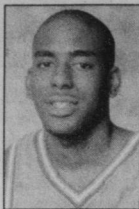


# Tar Heels Look to End 'Pack's Home Winning Streak

BY BRIAN MURPHY  
Senior Writer

Raleigh's new Entertainment and Sports Arena doesn't have the catchiest name or Wolfpack-red seats. But what the arena lacks in name originality, N.C. State has made up for with a perfect 14-0 home record, including a 5-0 mark in the ACC. North Carolina makes its first trip to the ESA - off-red seats and all - on Wednesday, marking another milestone in a storied rivalry. Tip-off is at 7 p.m.

"We have some good memories of Reynolds and some not so good," said Tar Heel coach Bill Guthridge of the Wolfpack's former home. "But I have not been in the new place. It will be interesting to see." The arena,



North Carolina senior point guard Ed Cota

which seats 19,722 and cost more than \$158 million, has 2,300 courtside seats for N.C. State students. The students and rabid supporters have quickly given the Wolfpack a distinct home-court edge. "Any time you have that type of home environment, it can only help you," N.C. State coach Herb Sendek said.

Although the Wolfpack certainly gains confidence inside the ESA - the team is 1-5 away from home - it will need to stifle Tar Heel point guard Ed Cota in order to keep its current streak alive. In the teams' first meeting this season, Cota scored 23 points on 8-of-8 shooting. His ability to penetrate also opened up opportunities for center Brendan Haywood, who scored 16 on 7-of-7 from the floor. Both perfect nights helped the Tar Heels shoot 71.1 percent, including an unreal 78.9 in the second half.

Such good marksmanship allowed UNC to overcome 20 turnovers in the 83-75 home victory on Jan. 8. The win improved Cota's record against 'Pack senior point guard Justin Gainey to 8-1.

The final regular-season matchup of the duo is a pivotal battle for postseason positioning. Both teams enter the game 5-4 and tied for second with Virginia and Maryland in the ACC.

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

## THE LOWDOWN ON TONIGHT'S GAME

- C BRENDAN HAYWOOD, 7-0**  
Junior has led the Tar Heels in rebounding nine times this season, including four of the last five games.
- F JASON CAPEL, 6-8**  
Second on the team in rebounding, free throw and 3-point percentage.
- G ED COTA, 6-1**  
Senior leads the conference in 3-point percentage at 46.9 percent (23-for-49).
- F KRIS LANG, 6-11**  
Played 28 minutes against Clemson, scoring 12 points on 5-of-10 shooting.
- G JOSEPH FORTE, 6-4**  
Team's leading scorer is assuming the role of defensive stopper.
- G JUSTIN GAINNEY, 6-0**  
Had two points, four assists and two turnovers in January loss to UNC.
- F ANTHONY GRUNDY, 6-2**  
Wolfpack's leading scorer (13.7) is third in the ACC with 2.3 steals per game.
- F DAMIEN WILKINS, 6-6**  
Freshman plays a team-high 30.4 minutes per game and grabs 6.4 boards per night.
- F KENNY INGE, 6-8**  
Junior averages 8.7 points and 5.9 rebounds per game.
- C DAMON THORNTON, 6-8**  
His charging foul and subsequent technical turned the tide in the 'Pack's loss to Maryland on Sunday.

North Carolina (14-9, 5-4 in the ACC)

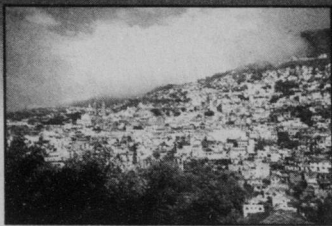
vs.

N.C. State (15-5, 5-4 in the ACC)

**Game:** North Carolina at N.C. State  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Entertainment and Sports Arena, Raleigh  
**Radio:** 100.7 FM, WCHL-1360 AM  
**Television:** ESPN  
**Series Record:** UNC leads 125-70.  
**Keys for UNC:** Ed Cota finally has taken an assertive role in the Tar Heel offense and with good results. He and Justin Gainey square off for the 10th time in their careers. UNC is 8-1 in the previous nine. Can UNC stop State's ESA mastery? The fans will be loud and on the floor, but the Tar Heels are veteran and have been in tough spots before.  
**Keys for N.C. State:** Keep its composure. The Wolfpack blew a lead against Maryland because Damon Thornton lost his cool. State must also rule the glass, as it did in the first matchup. The team has not lost in the ESA and does not want UNC to end the streak.  
**UNC Bench:** Julius Peppers and Max Owens will get their minutes, 20 and 10, respectively. The Blue team could also see its minute of action.  
**N.C. State Bench:** Even without injured Ron Kelley, Herb Sendek has a diverse set of reserves. Guard Archie Miller provides a long-range threat for the Wolfpack. Guard Marshall Williams and center Cornelius Williams will play crucial minutes.  
**Prediction:** UNC 75, N.C. State 69  
Compiled by Brian Murphy

## Summer 2000 at TAXCO, MEXICO

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Students who wish to experience Mexican life, culture, and academics on a rural estate in a colonial city can study in *Taxco, Mexico* for a summer. This program is offered by UNC-CH through the Centro de Enseñanza para Extranjeros (CEPE) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

**Eligibility:** Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible for the program, which is open to both UNC-CH and non-UNC students with a 2.5 GPA or better. There is no language prerequisite, but at least two semesters of college-level Spanish or the equivalent is recommended.

Summer 2000 students will be accompanied by Amy McNichols, a Ph.D. candidate in Latin-American literature from the UNC-CH Department of Romance Languages & Literatures. While on-site, Ms. McNichols will advise and tutor students, as well as serve as the Resident Coordinator in Taxco during the program.

A group flight will be available, and the orientation will take place in Mexico City prior to the beginning of courses in Taxco.

**The dates:** The summer 2000 program runs from June 16 to August 4, 2000.

**The cost:** Total billed cost \$1,451.

**For further information about this program:** Please contact the Study Abroad Office in 12 Caldwell Hall, or the program leader, Amy McNichols, in 114 Dey Hall, or our web site at <http://study-abroad.unc.edu>.

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## UNC Netters Stay Unbeaten With Shutout of Paladins

North Carolina senior Tripp Phillips had to sit and watch last year as Lee Nickell, Furman's No. 1 seed, picked up the Paladins' lone win against UNC.

Tuesday, Phillips made sure there was no repeat effort.

Phillips cruised by Nickell 6-0, 6-1 and led UNC to a 7-0 victory.

"He's not the type of player you can win a point with on one or two shots," Phillips said. "Getting to watch last year definitely helped."

David Cheatwood clinched the win for UNC with a 7-6, 6-2 victory against Furman's Drew Parker at No. 3 singles.

After trading service holds for 12 games, Cheatwood took the first-set tiebreaker 7-3 by winning all five of his service points.

UNC (2-0) took a 1-0 lead by capturing two out of the three doubles matches.

The Tar Heels led early in each match, but Furman (4-2) broke serve on all three courts within a five-minute span to put its No. 3 doubles team up a break and its other two squads back on serve.

UNC recovered to grab an 8-6 win at No. 1 doubles and an 8-5 victory at No. 2.

"In an eight-game pro set, it happens so quick, there are a lot of momentum changes," UNC coach Sam Paul said. "You have to be able to handle that."

— Bret Strelow

# Everybody Scores!

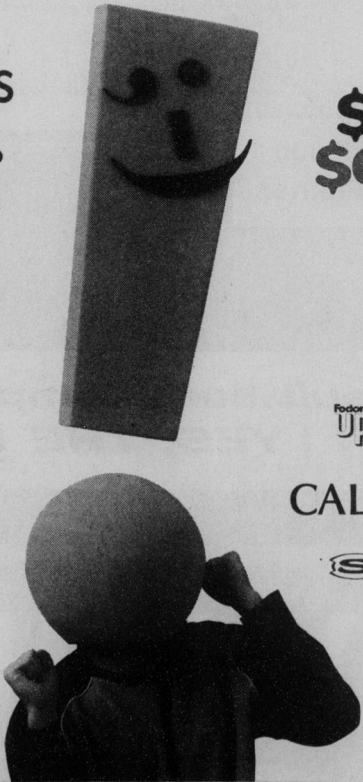
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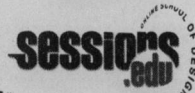


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