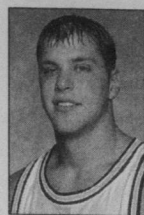


MEN'S BASKETBALL
From Page 12

returned after halftime and forgot about the fouls, scoring six points and blocking three shots in the first four minutes.



Georgia Tech forward Jason Collier recorded team bests with his 14 points and 13 rebounds against the Tar Heels.

"He really made a difference, especially at the start of the second half," Guthridge said. "You can't play like you're in foul trouble. If you want to be effective, you have to go out and play. He seemed to do that."

North Carolina put the game away with a couple of spectacular plays back-to-back. Capel threw a long pass that set up a lay-in for Kris Lang, and Forte finished off a lob from Ed Cota with a high-flying dunk to give the Tar Heels a 45-32 lead.

Tech never got closer than eight points the rest of the way.

"The team had a resolve to come out and play better in the second half," Guthridge said. "Brendan's defensive play really inspired them."

Haywood finished with 12 points, eight rebounds and three blocks.

The Yellow Jackets pulled down 25 offensive rebounds and took 22 more shots than North Carolina. It didn't matter.

Jason Collier had 14 points and 13 rebounds, while Tony Akins was the only other player in double figures with 11 points.

More telling were these shooting lines: Alvin Jones was 1-for-11, and Jason Floyd made just 1-of-10.

The game was expected to be a sell-out, but thousands of fans didn't show up because an ice storm struck Atlanta. Georgia Tech officials opened the doors about an hour before the game and let everyone in, regardless of whether people had tickets.

Cota didn't start at point guard for North Carolina after showing up one minute late for a breakfast meeting. But he wound up playing 36 minutes, scoring nine points and dishing out a team-high six assists.

UNC 70, Georgia Tech 53
Box Score

UNC		Ga. Tech		UNC (70)	
pts	reb	pts	reb	pts	reb
28	42	25	53	28	42
Lang	27	47	0	0	1
Capel	27	59	58	0	2
Haywood	25	56	32	24	1
Forte	35	74	0	0	1
Holmes	4	0	0	0	0
Cota	36	37	22	0	6
Peppers	21	24	9	0	2
Owens	11	12	0	0	0
Melendez	2	0	0	0	0
Johnson	1	0	0	0	0
Brooker	1	0	0	0	0
Total	200	275	12-12	3-27	15

Percentages — FG .529, FT 1.000 3-point goals — 4-11 36.4 (Lang 2-4, Forte 1-3, Cota 1-2, Owens 0-1, Brooker 0-1). Team rebounds — 2. Blocked shots — 5 (Haywood 3, Capel, Forte). Turnovers — 14 (Haywood 4, Forte 3, Capel 2, Cota, Holmes, Johnson, Lang, Peppers). Steals — 6 (Lang 2, Peppers 2, Cota, Forte).

Ga. Tech (53)	
pts	reb
Collier	32
Floyd	30
Jones	35
Akins	31
Fern	38
Isehour	10
Moore	11
Vines	13
Total	200

Percentages — FG .274, FT .800 3-point goals — 5-26 .192 (Collier 2-4, Floyd 0-5, Jones 0-1, Akins 1-5, Fern 0-7, Moore 1-1, Vines 1-3). Team rebounds — 5. Blocked shots — 4 (Floyd, Jones, Fern, Isehour). Turnovers — 15 (Collier 4, Fern 4, Jones 3, Akins 2, Floyd). Steals — 9 (Akins 2, Jones 2, Moore 2, Collier, Floyd, Vines).

Technical fouls — None. Attendance — 10,000. Officials: Ted Valentine, Tom Lopez, Bernard Clinton.

Teasley Provides Spark for Tar Heels

Playing for the first time since Jan. 3, Tar Heel point guard Nikki Teasley scored 11 second-half points.

By MIKE OGLE
Assistant Sports Editor

With 6:31 remaining against Maryland on Sunday in Carmichael Auditorium, North Carolina's Nikki Teasley made her return to the women's basketball team official.

Trailing 43-40, UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell re-inserted the coach point guard into the lineup for crunch time.

On the first possession coming out of the timeout, Teasley elevated above Terrapin defender Tiffany Brown on a driving pull-up jumper from 15 feet. As the official's whistle blew to signal a foul on Brown, Teasley's shot dropped through the net off the glass.

Teasley, who has not played with the team since Jan. 3, successfully converted on the 3-point play to knot the score and spark a 14-6 UNC run to finish the game.

Less than two minutes later, Teasley found Juana Brown spotting up for a 3-pointer in the left corner that gave the Tar Heels a lead they would not relinquish.

In those final six-plus minutes of the game, Teasley scored five points, dished out two assists, drew a foul off the dribble, caused a Maryland traveling violation and snagged a rebound.

"I really felt like at the end we elevated and really played like our old selves," Hatchell said. "It's nice to have

Miss Teasley back."

Teasley took a leave of absence from the team for undisclosed personal reasons following UNC's 79-72 loss to N.C. State in early January.

Since her departure, the Tar Heels, who began the season ranked eighth in the nation and as the favorites to win the ACC, had dropped six of seven games.

Although she did not start the first half, Teasley collected 31 minutes of floor time, more than anyone on the team other than forward LaQuanda Barksdale.

"It means a lot to me personally (to have her back), and it means a lot to the team," Barksdale said. "She's our floor leader, and she's my friend."

The Tar Heels were more relaxed and confident on offense with Teasley running the show again.

"I thought she did a good job setting us up, getting us organized and getting the ball to the right people where we were open," Hatchell said.

Teasley did display some signs of rust, particularly in the first half. She missed all five of her field goal attempts and had two turnovers to go with her two assists.

With the shot clock winding down about midway through the first half, Teasley took matters into her own hands



UNC junior guard Juana Brown said Nikki Teasley's return to the Tar Heels gave them extra confidence.

from the top of the key. Attempting to dribble behind her back three times, she lost control of the ball while driving to the paint and fell to the floor. Renneika Razor then converted a transition layup on the other end for Maryland.

Teasley regained her composure at the half and finished the afternoon with 11 points (5-of-14 shooting), six rebounds, five assists and three turnovers. She failed to convert any of her four 3-point attempts.

However, Juana Brown made it clear that Teasley's impact could not be measured in the box score alone. Teasley's return provided an emotional lift in addition to the boost in talent an All-ACC performer brings.

"Nikki provides a spark out there," Brown said. "She gets hyped off making great passes and scoring, and it carries to the rest of the team."

"That was something we really needed — a good spark — because our confidence wasn't like it used to be, and (having) her out there kind of added something to our attitude."

Whatever Teasley's troubles were that kept her away from the team for three weeks, she says she's a stronger person because of them and she's glad to be back.

"It's been very challenging," Teasley said. "A lot of things have been going on, and not playing basketball, I've had a lot of free time to just think about some things that I want to do as far as my life and situation."

Now that Teasley is back on the court, the Tar Heels are looking to get back on track and go through the second half of the conference schedule with more success than they experienced the first time

UNC 64, Maryland 49
Box Score

Maryland		UNC	
pts	reb	pts	reb
26	23	49	54
22	32	54	54

Percentages — FG .485, FT .727 3-point goals — 1-6 .167 (Shickland 1-2, Brown 0-2, Daniels 0-1). Team rebounds — 4. Blocked shots — 1 (Shawky). Turnovers — 22 (Black 5, Razor 4, Brown 3, Walker 2, Daniels 2, Shickland 2, Gabriel, Steas — 7 (Black 2, Razor 2, Walker 2, Brown).

UNC (64)	
pts	reb
Sharp	22
Barksdale	27
Higgins	30
C. Brown	15
Lee	11
J. Brown	25
Hurst	17
Teasley	11
Thomas	9
Allen	3
Total	200

Percentages — FG .348, FT .500 3-point goals — 2-15 .133 (J. Brown 1-3, Hurst 1-3, Teasley 0-4, Sharp 0-3). Team rebounds — 5. Blocked shots — 2 (Higgins 2). Turnovers — 16 (Barksdale 3, Sharp 3, Teasley 3, Higgins 2, Hurst 2, J. Brown, Lee, Thomas). Steals — 9 (Barksdale 2, C. Brown 2, Hurst 2, Lee, Teasley, Thomas).

Technical fouls — None. Attendance — 815. Officials: Lawson Newton, Michael Utley, Carolyn Jones.

around. The players said the win against Maryland was an important first step in that direction.

Said Teasley, "Hopefully, this can be a start of a great winning streak."

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

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