The Daily Tar Heel

Sports

Bersticker Sheds His Street Clothes UNC Names Browning **Defensive Coordinator**

By BRIAN MURPHY or Write

North Carolina will have an extra player on the bench for Saturday's con-test with Wake Forest. But the Tar Heels will only be able to use him warmups

Forward Brian Bersticker, out since December with a broken foot, dressed in uniform and went through pregame drills before Wednesday's win against N.C. State. The 6-foot-11 junior began

light practice with the team last week. "We're trying to push my foot as hard as it can go," Bersticker said after the Tar Heels' 70-62 victory. "It definitely felt good to be on the court without the suit and tie on, even if it was just warmup drills."

But the team has made no official decision on when – or, if – Bersticker will return this season. He is eligible for a medical redshirt if he doesn't return because he played in just five games before fracturing the fifth metatarsal on his left foot Dec. 3 against the College of Charleston.

"If it goes too long, then we'll talk to Brian about redshirting," Tar Heel coach Bill Guthridge said. "The farther it goes along, (redshirting) becomes a possibility. That decision will be his if it ever comes to that."

For now, Bersticker is just interested in getting healthy and "earning his

in getting neariny and earning his scholarship," as Guthridge joked. "I'm just trying to get back in shape, get back in playing shape, so hopefully I can contribute," said Bersticker, who was averaging 5.0 points and 2.8 rebounds per game before the injury.

Wake Hurting, Too

Staff Report

15 rebounds

as Clemson

Thursday

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North Carolina

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game

The Demon Deacons (13-10, 4-6 in the ACC) entered the season with NCAA aspirations after falling just short

CLEMSON, S.C. - Krystal Scott and

Women's

UNC junior Juana Brown scored her

1,000th career point on a free throw with 1:25 left, her 16th point of the

Clemson (16-7, 7-4 in the ACC) made its first 13 foul shots of the game and fin-ished 29-for-38 from the stripe in coach

Basketball

Chrissy Floyd each scored 15 points,

and Erin Batth collected a career-high



turned out exactly like coach Dave Odom planned.

Now, he has had to adjust his starting lineup with the loss of starter Niki Arinze, who was averaging 5.4 points and 3.3 rebounds per game. Arinze has an injured tendon near his right ankle and will miss the rest of the season. His absence has forced Odom to

move preseason All-ACC pick Robert O'Kelley from point guard to shooting guard and insert seldom-used senior Jim

O'Kelley, a junior, is averaging a team-best 15.0 points per game but has not been the consistent scoring threat he was during his first two seasons. Wake's first meeting with UNC monstrated O'Kelley's streaky nature.

He missed all eight of his first-half shots before scoring 18 points in the second half and leading the Deacs to a 66-57 victory in Winston-Salem. UNC's backcourt struggled in the loss, with Ed Cota and Joseph Forte shooting

just 4-of-22 from the floor. The loss to Wake began a streak of four consecutive losses for the Tar Heels (15-9, 6-4).

Since the streak, UNC has rebounded to win four of its last five to forge a sec ond-place tie in the ACC with Maryland. "The losses we had early in the sea-son can help us bounce back," Cota said. "We've just got to take it one game

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

Football coach Carl Torbush turned the defense over to assistant Ken Browning after two years of double duty.

BY BRET STRELOW Assistant Sports Edito

North Carolina football coach Carl Torbush had fostered the defensive unit for the last 12 seasons.

He watched the group develop from a small speed bump in an opponent's path to a brick wall.

But after two years of juggling the titles "head coach" and "defensive coordinator," Torbush let go on Thursday, naming UNC assistant Ken Browning as the Tar Heels' new defensive coordina-

"It wasn't a title I was necessarily looking for, and I told him that," Browning said. "I told him he needed to do what he felt like would help us win football games. Period."

Torbush took over as UNC's defensive coordinator in 1988, Mack Brown's first year as the team's head coach.

That season, the North Carolina defense allowed 35.5 points and 462 yards a game. In Torbush's third year, the defense

started a string of eight consecutive seasons in which it allowed less than 21.2 points a game

The defense limited opponents to 10 points and 222.6 yards a game in 1996 and 13 points and 209.3 yards in 1997.

But in the two years in which Torbush has been the head honcho, the defense has given up 24.6 points and 360 yards a contest.

"After the first year, I felt in my heart at some point that I would name a defensive coordinator," Torbush said. "I had talked to Kenny several times.

I didn't think it was fair last year to name Kenny or really any of our other members of our coaching staff as defensive coordinator. I felt very honestly I

wasn't sure how good we could be last year." The Tar Heel defense showed signs of improvement in the final three games of the

North Carolina

gave up 19 points in a loss to Wake New North Carolina defensive coordinato efensive coordinat Ken Browning has been a member Forest before limiting N.C. State to has been a member of the UNC coaching staff for six years. six points and shutting out Duke. "The way we

finished gives us some impetus going into spring," Browning said. "Hopefully, it will be something there we can build off of."

Browning faces a task much like the one Torbush endured for the last two years. He will pull double duty and retain his role as coach of the Tar Heels' defensive line

"I don't anticipate a problem there said Browing, who has coached at UNC for six years. "There will be some adjustments that have to be made in practice organization to make sure that that goes smoothly."

Gunter Brewer, UNC's newly hired wide receivers coach, joined Browning at the press conference and met the media for the first time.

Brewer held the same postiion for three of his four years at Marshall and coached Minnesota Vikings wideout Randy Moss.

He said Moss' success in the NFL can be used to motivate UNC's corp of wideouts

"Tve got a lot of tape, a lot of cutups, even from the Vikings," Brewer said. "Tve got a lot of pro film, and I want them to watch themselves and then

watch others and do a comparative analysis.

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

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the second half. the second nati. But the Tar Heels did not quit. They cut the lead to 57-54 with 2:32 remaining on a 3-point play by Jackie Higgins. Clemson then hit clutch free throws field. Brown added 17 points and eight rebounds, while LaQuanda Barksdale, the ACC's leading scorer and rebound-

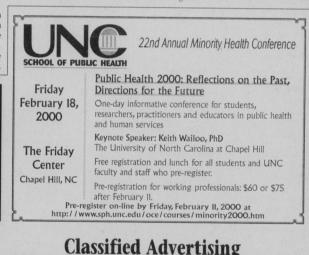
Brown Hits Milestone as UNC Falls to Clemson

was just 2-for-13 from the field to start

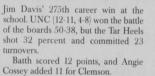
down the stretch. Scott made six straight inside the last two minutes, and Clemson led 67-58 with one minute to

again. They cut the margin to two points on consecutive 3-point goals by Teasley, the last coming with five sec onds remaining.

the game



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Nikki Teasley led UNC with 18 points but hit just 6-of-20 shots from the UNC65

er, had 15 points and 13 rebounds. The game was tied 7-7 with seven

minutes elapsed when Clemson went on a 10-0 run. The Tar Heels opened the game 3-for-15 from the field.

The Tigers had a 37-30 lead in the second half before going on a 13-0 run.

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Nuria Forns scored all eight of her points in that spurt, giving Clemson a 50-30 lead with 10 minutes left. UNC

But the Tar Heels converted a 4-point play, then stole the ball and scored

