Tar Heels Hold Off FSU, **Keep NCAA Hopes Alive**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Before her first start since Jan. 3, North Carolina point guard Nikki Teasley stood impatiently, arms folded, waiting for Florida State to take

the floor. As the final Basketball

seconds of UNC's 78-74 win ticked off the Leon County Civic Center clock, Teasley held the ball low, guarding it

with sharpened elbows. It was only fitting that Teasley, who bandled FSU's pressure and a small but hostile crowd all night, had the ball at the end. After all, it was her nine consecutive points down the stretch that turned a 72-68 deficit into a 77-74 lead.

Teasley, who had 21 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, downplayed "Individually, I had a bad first half,"

Teasley said. "I was telling myself to play with a little more intensity in the second half and knock down some shots."

Teasley got her wish in the second half, which had the feel of a tournament contest with bodies flying and tempers rising. For the Tar Heels, the contest was in essence – a playoff game.

UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said she reminded her team (15-11, 7-8 in the ACC) that its slim hopes for an NCAA tournament berth would be gone with a

"We knew before we came out on the ourt," said UNC forward LaQuanda Barksdale, who finished with a game-high 26 points to go with seven boards.

Hatchell interrupted

Hatchell interrupted before Barksdale could continue. "I told them she said. "You can say that's putting pressure on them, but you've got

Despite Hatchell's pregame speech, the Tar Heels had to sweat out a dramatic finish. With 4.2 sec onds left and FSU trailing by three, UNC's Juana Brown seemingly Seminoles out by fouling Lakesha

peration 3-point

scored a game-high 26 points in UNC's victory against FSU.

But Springle, fresh off the bench, missed all three free throws. Barksdale was quickly fouled and hit one of two foul shots to seal the game.

UNC trailed by as many seven in the second half but used its pressure defense to claw back. Then Teasley and her nemesis for the night, FSU point guard April Traylor, took over.

A Teasley assist on a Jackie Higgins layin cut the lead to two. Then Traylor scored. Two free throws by Teasley. A bucket by Traylor. One free throw by Teasley, who was 10-of-11 from the line.

Then Teasley got some help. Freshman Cherie Lea stole a Seminole inbound pass intended for Traylor and hit a cutting Teasley, trimming the lead to 74-73.

A Seminole miss, followed by two more Teasley free throws. Traylor then missed a running floater and picked up her fifth foul on – you guessed it – Teasley, who made both shots to give UNC a 77-74 lead.

Traylor finished with 19 points and

For Hatchell, the decision to start Teasley, who missed seven games on a personal leave of absence and has come

off the bench since her return seven games ago, was a simple case of readying her team for the long haul.

"(In practice) that first group with Nikki at point guard looked really good," she said. "We have to be that the property of the ACC charging the ACC charging the "." way to win the ACC championship.

The Sports Editor can be reached at

UNC 78, Florida State 74

| UNC Florida State | | | 35 | 43 38 | | 78 74 | |
|----------------------|-----|-------|-------|----------|----|----------|----|
| | | | 36 | | | | |
| UNC (78) | | | | | | | |
| | | fg | ft | rb | | | |
| 1 | nin | m-a | m-a | 0-1 | | pf | tp |
| J. Brown | 32 | 4-13 | 3-4 | 5-6 | 2 | 3 | 13 |
| Barksdale | 36 | 11-24 | 4-5 | 2-7 | 2 | 1 | 26 |
| Allen | 10 | - 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-2 | 0 | 1 | (|
| Sharp | 12 | 0.0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 2 | |
| Teasley | 33 | 5-14 | 10-11 | 1-7 | 9 | 1 | 21 |
| Huntington | 1 | 0.0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas | 4 | 1-1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Higgins | 30 | 3-7 | 0-1 | 2-6 | 2 | 2 | |
| C. Brown | 23 | 3-7 | 2-2 | 2-2 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| Lea | 19 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 0-1 | 2 | 1 | |
| Total 2 | 00 | 28-67 | 19-23 | 15-34 | 18 | 16 | 78 |

Percentages — FG .418, FT .826 3-point goals — 3-12 .250 (J. Brown 2-4, Teasley 1-7, C. Brown

- 15 (Teasley 5, Lea 3, Higgins 2, J. Brown, Allen, Sharp, C. Brown). 15 (Barksdale 4, C. Brown 4, J. Brown 2, Teasley 2,

| | | fg | ft | rb | | | |
|----------|-----|-------|------|-------|----|----|----|
| | min | m-a | m-a | o-t | | pf | tp |
| Coleman | 24 | 6-9 | 1-2 | 1-2 | 1 | 4 | 13 |
| Wyckoff | 36 | 4-10 | 1.2 | 3-8 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| Vujas | 23 | 3-8 | 0-0 | 0-2 | 1. | 2 | 6 |
| Sutton | 34 | 3-5 | 2-2 | 1-3 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| Traylor | 36 | 9-17 | 1-1 | 1-5 | 8 | 5 | 19 |
| Springle | 4 | 0-0 | 0.3 | 0-1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Torres | 11 | 3-3 | 0.2 | 0-2 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Beal | 11 | 1-2 | 0.0 | 1-1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Bradley | 22 | 5-7 | 0-0 | 1-4 | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| Total | 200 | 34-61 | 5-12 | 10-35 | 19 | 20 | 74 |

centages — FG .557, FT .417. pint goals — 1-6 .167 (Beal 1-2, Sutton 0-1, Traylor 0-1,

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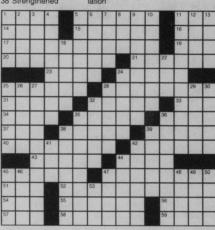
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