# By Any Name, UNC's Barksdale Has Plenty of Game

By BRET STRELOW

At the beginning of North Carolina omen's basketball games, she's introduced as a forward.

Opposing coaches say she's a guard.
Many of her teammates and friends
simply call her "Q."

No matter how people identify
her, most of the titles don't hold that

much weight with 5-foot-11 LaQuanda

"With the set we're going with now, like a four-around-one, there's only really one post there anyway, and the rest are guards," said Barksdale, who plays power forward. "I think they put too much on naming positions."

But Barksdale has recently acquired

another title that she won't mind hold-ing on to: first-team All-ACC performer.

She averaged 17.4 points and 8.5 rebounds a game in the regular season to lead the ACC in both categories.

Each of the last three seasons, the player who has led the ACC in scoring and rebounding has earned ACC Player of the Year honors. N.C. State center UNC power forward Tracy Reid accomplished the feat the season before that.

But Barksdale did not win ACC Player of the Year. That honor went to Duke guard Georgia Schweitzer, who averaged 15.7 points and 4.0 boards. In fact, Barksdale received the lowest vote

total of any of the first-team performers.
Lack of respect is nothing new to
Barksdale, who entered UNC in the fall
of 1997 without the same acclaim that fellow juniors Juana Brown and Nikki Teasley received.

Both were members of the USA Basketball Junior National team that won a gold medal at the World Championships in the summer of 1997.

Barksdale, on the other hand, quietly came to UNC from West Forsyth High School in Clemmons, where she earned Central-Piedmont All-Conference hon-

ors all four years as a center.

"A lot of people hadn't heard of her outside North Carolina," Brown said. "I know I didn't, and I was totally shocked. I was like, 'Why haven't I heard of this girl before?

In her first season, a year that Teasley

and Brown com-bined to start 43 games, Barksdale served as Reid's

understudy. Barksdale didn't start a single game and averaged 4.8 points a

"I had no problem playing behind her," Barksdale said. "I knew that I was going to have to play behind some-

and 8.5 rpg. body when I came in, whether it be at

LaQuanda Barksdale

the 3 position or at the 4 position."
When Barksdale got her opportunities – she averaged 10.6 minutes a game – she played well. Had she played the 32.0 minutes a contest she averaged during this regular season. Barksdale's numbers would have projected to 14.5 points and 7.2 rebounds a game.
"Even though she didn't play that

much, her stats were outstanding for the number of minutes that she played,"

know, you're not going to put Tracy Reid on the bench.

"I think just going against Tracy every day in practice helped her be better but

also gave her a lot of confidence."

Barksdale also began to find her identity. Hatchell recruited her to play on the wing or as a guard, but Barksdale said she struggled to learn the position. Hatchell decided to give her another shot in the post at Wake Forest on Dec.

Barksdale responded with four points and four boards in seven minutes of

"Coach Hatchell just kind of put me in there because I was at home," Barksdale said. "As soon as I got in, I scored twice, so she had me come in and practice with the 4 players, and I did a

Barksdale has been entrenched in that position since. She has started 60 games in the last two seasons and is finally being mentioned in the same breath as Brown and Teasley.

But this season hasn't always been easy. When Teasley took a leave of

absence before a game at Virginia on Jan. 6, Barksdale began to struggle. She shot 33 percent from the field in the en games Teasley missed.

Barksdale didn't deny that she pressed too hard with Teasley out of the

"She gets in position to get other peo-ple shots," Barksdale said. "When she was gone, I had to try to create my own shots, and that wasn't working too well." Barksdale often took her game to the

perimeter with Teasley out of the lineup. She had attempted 10 trifectas in UNC's first 12 games, but she hoisted up 15 treys during the seven-game stretch. UNC lost six out of those seven games.

But Barksdale shouldn't abandon her perimeter game. Hatchell said that if she goes on to the WNBA after college, she'll mark her mark on the wing. Barksdale has even come to that real-

"I believe that now. When I first came into college, I was a little skeptical about playing the guard position,"

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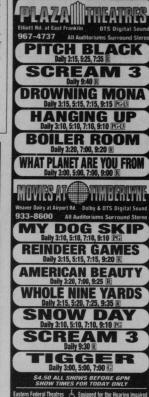
am a guard in a post position. Post position is where my team needs me right now, but hopefully in the future I'll play

on the wing a little bit more."

If that's the case, Barksdale will be coming out to a different title in pregame introductions.

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

EASTERN FEDERAL THEATERS



## Freshmen Lead Tar Heels to Best Start Ever

Staff Writer

The North Carolina baseball squad journeyed Tuesday afternoon where no Tar Heel team had gone before.

The expedition led the 2000 squad to

ry against Western Carolina and, at the same

W. Carolina . . . . . 8 UNC . . . . . . . I I time, to the best start ever in school history at 17-0.

"I give them a lot of credit, because you don't see this a lot," UNC coach Mike Fox said. "We would never have

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thought this. Our players have done a good job. I give them all the credit.

"This is quite an accomplishment – it may never happen again."

The UNC trek to greatness wasn't guided by a seasoned veteran but instead was led by a pair of freshmen: Sean Farrell and Scott Autrey.
Farrell, a recruited walk-on third base

man, went 3-for-4 on the day and hammered home runs in the second and seventh innings. Farrell's five RBI were a game high and gave plenty of cushion to Autrey, the starting pitcher.

Autrey got the nod on the mound and hurled six strong innings. The righthander (4-0) allowed two earned runs

"It was good just to go out there and our team a chance to win," Autrey said. "Obviously, it is cool for me to ge the win, but it was still a team thing. Tyrell Godwin belted his fourth home

run of the year and posted four RBI, while first baseman Jay Madeira pounded out three hits in five at bats. The Tar Heels posted a run in the

first, then erupted in the second to score five more, bringing the tally to 6-0 at the end of two innings From that point, UNC continued to

belt away at the Catamounts (4-13), scoring one run in the fifth inning and four

initial run, and, although they never led, the Catamounts didn't go down easily. inning, bringing the final tally to 11-8.

The Sports Editor can be reached at

**UNC 11, Western Carolina 8** WCU 000 011 024 - 8 8 0

Pitching: W.C.U. – House, Barner (2). Gordon (8), Hoover (7), Priss (7), Foster (8) and Smithweck, UNC. – Autrey (6), Finner (7), King (9), Timer (9) and Moylas, Shavir (8), Leading pittes W.C.U. – Buchanan 2-5 (HR. 3, 888), Thomas 1-5 (2 RB), UNC. Facriell 3-4 (HR. 2 runs, 5 RB)), Godwin 2-4 (HR. 2 runs, 4 RB, SB), Modelms 3-5 (2B, 3 runs, 58).

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