

Tar Heels Seek Revenge, NCAA Tourney Attention

By Mike Ogle
Assistant Sports Editor

The North Carolina women's basketball team rode home from Durham on Jan. 27, black and blue from the 101-58 beating it had just received at the hands of Duke.

"Stunned. Shocked. They were embarrassed and humiliated," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said of her players.

But as the Tar Heels (15-11, 7-8 in the ACC) prepare for Sunday's 12:30 p.m. rematch in Carmichael Auditorium, the scenery and personnel have changed dramatically.

The Blue Devils lost Peppi Browne, the team's second-leading scorer (13.7 ppg) and leading rebounder (6.8 rpg), when she tore her anterior cruciate ligament with 11:14 remaining in the UNC game.

Duke (23-4, 12-3) lost its next two

games but has since rebounded, tacking up five consecutive wins.

Tar Heel point guard Nikki Teasley rejoined the team for that thrashing but watched from the bench in street clothes. She



Nikki Teasley

returned to the floor in the Tar Heels' next rumble, and UNC is 5-2 since.

"I knew it hurt her to see us struggle (against Duke) like we did and know how much we needed her," Hatchell said. "Hopefully, that will be some motivation for all of us."

Teasley watched the Tar Heels shoot a dismal 30.2 percent from the floor in their worst loss ever to the archrival Blue Devils.

Freshman Cherie Lea, Teasley's back-

up, teamed with forward LaQuanda Barksdale to lead the squad with 15 points apiece. Georgia Schweitzer, Lauren Rice and Browne led the way for Duke with 16 points each in the blowout.

If revenge and Teasley's return aren't enough motivation for UNC this weekend, the game's postseason implications should be.

Ranked as high as eighth early this season, North Carolina is trying to

scratch and claw its way into the NCAA tournament.

The Tar Heels are counting on the NCAA to pay close attention to how they finished the season and take Teasley's absence into consideration for their midseason slump.

Said Hatchell, "I think (a win) would probably give us a bid."

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

THE LOWDOWN ON SATURDAY'S GAME

C BRENDAN HAYWOOD, 7-0
Hit all seven of his field-goal attempts against Florida State and scored 19 points.

F JASON CAPEL, 6-8
Dished out a team-high seven assists against the Seminoles on Wednesday.

F KRIS LANG, 6-11
Scored 13 points and collected six rebounds vs. Maryland on Jan. 27.

G ED COTA, 6-1
Totaled 11 turnovers and eight assists in UNC's last two games.

G JOSEPH FORTE, 6-4
Has hit 9 of 23 shots from the floor in the Tar Heels' last two contests.

North Carolina (17-10, 8-5 in ACC)

VS.

No. 19 Maryland (20-7, 9-4 in ACC)

G STEVEN BLAKE, 6-3
Freshman point guard leads the squad with 6.4 assists a contest.

G JUAN DIXON, 6-3
Averaged 26.5 points in victories against Wake Forest and Georgia Tech last week.

F DANNY MILLER, 6-8
Hitting 46 percent of his field-goal attempts and 40 percent from behind the 3-point arc.

F TERENCE MORRIS, 6-9
Preseason pick for ACC Player of the Year averages 15.7 points and 8.7 rebounds.

C LONNY BAXTER, 6-8
Led the Terps with 25 points and nine rebounds against Clemson.

Game: UNC at No. 19 Maryland

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: College Park, Md.

Radio: 100.7 FM, WCHL-1360 AM

Television: Raycom/Jefferson-Pilot

Series Record: UNC leads 105-47.

Keys for UNC: The Tar Heels got the ball into center Brendan Haywood consistently against FSU, and the big man responded with 19 points. Haywood had a strong outing against the Terps on Jan. 27, scoring 24 points and grabbing seven boards in UNC's 75-63 win at the Smith Center.

Keys for Maryland: The Terps have won seven straight ACC contests after starting league play 0-3. Maryland's other ACC loss came at the hands of UNC and the lively lower deck of students. The Terrapins hit 10 of 27 shots from behind the arc in the game and have hit 50 percent of their 3-point tries in their last four ACC games.

UNC Bench: Max Owens didn't score against FSU, and Julius Peppers added a deuce. The Blue Team continues to see action, and Orlando Melendez is 3-for-3 from the field in the last two games.

Maryland Bench: Drew Nicholas and Tajh Holden combined to log 34 minutes and score 17 points against Clemson on Tuesday. Mike Mardesch averages 2.6 points in 11.3 minutes a game.

Prediction: Maryland 79, UNC 77.
Compiled by Bret Strelow

UNC Seeks Next 'Big Win' vs. Terps

By Brian Murphy
Senior Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — North Carolina coach Bill Guthridge put it simply and then repeated himself.

"A lot," he said when asked how much UNC's 70-67 victory against Florida State meant. "It's hard to expand on a lot. It's a big win for us, a very big win."

That a three-point victory against the Seminoles in February would carry so much meaning is an indication of the type of season Guthridge and his Tar Heels are having.

Once ranked as high as No. 2 in the country, the Tar Heels needed Wednesday's victory to keep their NCAA Tournament hopes on the probable side.

UNC's streaks are well-documented: 25 consecutive NCAA tournaments, 29 21-plus win seasons in a row, 35 consecutive top-three ACC finishes.

All three are still in doubt this season, but the victory against FSU keeps the Tar Heels (17-10, 8-5 in the ACC) within reach of all three.

The one in the most immediate danger might be the top-three finishes in the conference. UNC is currently tied with Virginia for third, but the schedule favors the Cavaliers.

The Tar Heels have to travel to conference front-runners Maryland and Duke, and the Cavaliers have a road contest with FSU and home dates with Wake Forest and Maryland to close out the ACC schedule. UNC also hosts Georgia Tech.

UNC battles the 19th-ranked Terps (20-7, 9-4) at Cole Field House on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. The Tar Heels will have a chance to claim just their second victory against a ranked team — the first being a 75-63 victory against then-No. 22 Maryland in the now infamous "students-in-the-lower-section" game.

The Tar Heels enter the contest a little banged up. Ed Cota and Jason Capel were icing their legs after Wednesday's victory. Cota, who had his assault case suspended indefinitely Wednesday, said his knee was just sore.

Capel hurt his left shin on Ron Hale's 3-point attempt to tie the game. Capel was knocked to the floor on a screen on Hale's jumper and then fell at game's end. He limped off the court and was assisted by Brian Bersticker.

"I got banged up; my shin got hurt," said Capel, who had a career-high seven assists in the win. "It's all right. It's just a little sore."

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UNC's Davis Named ACC Women's Indoor Track MVP

North Carolina senior DeAnne Davis has been named the 2000 ACC Women's Indoor Track and Field MVP.

Davis had an outstanding season, especially in the triple jump, an event in which she posted two NCAA automatic qualifying jumps during the season. The first was at the Pepsi Invitational on Jan. 21, when she jumped 43 feet, nine inches. The second was at the ACC Championships on Feb. 19, when she won the ACC title and set her personal best with a jump of 44-6.

Davis also had an NCAA automatic qualifying mark of 20-9 in the long jump at the ACC Championships and finished second to teammate Ola Sesay. Davis rounded out her weekend by winning the 60-meter hurdles title in a time of 8.37 seconds, an NCAA provisional qualifying mark.

Enter Named Player of the Week

UNC sophomore catcher Natalie Anter has been named ACC Player of the Week for her performances during the week of Feb. 14-20, when the Tar Heels went 6-1 and reached the championship game of The Triangle Classic in Raleigh.

Anter batted .333 for the week, with six RBI and a grand slam. She is hitting

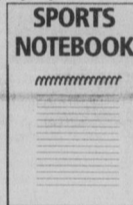
.344 on the season.

Women's Tennis Reschedules Match

The UNC and Richmond women's tennis teams hope the third time's a

charm. They've had their matchup postponed twice and are scheduled to play at 2:30 p.m. Monday at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center.

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