

Late Surge Pushes Wake Past UNC

By EVAN MARKFIELD
Senior Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — After a dismal first-half performance against North Carolina, Wake Forest guard Robert O'Kelley needed a moment alone in the locker room to think.

"I really was worried about him at halftime," Wake coach Dave Odom said. "I went in and found him, and he was staring at the wall."

While O'Kelley was finding inspiration in the wall, the Tar Heels were getting ready to hit it. O'Kelley went off after intermission, scoring all 18 of his points as the Demon

Deacons came from behind for a 66-57 win in front of 14,377 at Lawrence Joel Coliseum.

O'Kelley and his mates began to find the bottom of the net with regularity, but the Tar Heels (11-5, 2-1 in the ACC) couldn't get their offense together against the Deacs and failed to keep pace.

"If we'd kept scoring there, we'd be in good shape," UNC coach Bill Guthridge said. "Our offensive efficiency was horrible."

As the Tar Heel attack slowly sputtered out, the Deacs (11-4, 2-1) continued to pour in buckets, scoring on 20 of their final 23 possessions. Wake Forest went ahead for good on a Josh Howard 3-pointer with 9:20 remaining in the second half and kept the Tar Heels at bay with runs of 13-4 and 15-4 in the half.

It was a stark contrast to the Demon Deacons' first 20 minutes of play, in which O'Kelley went 0-for-8, including 0-for-4 from 3-point range. His first field goal didn't come until he hit a layup while drawing a foul at the 10:22 mark of the second half.

"I was pissed," O'Kelley said. "I was mad at myself. I wanted to take it out on (UNC). I just calmed down and relaxed, and my teammates told me I

could do it, and I did." While the Deacs bounced back from their 30 percent shooting effort in the first half, the Tar Heels took a turn for the worse. UNC's poor second-half showing resulted in 38.2-percent shooting for the game, their lowest mark since shooting 37.7 percent last season against Duke at the Smith Center.

"We kind of lost our concentration out there," said Tar Heel point guard Ed Cota, who finished the game with seven points and five assists. "Wake Forest's a tough team, but we've got to be able to retaliate and get aggressive."

Neither team put up fantastic offensive numbers in the first half, thanks to the combination of uninspired offense and solid defensive efforts from both squads. "The first half was a battle of futility,"

Odom said. "No one could hold the ball, and there were bodies flying out there."

With UNC leading 28-21 at the half, it seemed to be a question of if, rather than when, one team's offense would start putting the ball in the basket. While O'Kelley and company answered that question with authority, UNC's main men failed to put points up when called upon.

Freshman Joseph Forte, the team's leading scorer, finished up 1 of 10 from the field with eight points. That was the same total center Brendan Haywood notched.

"I don't think they made it tough," Forte said. "I was getting the same shots I was getting in the other games. I just wasn't knocking them down."

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

UNC	28	29	57
Wake Forest	21	46	66
UNC (57)		Wake Forest (66)	
pts	reb	pts	reb
Capel 22	4-11	1-2	2-7
Lang 21	4-8	2-2	9-11
Howard 21	3-5	2-2	1-1
Cota 16	3-12	1-2	5-7
Forte 15	1-10	5-10	3-7
Peppers 15	1-2	0-0	1-4
Owens 16	2-5	0-0	0-1
Haywood 5	1-1	0-0	1-1
Total	200	21-62	13-58
UNC (57)		Wake Forest (66)	
fg	ft	fg	ft
34.6%	66.7%	34.6%	66.7%
3-11	1-2	1-2	2-7
4-8	2-2	2-2	9-11
3-5	2-2	2-2	1-1
3-12	1-2	1-2	5-7
1-10	5-10	3-7	1-4
1-2	0-0	1-4	0-1
2-5	0-0	0-0	0-1
1-1	0-0	0-0	1-1
Total	200	21-62	13-58

Struggling Tar Heels Need Teasley Back in Lineup

The conference season for the North Carolina women's basketball team is just four games old. That's the good news for the Tar Heels, who have dropped their last three ACC games. The bad news is that they already face a desperate situation.

No. 15 UNC enters its game at Georgia Tech tonight looking to snap its first three-game losing streak in four years. And when the game tips off at 7 p.m., UNC point guard Nikki Teasley won't be there to help her teammates.

Teasley, who was suspended from the team's game at Virginia — an 87-68 loss on Jan. 6 — has taken a leave of absence from the squad for unexplained personal reasons.

The results of Teasley's exodus have been disastrous for the team. In addition to the blowout loss to the Cavaliers, the Tar Heels suffered a 60-59 defeat at home Monday to unranked Clemson.

UNC's offense, usually potent in transition with Teasley running the show, was stagnant. Time after time, the Tar Heels settled for long jump shots instead of attacking the basket.

When the shots didn't fall — UNC missed 43 out of 60 for the game and converted just 5 of 22 3-point attempts — there was no one to create offense.

Freshman Coretta Brown gave an admirable effort at the point, but at this point in her career, she has neither



T. NOLAN HAYES
SPORTS EDITOR

Teasley's skills nor her command of the UNC attack.

Juana Brown, who has depended on Teasley to set her up for open jumpers throughout her career, is less effective when she has to create her own opportunities. She forced several shots against the Tigers and wound up 1-for-11.

Not counting the 22 points from forward LaQuanda Barksdale, who has become the team's best player with or without Teasley, the Tar Heels went just 9-for-45 from the field.

Because of how poorly the team played against Clemson, UNC's game against the Yellow Jackets takes on extra importance. Coach Sylvia Hatchell has said that the Tar Heels need a victory to prove to themselves that they can win without Teasley.

She's right in that if they get a win against Georgia Tech, they can gain a little bit of confidence. But another

loss, combined with the fact that no one has any idea when or if Teasley will return, could bury them.

Regardless of the outcome, however, UNC is in trouble as long as Teasley stays on the sidelines. The team can't consistently beat full-court pressure without her and has no one-on-one threat to rely on at the end of games when the shot clock is running down.

Whether Teasley returns, from all indications by Hatchell, is up to

Teasley. It's easy to say that she should come back to help her teammates, but that's unfair when the seriousness of what's ailing her remains a secret.

One thing is no mystery, however:

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6:45pm
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