

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Brendan Haywood, Joseph Forte and Max Owens excelled in starring roles, scoring 21 points in a row for the Tar Heels during one stretch.

Haywood had been key as UNC took its early first-half lead, coming out aggressively to score nine of the Tar Heels' first 10 points.

He kept Wake's post trio of Darius Songaila, Vidaurieta and Shoemaker in foul trouble throughout the game, limiting them to 47 combined minutes.

Haywood, who had seven dunks in his team's 70-62 victory against N.C. State on Wednesday night, displayed a variety of post moves against Wake Forest en route to 20 points and 10 boards.

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3s kind of took a little energy out of them.

Owens, with his toenails creeping over the 3-point line, followed Forte's two treys with a jumper of his own. He then added two free throws after Wake's Tate Decker was hit for a technical foul for hanging on the rim, and Haywood scored on a jump hook on the ensuing possession.

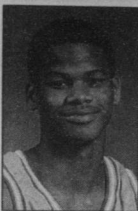
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UNC freshman guard Joseph Forte connected on 6-of-8 3-point attempts and scored a game-high 24 points Saturday.

"It all goes back to defense," Haywood said. "We've been playing a lot better defense, and we're rebounding better. We're just playing better team ball."

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

UNC 87, Wake Forest 64

Score Box table showing game statistics for UNC and Wake Forest, including points, rebounds, assists, and fouls.

Percentages - FG 36.2, FT 64.7, 3-point goals - 3-15, 20.0. O'Kelly 2-8, Murray 1-3, Shoemaker 0-1, Dawson 0-2.

Team rebounds - 3 Blocked shots - 3 (Pearce, Scott, Dawson). Turnovers - 8 (Scott 3, O'Kelly 2, Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Murray). Steals - 6 (Howard 2, Murray 2, O'Kelly, Scott).

UNC (87) player statistics table listing individual player performance metrics.

Percentages - FG 53.4, FT 77.3, 3-point goals - 8-19, 42.1. Capel 0-3, Forte 6-8, Cota 1-4, Owens 1-2, Johnson 0-2.

Team rebounds - 2 Blocked shots - 2 (Lang, Haywood). Turnovers - 13 (Haywood 4, Cota 3, Forte 3, Capel, Lang, Peppers). Steals - 2 (Cota, Lang).

Technical fouls - Wake Forest 1 (Decker). Attendance - 21,572. Officials: Curtis Shaw, Ed Corbett, Steve Gordon.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

make a pass to one of my teammates," Teasley said. "That's what I get a kick out of."

Forward LaQuanda Barksdale was on the receiving end of two of those assists for four of her game-high 20 points. Barksdale was one of five Tar Heels that scored in double figures.

Juana Brown and Jackie Higgins chimed in with 11 apiece, and Jennifer Thomas picked up 10 points. Higgins and Thomas made their contributions in just 12 and 13 minutes of work, respectively. Leah Sharp connected on three of her five 3-point attempts for nine points.

The Tar Heels' hot hands did not cool off much at halftime, but the Jackets were able to form a rally behind backup point guard Alex Stewart.

Stewart, who led the Yellow Jackets with 14 points, scored eight in a 6:30 span late in the game in which Tech went on a 22-6 run to pull within 14 points. But the 30-point deficit proved too much for Georgia Tech to overcome.

The Jackets defeated a Teasley-less UNC 55-44 in Atlanta on Jan. 13, and the Tar Heels' turnaround since her return was a hot topic with Berenato.

"Obviously for Carolina, Teasley's a big difference," she said. "But I don't get the difference. Do you know how freaking good they are?"

"She really does (make a difference). It's amazing, she does. They're all individually really awesome, but they can't get it together without her."

UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell, who said Teasley had now earned her way back into the starting lineup, had no

trouble understanding her impact. "You can have six or eight Jerry Rices, but if you ain't got a quarterback, it don't matter how good he is," Hatchell said. "That's basically what happened to us."

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UNC 85, Georgia Tech 62

Score Box table showing game statistics for UNC and Georgia Tech, including points, rebounds, assists, and fouls.

Percentages - FG 36.8, FT 68.7, 3-point goals - 3-10, 30.0. (Lingerfelder 1-3, Krupp 1-1, Dornhew 1-4, Barle 0-1).

Team rebounds - 2 Blocked shots - 0. Turnovers - 21 (Stewart 7, Barlin 3, Martinez 3, Lingerfelder 2, Tate 2, Krupp, McCallum, Aves, Mallory). Steals - 7 (Stewart 7, Lingerfelder, Krupp, Martinez, Mallory).

UNC (85) player statistics table listing individual player performance metrics.

Percentages - FG 56.9, FT 68.8, 3-point goals - 8-19, 44.4. (Barksdale 2-2, Sharp 3-5, J. Brown 1-6, Teasley 4-4, C. Brown 0-1, Huntington 1-1).

Team rebounds - 2 Blocked shots - 0. Turnovers - 12 (Thomas 3, Allen 2, Lea 2, Higgins 2, Barksdale, Sharp, J. Brown). Steals - 0 (Barksdale 2, Allen 2, J. Brown 2, Sharp, Lea, Teasley).

Technical fouls - None. Attendance - 4,254. Officials: Lawson Newton, Dennis DuMayo, Thomas Baldwin.

BARKSDALE

answer on the other end, hitting a jumper from the free-throw line to cut off Tech's momentum.

Barksdale's performance was a far cry from the one she put on in the first 20 minutes. She had more fouls (two) than points before finally nailing a trey from the top of the key with 3:57 remaining in the first half.

"I knew that I had to step it up a little bit because I didn't think I did all that well in the first half," Barksdale said.

The offensive show she put on also eased the pain of a frustrating past two games for the Naismith Award nominee. Barksdale shot a combined 8-of-29 from the floor against the Cavaliers and the Tigers, but Sunday she went 7-for-13 and converted both of her 3-point attempts.

It was obvious that her extra work at practice paid off. "She's been coming in a lot working on her shooting," North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell said.

"I thought she was following through and just playing with a lot more confidence and poise." For the Tar Heels, Barksdale's rediscovery of her shooting touch couldn't come at a better time as the team gears up for a late-season run in the ACC.

"It's a point guard's dream to know that, even if it's a bad pass, it's kind of like (former UNC standout) Tracy Reid - you throw her a bad pass, she's still going to catch it and finish," UNC point guard Nikki Teasley said. "So I'll take my chances with passing the ball to her anywhere on the floor."

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