

# Late Spider Rally Nearly Snaps Home Opener Streak

BY ROBBI PICKERAL  
SPORTS EDITOR

The last time North Carolina's men's basketball team lost its home opener, the year was 1929. That's 66 opening 'W's in a row — an almost unbelievable stat.

But with 4:09 left Tuesday night at the Smith Center, that record was under attack — and the streak seemed to be falling fast.

After building a 23-point lead against

Richmond at halftime, the Tar Heels allowed the inexperienced Spiders to scrap back and actually make it a contest in the second half in front of a crowd of 18,394.

But UNC eventually won it, 83-76, after the Spiders sliced the lead to one with a barrage of 3s and forced the Tar Heels to re-evaluate the complacency of their play.

"I'm actually embarrassed at the way we played," said senior guard Dante Calabria. "We're not supposed to play like that."

"I kind of think we can take this as a loss."

Indeed, it was a loss in the second half, as UNC was outscored (52-36), out-assisted (10-6), out-treysed (10-1) and simply out-played by Richmond. The Tar Heels did win the rebounding war, 20-16, and that's what eventually won it for them.

"We are young, and these guys might have thought that the game was over at halftime," Calabria said. "But you've got to realize that it's a 40 minute game."

Richmond began chipping away at the Tar Heels' 47-24 lead just after halftime. The teams seemingly traded baskets in the first nine minutes — but the Spiders actually traded 2s for 3s, and that became a very big problem for the Tar Heels.

The trey barrage began at the 17-minute mark when sophomore guard Daryl Oliver hit a 3 to cut the lead into the teens. Oliver missed on the next trip down, but that was the only attempt from behind the arc that Richmond missed for the next 13 minutes, as the Spiders shot 10 of 16 from trey-land in the second half.

"They hit some great 3s — some of them were really covered," UNC coach Dean Smith said. "We tried the zone after four straight to try to cover them, and they still made them."

The star of the comeback was sophomore guard Carlos Cueto, who hit 5 of 6, including four treys, for 16 points in the second half.

"Dean Smith told me after the game, 'Oh, kid, we didn't know you could shoot,'" Cueto said. "I was like, 'dag.'"

Cueto hit Richmond's second trey of the second half at the 14:49 mark to shave the lead to 18. Ten minutes and nine seconds later, his fourth trey of the half cut the lead to 1, 72-71.

"The fact that they came back to 1, even really surprised me, but they just kept chip-



North Carolina guard Shammond Williams (3) drives past a Richmond defender in the Tar Heels' 83-76 win Tuesday night. Williams had four assists.

## UNC Stumbles in Second Stanza After Rocking Richmond in First

BY TODD GRAFF  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

First half success may have come to easy for North Carolina Tuesday night.

The Tar Heels completely overwhelmed Richmond in the opening stanza, as Serge Zwikker dominated his smaller counterparts on the inside, drilling all five of his shots, and UNC got seven points each from the freshmen trio of Ademola Okulaja, Antawn Jamison and Vince Carter.

"Our kids came out in the first half, and we tried to do something about the aura of playing in the Smith Center, but I think in the first half it didn't work too well — obviously," Richmond coach Bill Dooley said.

The Tar Heels looked like a well-oiled machine in mid-season form preparing for the postseason.

"In the first half, we were complementing each others' game," Carter said. "We were looking for each other."

And they were looking for each other in the right spots. Zwikker benefited from much of the passing, getting easy look after easy look underneath.

Then McInnis had a steal near half court, and he found a streaking Vince Carter, who electrified the crowd with his first slam in the Smith Center, a two-handed tomahawk.

From there, UNC bolted to a 15-4 run to lead by 25 with four minutes left in the first half.

"We really thought we had the game in the bag," Carter said.

But it was too easy. It seemed that the Tar Heels almost lulled themselves to sleep with their stellar first half.

"It's hard to keep going and keep that big lead," McInnis said. "It's hard to keep playing with intensity if you're up 20 or 30 points."

"We died down a little, and they were making their 3s."

Suddenly the Spider shots that were missing in the first half were falling from everywhere. Backcourt mates Carlos Cueto and Daryl Oliver combined to hit eight-of-nine 3-pointers in the second half, after missing all four in the first.

"It seemed like to me they made every 3 in the second half," McInnis said.

But it wasn't simply that Richmond's shots started to fall. Sure, Cueto and Oliver nailed shots with defenders in their faces, but they also saw a good share of wide-open 3-pointers.

"We weren't as tenacious on defense, and the intensity wasn't there the second half," UNC guard Dante Calabria said.

And during stretches, the Tar Heel offense was almost as obliging. While the Spiders were in the midst of a 38-18 run, the Tar Heels failed to move the ball as crisply as the first half. They settled for long-jumpers and quick shots rather than the multiple passes that earned them easy first-half buckets.

"When you have a large lead, you still have to come down and make good shots," UNC coach Dean Smith said. "You can't come down and shoot quickly."

"No. 2, defensively, you have to know each time to limit them to one shot. They got second shots. You have to know who the shooters are."

Carter said, "In the second half we got to the point where we wanted to one-on-one things."

"I think that hurt us." And as the Tar Heels' lead slowly decreased, they never could find the remedy. It was only on a Shammond Williams steal and 3-point play with three minutes remaining that the Tar Heels had finally suppressed the Spider run.

"I'm sure it was a learning experience," Calabria said. "But, we should have put these guys away. We had them down pretty good. You get complacent and that's what happens."

### UNC vs. Richmond Score Box

Richmond	24	52	76
North Carolina	47	36	83

UR (76)	min	fg		ft		rb	a	pf	tp
		m-a	m-a	o-t	o-t				
Stevenson	16	3-4	1-2	0-0	0	0	4	7	
Poole	35	6-13	0-0	5-8	0	5	17		
McKinney	25	0-0	1-4	1-4	4	3	1		
Cueto	32	6-8	1-1	1-3	5	4	17		
Oliver	32	5-13	1-2	1-6	4	4	15		
Edwards	9	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	1	0		
Connor	12	2-3	0-0	1-3	0	2	5		
Baker	8	0-5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0		
Mobley	20	3-9	1-2	1-2	0	4	10		
Patrick	3	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0		
Hansel	8	0-0	0-0	0-2	0	1	0		
Jefferson	1	1-1	2-2	1-1	0	0	4		
TOTALS	200	26-51	12-29	16-34	13	28	76		

Percentages — FG .426, FT .800. 3-point goals — 12-32, .375 (Cueto 4-8, Oliver 4-8, Mobley 3-7, Connor 1-2, Stevenson 0-1, Baker 0-5). Team rebounds — 4. Blocked shots — 3 (Stevenson, Poole, Hansel). Turnovers — 15 (Poole 3, McKinney 2, Cueto 2, Oliver 2, Edwards 2, Team 2, Connor, Stevenson). Steals — 4 (Oliver 2, Cueto, Poole).

UNC (83)	min	fg		ft		rb	a	pf	tp
		m-a	m-a	o-t	o-t				
Okulaja	28	2-2	4-4	1-3	1	2	9		
Jamison	35	5-10	6-9	5-9	0	3	18		
Zwikker	32	9-11	0-1	5-9	0	3	18		
Calabria	38	4-7	6-10	3-7	7	1	18		
McInnis	31	1-2	1-6	1-2	4	2	6		
Williams	18	1-4	3-3	0-5	4	4	5		
Carter	21	4-9	1-6	2-2	2	2	10		
Geth	1	0-0	1-2	0-0	0	0	1		
TOTALS	200	26-55	24-39	18-37	18	17	83		

Percentages — FG .473, FT .815. 3-point goals — 7-17, .412 (Calabria 4-7, Okulaja 1-1, Carter 1-1, McInnis 1-5, Williams 0-2). Team rebounds — 4. Blocked shots — 9 (Zwikker 6, Carter 2, Jamison). Turnovers — 11 (McInnis 4, Calabria 2, Jamison 2, Zwikker, Williams, Carter). Steals — 1 (Williams).

Technical Fouls — 1 (Cueto). Attendance — 18,394.

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