

Tar Heels Scalp Seminoles, End 5-Game Losing Streak

By Will Kimmey
Assistant Sports Editor

North Carolina finally did it. After struggling with its shooting and its confidence since Nikki Teasley left the team, UNC finally got its first win without its starting point guard.

The Tar Heels rallied from a nine-point first-half deficit Thursday night to defeat Florida State 77-67 in front of 1,128 at Carmichael Auditorium.

Women's Basketball
Florida State . . . 67
UNC 77

"It was a relief," UNC forward LaQuanda Barksdale said. "When you lose five in a row, it's going to be a relief when you finally win."

UNC got back into the win column largely because Barksdale and guard Juana Brown regained their scoring touch.

Brown, who scored 17 points, drilled a pair of key 3-pointers down the stretch. With 2:50 remaining in the game and the score knotted at 61, Brown hit a triple from the left wing to give UNC a three-point edge.

Less than a minute later, Brown caught the ball in the same spot on the floor, turned around and knocked down a trey with FSU's Latoria Coleman in her face. That put the Tar Heels up 69-63.

"I wasn't thinking that I had to make them or anything," Brown said. "I just wanted to have fun. I haven't smiled in a long time out there on the court."

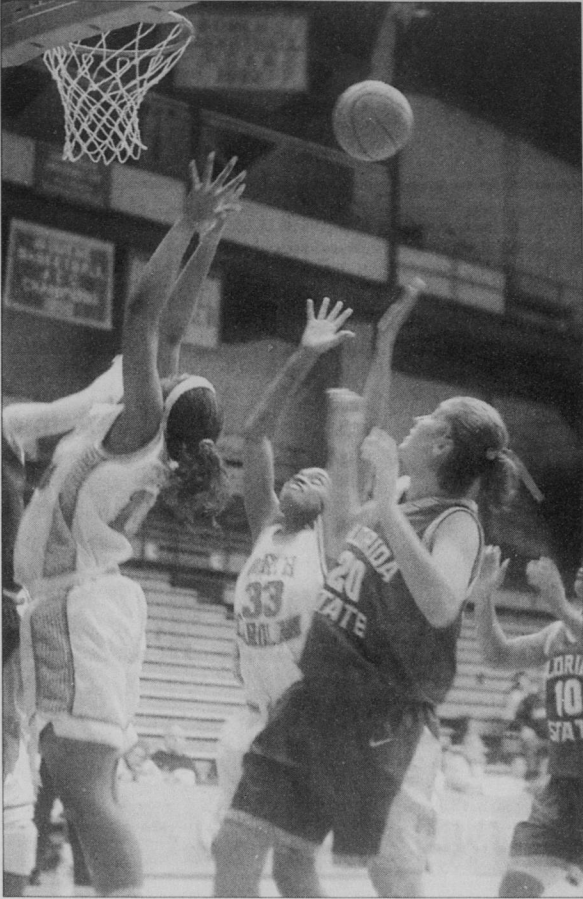
The game started to get fun for UNC with 13:11 left in the second half. With the Seminoles up 41-39, FSU's Angela Sutton was whistled for a reach-in foul while guarding Barksdale near the right elbow.

Upset with herself for committing the foul, Sutton smacked the floor. She was whistled for a technical foul for the outburst. The 'T' counted as Sutton's fifth foul, and FSU (8-8, 1-5 in the ACC) lost its starting two-guard.

Barksdale calmly sank both free throws to tie the game, and the Tar Heels (10-7, 2-5) never trailed again. Barksdale hit all eight of her free throw attempts on the evening and finished with a team-leading 19 points.

Throughout the game, UNC played with a renewed sense of confidence and looked as if it enjoyed playing basketball for the first time during Teasley's absence. The Tar Heels were especially confident in their shooting, hitting better than 50 percent of their field goals for the first time since Dec. 5.

"Usually the offense will come if you just concentrate a lot on defense," UNC



DTH/LAURA GIOVANELLI

North Carolina forward LaQuanda Barksdale (33) leaps for one of her eight rebounds in the Tar Heels' victory against Florida State.

coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "I felt like that was one thing that happened tonight."

In the second half, North Carolina's defense primarily concentrated on stopping Coleman. The 6-foot forward dominated the paint before intermission, scoring 16 points on 6-of-8 shooting.

In the second stanza, Barksdale and Jackie Higgins, who had 16 points and nine rebounds, fronted Coleman in the low post and held her to one field goal.

"We just had to get a win to get over that hump," Brown said. "I think we got over that hump, and now we're ready to move on."

UNC 77, Florida State 67			
Box Score			
Florida State	33	34	67
UNC	30	47	77
FSU: Wyckoff 6-12 1-1 14, Coleman 7-13 6-20, Torres 1-2 1-2 3, Sutton 0-2 0-2 2, Taylor 3-13 7-12 13, Vujac 1-3 2-2 4, Whiting 3-6 0-0 6, Sprinkle 0-0 2-2 2, Beal 1-2 0-0 3. Total: 22-53 21-32 67.			
UNC: Barksdale 5-9 8-8 19, Sharp 0-1 0-0 0, Higgins 6-9 4-8 16, J. Brown 6-10 1-3 12, Lea 4-6 1-3 9, Huntington 1-3 5-6 8, C. Brown 2-7 0-0 5, Thomas 1-4 1-2 3, Allen 0-1 0-0 0, Myers 0-0 0-0 0, Tenale 25-49 20-30 77. 3-point goals — FSU 2-9 (Beal 1-2, Wyckoff 1-3, Taylor 0-2, Coleman 0-1, Sutton 0-1); UNC 7-11 (J. Brown 4-5, Barksdale 1-1, C. Brown 1-2, Huntington 1-2, Sharp 0-1). Rebounds — FSU 28 (Wyckoff 7), UNC 38 (Higgins 9). Assists — FSU 10 (Taylor 3, Vujac 3, Wyckoff 3); UNC 13 (Lea 5). Steals — FSU 14 (Taylor 3, Wyckoff 3); UNC 12 (J. Brown 4). Total fouls — FSU 23, UNC 20. Attendance — 1,128.			

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

Freshman Guards Rise in Crucial Game

By Joe Disney
Staff Writer

Since Nikki Teasley's departure four games ago, North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell has searched to find a replacement at point guard.

Thursday night against Florida State, she found two: freshmen Cherie Lea and Coretta Brown.

In only her second career start, Lea produced nine points on 4-of-5 shooting from the field and led the team with five assists in UNC's 77-67 victory.

"That's pretty good considering she wasn't a point guard," Hatchell said. "She is now, though."

Even with her inexperience at point guard, Lea committed only two turnovers.

"We came in with the attitude to get the job done, work hard, come out strong and make simple plays," Lea

said. "At the end, we got a little excited, and I think it went through the whole team."

Lea's excitement peaked with 1:34 left as she took the ball straight to the goal and scored to give UNC an eight-point lead.

Lea also managed the Seminole pressure at the end of the game.

"It's pressure on me," Lea said of her second start. "But they say you must adapt to pressure, and that's what I'm trying to do."

Brown, the other half of the two-



UNC freshman Cherie Lea started her second consecutive game at point guard and tallied five assists.

headed point guard, added five points and three assists.

All five of Brown's points came in a one-minute span midway through the second half. Brown knocked down a 3-pointer from the left wing and a running floater from 10 feet out.

Lea then followed up by hitting 1 of 2 free throws. Those six points by the freshman point guards came at a time when LaQuanda Barksdale and Juana Brown, the team's main scorers, were on the bench with four fouls.

Coretta Brown also added two assists, one of which came on a no-look dish down low to Jackie Higgins for a layup.

"They are young, but at the same time, they all have a spark about them," Higgins said.

"They kept me in the game."

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THE LOWDOWN ON SATURDAY'S GAME

- C BRENDAN HAYWOOD, 7-0**
Scored 20 points and pulled down 12 boards against Uva.
- F JASON CAPEL, 6-8**
Is second on UNC in boards, steals and 3-point percentage.
- F KRIS LANG, 6-11**
Had four points on just 2-for-8 shooting Tuesday at Virginia.
- G ED COTA, 6-1**
Has 901 career assists, good for ninth all-time in NCAA.
- G JOSEPH FORTE, 6-4**
Had career bests with 27 points and 11 rebounds Tuesday.
- Florida State (7-8, 2-2 in ACC)**
- vs.**
- No. 21 North Carolina (11-7, 2-2 in ACC)**
- G DELVON ARRINGTON, 5-11**
Leads FSU and is second in the ACC in assists (7.0) per game.
- G RON HALE, 6-8**
Team leader with 16.5 points and 5.2 rebounds per game.
- F DAMOUS ANDERSON, 6-7**
Had a career-high 24 points at Georgia Tech on Wednesday.
- F OLIVER SIMMONS, 6-8**
Fourth on the team in scoring with 7.6 points per game.
- C DAVID ANDERSON, 7-0**
Sophomore ranks second on FSU with 4.7 rebounds per game.

Game: Florida State at No. 21 North Carolina
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Dean E. Smith Center
Radio: WCHL 1360 AM, 100.7 FM
Television: ABC
Series Record: UNC leads 24-5
Keys for UNC: Create turnovers. UNC won — or more accurately, lost — the turnover war against Virginia by two touchdowns (21-7). FSU point man Delvon Arrington leads the ACC in turnovers with 4.7 per game.
Keys for Florida State: The Seminoles look as if they're shooting with a 20-pound ball with their abysmal 41 percent field-goal percentage. FSU must score more than its 60-point average to beat the Tar Heels, who average close to 80 points per contest.
UNC Bench: With swingman Max Owens struggling for minutes, Julius Peppers has emerged as the Tar Heels' top bench player. Peppers has averaged 4.5 points and 6.3 rebounds during the last six games.
Florida State Bench: Coach Steve Robinson has three bench players — Justin Mott, Antwaun Dixon and Adrian Crawford — who are former starters, but they only average a combined 12 points per game. Still, that comprises 20 percent of the Seminoles' woeful offense.
Prediction: UNC 80, Florida State 65
COMPILED BY HUGH PRESSLEY

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