

SPORTS BRIEFS

Horton Faces Charges For Drugs, Weapons

North Carolina cornerback Jason Horton has a probable cause hearing on Jan. 14 in Durham County District Court stemming from drug and weapons charges.

Horton, 19, of Ahoskie, and two other men in a car were arrested Dec. 22 when they pulled over ahead of a police checkpoint on Interstate 85 but behind an undercover police vehicle, the state Division of Alcohol Law Enforcement said.

Officers and agents reported that they seized two firearms, some marijuana, a set of scales and \$3,200.

Horton was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and maintaining a place for controlled substances. He was later released from the Durham County Jail on a \$10,000 bond.

Horton could face suspension from the team. North Carolina athletics department policy says a player charged with a felony is suspended until legal proceedings are complete. His status was not immediately clear.

Horton started at cornerback in three games for the Tar Heels this season. He recorded one interception while playing in 10 games.

N.C. State Tabs Amato As New Football Coach

Giving a passionate acceptance speech former boss Bobby Bowden would be proud of, Chuck Amato left national champion Florida State on Jan. 6 to take the coaching job at N.C. State.

Amato, who inherits a 6-6 team, was given a five-year contract with a base salary of \$185,000 a season. He offered no grand predictions of future success.

"It might get worse before it gets better," said Amato, who replaces Mike O'Casey. "All I ask is that you don't panic."

Amato coached at N.C. State from 1972-1980, then spent two years at Arizona as defensive coordinator. He joined Florida State as an assistant in 1982 and has been linebackers coach since 1996.

UNC Swimmers Sweep Clemson in Dual Meet

The North Carolina men's and women's swimming teams swept Clemson on Saturday at Koury Natatorium as the Tar Heels returned to action for the first time since Nov. 20.

The women's team cruised to a 150-93 win while the men topped the Tigers 142-101.

No. 17 UNC improved to 5-1 on the season, 2-0 in the ACC with the win against Clemson (3-3, 0-2).

The 20th-ranked Tar Heel men climbed to 3-2 (2-0 in the ACC), while the Tigers (3-1, 1-1) picked up their first loss of the season.

Both teams have dominated Clemson in the series' history. The Tar Heel men hold a 38-4 advantage against Clemson, while the women lead the series 17-5.

North Carolina resumes action today at 3 p.m. in a dual meet against Kenyon College.

2 Tar Heels Compete For U.S. Down Under

Rather than going to Disney World after winning the national championship, North Carolina women's soccer player Susan Bush headed for Australia.

Bush and former Tar Heel goalkeeper Siri Mullinix are among the 18 players competing in the Australia Cup in place of the U.S. National team, which boycotted the event due to a salary dispute.

Bush, who was named offensive MVP of the 1999 Women's College Cup, scored the game-winning goal in Team USA's 8-1 victory against the Czech Republic on Jan. 7.

On Monday, Bush set up several scoring chances for the Americans, but the ball never found the back of the net as the U.S. battled Sweden to a scoreless tie.

3 UNC Baseball Players Earn Preseason Honors

Three North Carolina baseball players have been named preseason All-Americans by the publications Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball.

With the start of the 2000 season less than a month away, outfielder Tyrell Godwin and pitchers Derrick DePriest and Ryan Snare were each named preseason All-Americans.

From Staff and Wire Reports

THE LOWDOWN ON TONIGHT'S GAME

C BRENDAN HAYWOOD, 7-0
Leading the nation in field goal percentage with .752 mark.

F JASON CAPEL, 6-8
Hit four late free throws in last year's overtime win vs. Wake.

F KRIS LANG, 6-11
Has scored in double figures in three consecutive games.

G ED COTA, 6-1
Had a career-high 23 points against N.C. State on Saturday.

G JOSEPH FORTE, 6-4
Leads ACC freshmen in scoring with 16.3 points per game.

No. 13 North Carolina (11-4, 2-0 in ACC) vs. Wake Forest (10-4, 1-1 in ACC)

G ROBERT O'KELLEY, 6-1
Has averaged 18 points in last four contests against UNC.

G JOSH HOWARD, 6-6
The freshman is averaging 7.3 points per game this season.

F NIKI ARINZE, 6-5
Averaging 7.1 points and 3.6 rebounds per game this year.

F DARIUS SONGALIA, 6-9
Has scored in double figures in four consecutive games.

C RAFAEL VIDAURRETA, 6-9
Leads the Deacs with 6.9 boards per game (8.3 in last four games).

Game: No. 13 North Carolina at Wake Forest
Time: 9 p.m.

Location: Lawrence Joel Coliseum
Radio: WCHL-1360 AM, 100.7 FM

Television: ESPN
Series Record: UNC leads 143-55.

Keys for UNC: The Tar Heels need to get the ball to Brendan Haywood, who has made 40 of his last 47 field goal attempts. The Tar Heels need to stay aggressive and get to the foul line like it did against N.C. State (32 attempts).

Keys for Wake Forest: Robert O'Kelley has to do a better job against Ed Cota than N.C. State's Justin Gainey did Saturday night, when Cota outscored him 23-2. O'Kelley needs to make Cota work on the defensive end so that he has less energy to run the UNC offense.

UNC Bench: With Kris Lang back in the starting lineup, guard Max Owens has come off the bench the last three games. Julius Peppers has become a force on the interior with his rebounding ability.

Wake Forest Bench: Swingman Craig Dawson averages 9.4 points per game, and Josh Shoemaker tallies 6.4 points and 6.6 rebounds. Two other players also log at least 10 minutes per game.

Prediction: UNC 73, Wake Forest 64
COMPILED BY T. NOLAN HAYES

PEPPERS

From Page 18

telling me this summer that Julius was really good. Maybe we have to make Ed an assistant coach or a recruiter.

"Usually if somebody comes out after you've played a few games, it's hard for them to break in. But Julius picks up things very well."

For Peppers, the transition was more a matter of getting comfortable with the system and learning the plays. After playing sparingly in his first few games, Peppers has seen increased floor time since Winter Break.

Peppers has brought toughness and tenacity to a team labeled as soft much of the early season. Since he joined the club, some of that tag has begun to fade and others - notably, Haywood - are playing with an increased intensity.

"I'm a long way down the road from when I first got out because I'm feeling more comfortable with the plays and feeling more comfortable with the guys," Peppers said. "I think I'm coming along pretty good right now. I feel like I've been with the team since they started practicing."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

From Page 18

ence recently, averaging 15.3 points, 9.3 rebounds and 2.0 blocks in the four games leading up to Saturday.

"Brendan's playing great right now," Cota said. "I think it's because it's the Year 2000. It's like a new person out there, a new player out there."

"He's being more aggressive, and that's what we ask for from him. He's also being more assertive on the defensive end."

N.C. State cut the lead to 58-48 with the help of a layup from Anthony Grundy, but UNC answered the brief spurt with a lay-in by Cota and two free throws from Max Owens after N.C. State coach Herb Sendek was hit with a technical foul. Sendek argued a call in which UNC's Jason Capel forced a jump ball situation with Inge as the two became tangled up.

"I was just out there competing," Capel said. "There weren't any hard feelings, and it wasn't anything personal. Kenny and I were just out there playing hard, and I'm glad we got the call. I think it made a difference in the game."

Cota took over from there, hitting two of his patented floaters and a pair of free

throws down the stretch as UNC increased its lead to 80-65 with 1:22 left.

It was enough to secure the game and enough to prove that Cota can score - when the Tar Heels need him.

"Ed always makes great decisions," Haywood said. "When people are playing him for the pass, he takes the shot. When they play him for the shot, he makes the pass."

"He's not the ACC's leading assist man for no reason. He knows the game."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

UNC 83, N.C. State 75

N.C. State	34	41	75
UNC	36	47	83

N.C. State: Thornton 7-12 1-1 15, Inge 7-11 1-3 16, Grundy 6-10 0-0 16, M. Williams 3-7 0-0 6, Kelley 3-6 0-0 6, Wilkins 2-8 2-3 6, Miller 2-4 0-0 4, Crawford 1-2 2-4 4, Gandy 1-4 0-0 2, C. Williams 0-0 0-0 0. Total: 32 58 69 75.

UNC: Cota 6-8 7-9 23, Forte 6-9 4-4 19, Haywood 7-7 2-4 16, Lang 0-2 10-10 10, Capel 4-7 0-1 9, Owens 2-3 3-4 7, Peppers 0-1 0-0 0, Newby 0-1 0-0 0. Total: 27 38 26 32 83.

3-point goals - N.C. State 5-19 (Grundy 3-8, Miller 2-4, Wilkins 0-3, M. Williams 0-2, Gandy 0-1, Crawford 0-1) UNC 3-8 (Capel 1-4, Forte 2-3, Owens 0-1). Rebounds - N.C. State 29 (Inge 6); UNC 23 (Haywood 7). Assists - N.C. State 18 (Grundy 7); UNC 14 (Capel 4, Cota 4). Steals - N.C. State 13 (M. Williams 5); UNC 9 (Cota 3). Total fouls - N.C. State 20, UNC 14.

Attendance - 21,572.

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