzzer.

"I think it's good to have Pat back, because he's that role player that every team needs," Williams said. "It may not seem like it, but when he comes back I think we're just a much better team because of the little things he does for our basketball team."

One of those little things is picking up loose balls, and Sullivan did just that under the basket with 9:46 remaining and converted it into his first field goal of the year.

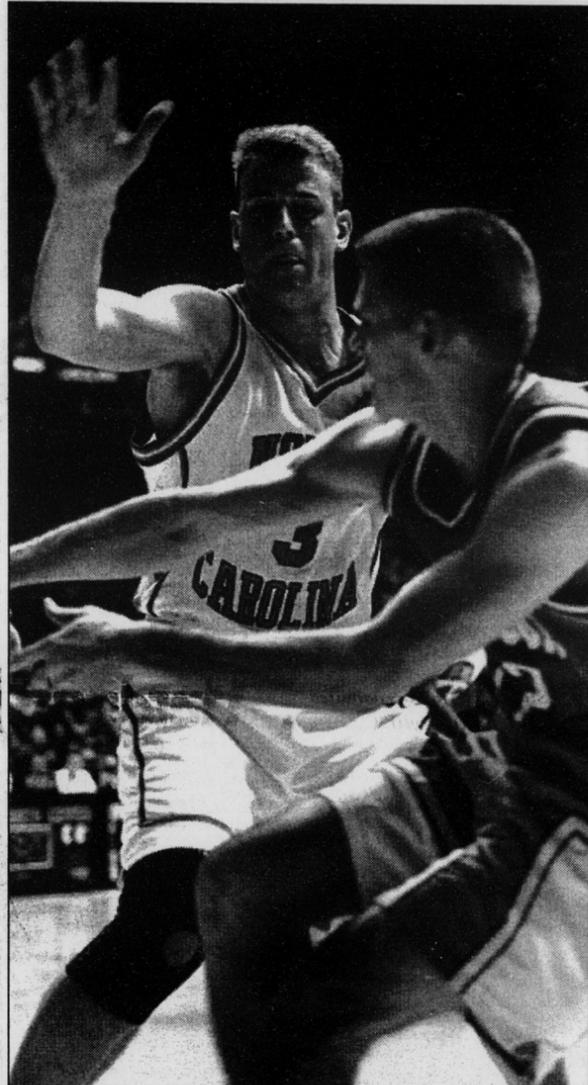
"Coach Dave Hanners gave me some good advice in the training room," Sullivan quipped. "He said, 'Don't shoot any outside shots. You wait till you get a layup.'

And that's what I did. I felt really good after that."

Even though he got 16 minutes Thursday, those kind of minutes might be a little harder to come by down the stretch. UNC's not been doing too shabbily without Sullivan, and now the transition begins.

"It was good to see (Sullivan) out there contributing," Jerry Stackhouse said. "We're not trying to force anything on him. We know he's taken some big steps. We need to incorporate him into our rotation. Everything's been running kind of smoothly. We definitely want to make a smooth transition bringing him in."

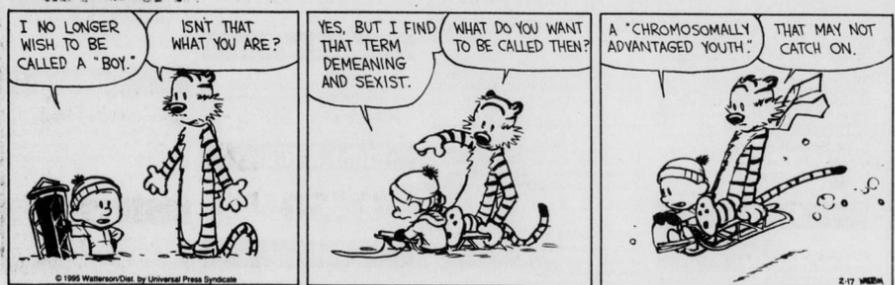
Smooth sailing thus far.



DTH/KATIE CANNON

Pat Sullivan returned to action Thursday night vs. Clemson. It was his first official appearance since the 1993 NCAA Championship game vs. Michigan.

Galvin and Hobbes

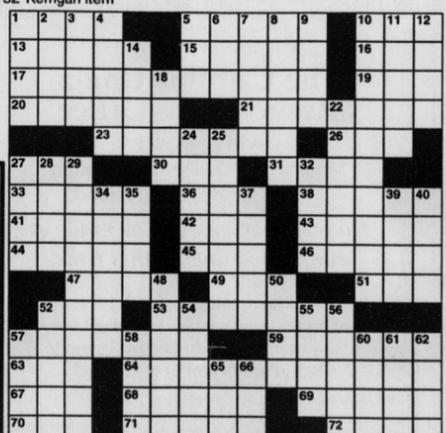
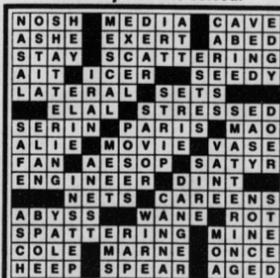


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THE Daily Crossword by Joan D. Berbrich

- ACROSS
- 1 Rumanian coins
- 5 Be the equal of
- 10 —Magnon
- 13 Representative
- 15 Skirt shape
- 16 By what means
- 17 Underwear
- 19 Fruit drink
- 20 Prime rib, e.g.
- 21 Put on guard
- 23 Defensible
- 26 Ike's command
- 27 Sixth sense
- 30 Pair
- 31 Hit review
- 33 Sanctify
- 36 Bunyan's tool
- 38 Earn
- 41 IQ man
- 42 Clinch
- 43 Shady garden spot
- 44 Gaze
- 45 Old seaman
- 46 Gem
- 47 Branch
- 49 Oil well gear
- 51 Totem pole
- 52 Dep.
- 53 Stock of weapons
- 57 Silhouette of buildings
- 59 Songlike
- 63 Taxi
- 64 Source of many troubles
- 67 From — Z
- 68 Scornful expression
- 69 Robe of old Rome
- 70 "Oedipus —"
- 71 Alleviated
- 72 Give the impression of being
- DOWN
- 1 Innocent one
- 2 Literary conflict
- 3 Nearest
- 4 Lethargic
- 5 Stadium cry
- 6 Workmen's gp.
- 7 Kind of pneumonia
- 8 Elk feature
- 9 — majesty
- 10 Non-stop talker
- 11 Western show
- 12 Was indebted
- 14 Orange or lemon
- 18 Mailed
- 22 Backslide
- 24 Anticipate
- 25 Freight train units
- 27 Recedes
- 28 Gash
- 29 Ice hockey area
- 32 Amo, —, amat
- 34 Soap opera, for one
- 35 Curb
- 37 Weird
- 39 Scottish island
- 40 Waste allowance
- 48 Top — (head person)
- 50 Growl
- 52 Kerrigan item
- 54 Magritte and Clair
- 55 Macaws
- 56 Tills
- 57 Duel memento
- 58 — dixit
- 60 Reed instrument
- 61 Flat fish
- 62 Test
- 65 Low grade
- 66 Certain number: abbr.

Thursday's Puzzle solved:



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Curator of Asiatic Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond

South Columbia at Franklin Street
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Wednesday - Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday 1 - 5 pm

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