

UNC cruises to easy win over Coastal

Eleven of 12 players scored for North Carolina in Wednesday's victory.

BY AARON BEARD
SPORTS EDITOR

One look at the North Carolina women's basketball team bench at half-time Wednesday night provided a perfect game summary.

Forward Tracy Reid sat on the bench, arms folded and legs outstretched in front of her. Guard Juana Brown quietly sat a few seats over.

And yawned. It was an appropriate critique of C. Carolina's .45 C. Carolina45 Women's basketball C. Carolina45 critique of UNC74 the contest, one in which the Tar Heels thoroughly dominated and dismantled a seriously overmatched Coastal Carolina squad and cruised to a 74-45 victory in front of 697 at Carmichael Auditorium.

The game was a tuneup for the Tar Heels, who host league-leading Clemson at 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

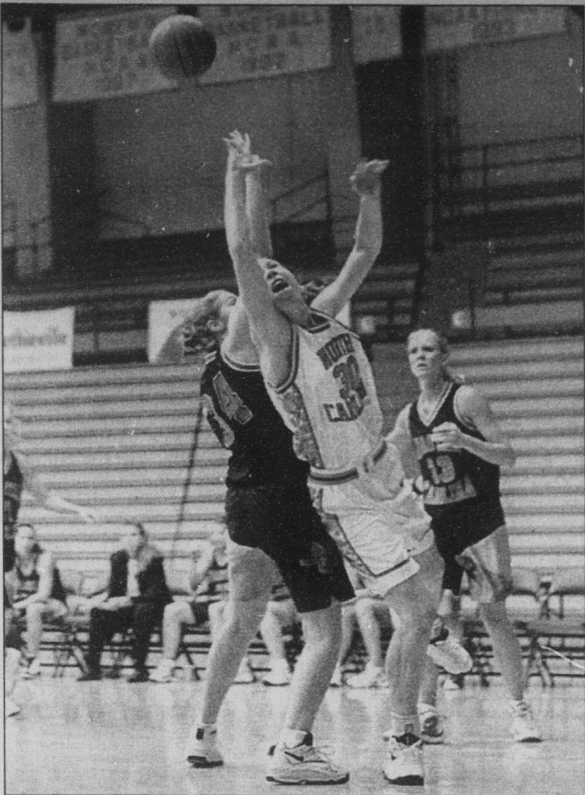
Reid scored 16 points to lead a balanced UNC attack, which saw 11 Tar Heels score in the game.

"We play these games to see what good, solid teams are like," Chanticleer coach Alan LeForce said. "We got a look at that tonight. We were a lightweight playing a heavyweight."

So thorough was the devastation that scattered pockets of fans began applauding Coastal for made baskets in the second half.

The sixth-ranked Tar Heels (16-4) held the Chanticleers to 34.6 percent shooting for the game, including an 8-of-25 performance in the first half.

Coastal Carolina (6-13) hung with



DTH/M.C. STEED

Tar Heel center Melissa Johnson (30) goes up for a shot in UNC's 74-45 win against Coastal Carolina on Thursday. She had two rebounds in the game.

UNC early, taking a 12-11 lead on a field goal by Lindsey Blossom with 13:21 remaining in the half.

But the score was enough to shake the Tar Heels, who immediately upped their man-to-man defensive pressure. A befuddled Coastal squad had no answer, and did not score another field goal for more than eight minutes.

While the Chanticleers struggled, UNC blasted away, rattling off a 20-1 run. By the time Coastal's Janelle Van Acker ended the drought with a jumper from the right wing, UNC led 32-13.

"It was difficult to keep focus," Reid said. "You go out with the attitude that you have to work things for the next game. It's hard but you have to do it for the big games."

The Tar Heels continued pouring it on to start the second half, opening the stanza with a 17-4 run that gave UNC a 59-23 lead. By that point, the only drama left was whether Coastal would break the 40-point mark.

UNC guards Jessica Gaspar and Nikki Teasley sat out of the game, resting minor injuries.

THE LOWDOWN ON SATURDAY'S GAME

No. 2 North Carolina (21-1, 7-1 in ACC)
vs.
Wake Forest (11-7, 3-4)

C MAKHTAR NDIAYE, 6-10
Scored 10 points and hit all six of his free throws vs. Clemson.

F ADEMOLA OKULAJA, 6-9
His 13 points Wednesday was his highest output since Nov. 22.

G SH. WILLIAMS, 6-3
Watched his free-throw streak end at 34 Wednesday.

F VINCE CARTER, 6-7
Had 18 points on 7-of-9 shooting in only 27 minutes vs. Clemson.

G ED COTA, 6-1
Has dished out 162 assists and committed 52 turnovers this year.

G TONY RUTLAND, 6-2
Leads Deacons in assists with a paltry 2.5-per-game average.

F MIKI ARINZE, 6-5
Team's leading rebounder with 7-1 center Loren Woods out.

G ROBERT O'KELLEY, 6-1
Freshman is tied for seventh in ACC scoring with 16.2 ppg.

F STEPHEN GOOLSBY, 6-4
Averages 8.2 ppg and has hit 39 percent of his 3-point shots.

C R. VIDAURRETA, 6-9
Counted on more for rebounding (4.2 ppg) than scoring (3.6 ppg).

Game: No. 2 North Carolina at Wake Forest
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Lawrence Joel Coliseum
Radio: WCHL 1360-AM
Television: ABC
Series record: UNC leads 139-55
Keys for UNC: The Tar Heels have an advantage at every spot on the floor, both offensively and defensively. They'll simply need to play like it.
Keys for Wake: Where to begin? The Deacs first need to find other scoring options than Robert O'Kelley, their leading scorer in eight of the last nine games. The second item of business is to keep the nation's top shooting team from lay-upping them to death.
Tar Heel bench: For Antawn Jamison, who was held to two field goals in Wednesday's war vs. Clemson, Saturday's game should feel like a prison break. Brendan Haywood contributed eight big points vs. the Tigers.
Deacon bench: Remember Jerry Braswell? The two-year starter scored 20 points against VMI in Wake's season opener. Since then, he's scored 44 points total. The tall guy in street clothes will be 7-1 sophomore center Loren Woods, serving an indefinite suspension for taking the game of basketball too seriously.
Prediction: UNC 86, Wake Forest 58.
COMPILED BY KURT DONDORF

Connor wins weekly league honor

North Carolina wrestler Chuckie Connor won ACC Performer of the Week honors after earning wins in two Tar Heel victories last week. The defending ACC tournament champion pinned UNC-G's Corey

Williams on Jan. 21 and two days later decided Steve Garland of Virginia. The 118-pound sophomore holds a 24-3 record on the year, including wins in his last 11 bouts. He shared the weekly award with UVa.'s Matt Roth.

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FALLEN [R]
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Daily 3:45
7:00, 9:35

Kundun [R-13]
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