

UNC, Clemson to Tangle Again at ACC Tourney

By Will Kimmey
Assistant Sports Editor

It's ACC Women's Basketball Tournament time again, and that can mean only one thing.

North Carolina will face Clemson. The Tar Heels and Tigers have tangled in the tourney every season since 1995-96. UNC beat Clemson for the title in 1997 and 1998. The Tigers returned the favor last year, dropping UNC to capture the crown.

The two squads renew their postseason rivalry Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum.

"Of course it gives us a little more motivation that they knocked us out of the championship last year when we were ahead," UNC junior Leah Sharp said.

So this time, the fifth-seeded Tar Heels (16-11, 8-8 in the ACC) serve as the squad seeking revenge. In addition to last year's title-game loss, they also dropped two tight regular season contests this year to No. 4 seed Clemson (18-10, 9-7) by a total of five points.

"The games shouldn't have been that close," Sharp said. "The season didn't go as well as it should have, and a lot of the games aren't representative of what we're capable of doing on the court."

UNC, picked as the preseason favorite in the ACC, has struggled through a season that has closely resembled a game of Chutes and Ladders. The Tar Heels started off the campaign successfully, going 9-3, maintaining a top-15 ranking and heading up the ladder.

But when the new millennium dawned, UNC did not find itself Y2K

compliant. It lost seven of its first eight games as well as its starting point guard in 2000. Nikki Teasley missed seven games, starting on Jan. 6 when she took a leave of absence from the team.

That's when the Tar Heels experienced the chute portion of the game. Their shooting percentage plummeted. As did their winning percentage. And their ranking. And their confidence.

UNC hit rock bottom with a 101-58 whipping at the hands of Duke on Jan. 27. "That was probably the lowest point in our season," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "After that, we knew that we had to do something then or it was over."

They did. The Tar Heels worked on their shooting after practice. They started playing better defense. Teasley returned to the team. UNC won six of its final eight games, including the last four in a row.

North Carolina finished its regular season with an exclamation point. It avenged its humiliating loss to Duke by shocking the No. 9 Blue Devils 73-64 on Feb. 27 to even its conference record.

"I think a lot of people expected us to stay down, and then we picked it back up toward the end of the year," UNC guard Juana Brown said. "A lot of teams are descending in the way they play right now, and we're just reaching our peak."

With its renewed sense of confidence, UNC now looks to vanquish any thoughts of missing the NCAA tournament by capturing its third ACC Tournament title in four years. And it all starts with Clemson, the defending champ.

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

CAMP-OUT

From Page 1

the entire group. Strauss said he and his fellow tent-mates had no problem abiding by the rules and making tent checks.

"It's a fairly easy process," Strauss said, adding that it involved just a little reshuffling of schedules.

"Usually, with 10 people, somebody is always free," Strauss said as he leaned on a brick wall in the evening hours of the final Tuesday before Judgment Day, with all the ease of someone who had settled into a comfortable routine.

While Strauss shed light into the internal processes of K-ville, another 100 or so residents lazily reclined on lawn chairs with a halfhearted study attempt within arm's reach.

Camping life in K-ville might temporarily displace students, yet the sampling of tenting students is representative of the student body as a whole.

"Everyone comes together - Greeks, student government and athletes," said Ray Holloman, a junior from Littleton.

Holloman stood by the entrance to a cavernous tent complete with a string of beer cans welcoming visitors across the threshold.

The Amstel Light banner proudly hung over the tent was an implicit testament to how idle hours were spent.

Yet hours in K-ville were not entirely disposable. The campsite was perched mere meters away from academic buildings, a nagging reminder of students' academic obligations.

Duke has brought K-ville and the great outdoors into the new millennium by installing Internet connections in lamp posts. Cyberspace has become accessible to tenters' fingertips.

There was not much surfing once 5 p.m. Thursday arrived, when all tent members were required to be present.

Squatters lingered close to tents with names written in duct tape like "Tourist Info," "Blue Devil Worshipers," "Gettin' Lucky in Tent 13" and "Love Shack."

The aroma of cheeseburgers and

THE LOWDOWN ON SATURDAY'S GAME

C BRENDAN HAYWOOD, 7-0
Scored nine points and had 10 rebounds against the Blue Devils in February.

F JASON CAPEL, 6-8
Sophomore has scored double figures in 13 of last 14 games.

F KRIS LANG, 6-9
A strained quadriceps limited him to 23 minutes against Georgia Tech.

G ED COTA, 6-1
Had his 29th 10-assist ACC game Wednesday, go. if for third all-time.

G JOSEPH FORTE, 6-4
His 3-pointer at the end of regulation forced overtime in the first meeting.

North Carolina (18-11, 9-6 in ACC)

VS.

No. 4 Duke (23-4, 14-1 in ACC)

G JASON WILLIAMS, 6-2
Freshman has started all 27 games and is third on the team in scoring (14.5 ppg).

G NATE JAMES, 6-6
Junior has scored double figures 15 times this season, including eight in ACC play.

F CHRIS CARRAWELL, 6-8
Team's lone senior is favorite in ACC Player-of-the-Year race.

F SHANE BATTIER, 6-8
Scored a game-high 25 points and had 10 rebounds in first meeting at UNC.

C CARLOS BOOZER, 6-9
Freshman averaging 15.4 points and 6.7 rebounds in 20 games since Dec. 11.

Game: North Carolina at No. 4 Duke
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Location: Cameron Indoor Stadium, Durham
Radio: 100.7 FM, WCHL-1360 AM
Television: ABC
Series Record: UNC leads 121-84.
Keys for UNC: Stay close early. The Tar Heels had to rally from 19 down in the last meeting just to force overtime. UNC must avoid getting in a big hole again. Give the ball to Joseph Forte. The freshman is taking, and making, UNC's biggest shots. He can create off the dribble or spot up.
Keys for Duke: Endurance. Without sixth man Mike Dunleavy (out with mononucleosis), the Blue Devils' starting five will be on the floor a lot. If Duke can avoid getting too excited on Senior Day, it can make up for a lack of depth.
UNC Bench: With Lang ailing, Julius Peppers scored a career-high 14 against Georgia Tech. UNC will need another strong offensive performance from him. If someone finds Max Owens, please pick up the red courtesy phone. Owens played three minutes Wednesday, and his man hit two 3s.
Duke Bench: Without Dunleavy, who was averaging more than 25 minutes a game, the Blue Devils are thin. Nick Horvath and Matt Christensen are likely the only reserves Duke will use.
Prediction: Duke 84, UNC 74
Compiled by Brian Murphy

Women's ACC Basketball Tournament

First Round Friday, March 3	Quarterfinals Saturday, March 4	Semifinals Sunday, March 5	Final Monday, March 6
No. 1 Virginia			
No. 9 Wake Forest			
No. 7 Maryland			
No. 8 Florida State			
No. 2 Duke			
No. 3 N.C. State			
No. 6 Georgia Tech			
No. 4 Clemson			
No. 5 UNC			

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ward to this game every year. "Duke-UNC is what college basketball is all about," he said. "The coaches and players are really appreciative." Strauss said that every year before the game, Krzyzewski - better known as "Coach K" - visits the campsite to deliver a pregame pep talk, as players amble through the grounds. "I've been to the Vatican in Rome. Every Sunday the pope comes out to speak to the masses," Strauss said. "It feels like that when Coach K steps out of his office to speak at a rally." Students are admitted into Cameron until a fire marshal cuts off the flow of eager fans. Faculty, administration and alumni hold upper-level seats. And as of now, students are just a day away from the thrill they have been camping for for weeks. Sam Mathias, a freshman from Boca Raton, Fla., said the rivalry was more than one game. "Even if it's not that great of a game, no one who camped out will say it wasn't fun, because then they would have wasted three weeks." The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.

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