

Peppers' Post Presence Pivotal for Tar Heels

Redshirt freshman forward Julius Peppers has evolved this season from a novelty act into UNC's top reserve.

By **BRIAN MURPHY**
Senior Writer

North Carolina coach Bill Guthridge calls him a "godsend." Forward Kris Lang prefers "specimen." The rest of the Tar Heels are just glad Julius Peppers is one of them.

It wasn't long ago that Peppers, a defensive end for UNC's football team, was being considered a basketball experiment or a gimmick.

That was in December, when the idea of the 6-foot-7, 270 pounder contributing to the No. 2 team in the country was about as farfetched as the Tar Heels having to sweat out Selection Sunday.

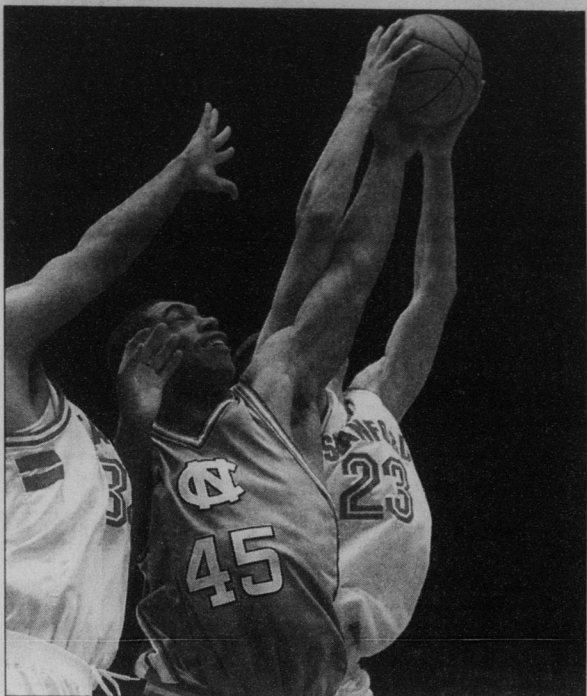
Now the question is, what would the Tar Heels do without Peppers?

"I don't know where we'd be this year with injuries and everything if it wasn't for Pep," UNC forward Jason Capel said. "I'm glad he did come out and stick by us all year. He could have easily been like 'OK, we're losing. I quit.' He's playing a huge role for us now."

A huge role for a huge man. Peppers' size makes him stand out, even among the behemoths of college basketball. No longer is Peppers, who joined the team after it returned from the season-opening Maui Invitational, considered just a banger. Now he's a player.

Against Tulsa, Peppers logged 30 minutes, scoring six points and grabbing eight rebounds. He also dished out two assists and had two steals.

"I didn't think he'd be able to help us this much," said Joseph Forte, who first



DTH/MILLER PEARALL

UNC forward Julius Peppers, shown here in the Tar Heels' second-round upset of Stanford, tallied six points and eight rebounds against Tulsa.

played with Peppers in pick-up games at Woollen Gym. "But our season doesn't go the way it went without Julius."

Without Peppers, it's unlikely that Forte and his teammates would have been answering questions on Tuesday about the Final Four. Peppers' presence allowed Capel to move back to his natural position - small forward - and gave

Guthridge flexibility with his front line, especially with Lang battling injuries.

Lang, who suffered a sprained ankle against Tulsa, is listed as day-to-day for Saturday's national semifinal game against Florida.

"It's unfortunate that he's having the injuries and having to sit out," Peppers said. "I think he has a lot of confidence

in me to get it done while I'm on the court."

By now, all the Tar Heels have confidence in Peppers, who played AAU ball with Lang and center Brendan Haywood. In his recruiting efforts, Guthridge saw Peppers and helped the football team recruit him.

Peppers, a redshirt freshman in both sports, emerged on the gridiron this season, leading the team with six sacks. He earned Freshman All-American honors from The Sporting News. Peppers said he decided to play basketball to stay in shape for football.

"After basketball season, we'll loan him to the football team," joked Guthridge, who said he thought Peppers would be playing in the NFL in the future.

But for now, Peppers is a basketball player, helping Haywood and Lang

control the boards and giving the Tar Heels a chance to prolong their season.

"He brings a rebounding presence that is just amazing," said Haywood, who battles with Peppers in practice. "I sit back and watch the games on TV, and he's like 6-7 and just snatches it from everybody. It doesn't matter if you're 7-foot or 6-11, he just takes it out of your hands."

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

BASIC SELF-KNOWLEDGE
Study yourself
(910) 692-7615 Tom Grey, M.A.

WARRIORITY
967-8665 • E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill
THE WONDER BOYS PG 2:00 - 4:20
7:00 - 9:20
THE CIDER HOUSE RULES PG 4:30 - 7:00
HOLYSMOKE PG 2:10 - 9:30
www.localmovies.com

Rain Triple 967-8284
IN THE BANK OF AMERICA BUILDING/CHAPEL HILL
All Shows \$1.50 All Seats
SIXTH SENSE (PG-13)
Daily 7:10, 9:40 Sat/Sun 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R)
Daily 7:00, 9:50 Sat/Sun 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
STUART LITTLE (PG)
Daily 7:00 Sat/Sun 2:15, 4:45, 7:00
EYE OF THE BEHOLDER (R)
Daily 9:30

Contiki
The World's Biggest Travel Company For 18-35 Year Olds

changes in
changes in

europa from \$57
a day
Council Travel

137 E Franklin Street
Rear of Nations Bank Bldg
919-942-2334
www.counciltravel.com

Do the crossword online at www.unc.edu/dth

PLAZA THEATRES
Chapel Hill
967-4737 All Auditoriums Surround Stereo

FINAL DESTINATION
Daily 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10 R

WHATEVER IT TAKES
Daily 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 PG-13

ERIN BROKOVICH
Daily 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 R

THE NINTH GATE
Daily 3:35, 7:05, 9:35 R

DROWNING MONA
Daily 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15 PG-13

MOVIES AT WIMBLEDYNE
Weaver Dairy at Airport Rd. Dolby & DTS Digital Sound
933-8600 All Auditoriums Surround Stereo

MISSION TO MARS
Daily 3:00, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 PG

MY DOG SKIP
Daily 3:10, 5:10, 7:10 PG

AMERICAN BEAUTY
Daily 3:20, 7:00, 9:40 R

THE WHOLE NINE YARDS
Daily 7:30, 9:35 R

THE TIGGER MOVIE
Daily 4:00, 6:00 G

HERE ON EARTH
Daily 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15 PG-13

ROMEO MUST DIE
Daily 3:15, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00 R

\$4.50 ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6PM
SHOW TIMES FOR TODAY ONLY
Eastern Federal Theatres ♿ Equipped for the Hearing Impaired

Have You Heard the News?
The Second Biennial George Moses Horton Society
"Exploring Community and Culture in African American Poetry"
Starts this Friday at 7:00 p.m. with Keynote Speaker and Award-Winning Poet
Nikki Giovanni
(with an introduction by Houston Baker, Jr.)
ADMISSION FREE
Conference panels all day Saturday, beginning at 8:30 a.m.
and concluding with a Poetry Reading that night from 8-10 p.m.
So Check It Out!
(It will impress your friends, and give you something to do this weekend.)
All events held in the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building, 301 Pittsboro St.
For more information, contact Ms. Fiona Mills at fmills@email.unc.edu

Take Back the Night March

Community and Campus members are invited to join in an annual candlelit march around the UNC-CH campus to reclaim the night and protest sexual violence. The march will take place Thursday, March 30, 2000. All are welcome.

7:30pm - Gather in the UNC pit for music and speakers.
8:00pm - March kick off. Speak-out and refreshments to follow.

Sponsored by UNC's Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention, Domestic Violence Advocacy Project, and Carolina Women's Week (March 27-31).

For more information or directions, please contact Tina at 919-914-5465 or furies@email.unc.edu

Interested in Pharmaceutical Sales?

The average starting salary for new pharmaceutical reps is from \$40,000-\$50,000 annually plus bonus, company car, benefits, trips, etc. To find out more about how college graduates, with a variety of degrees, can get into the lucrative field of pharmaceutical sales, please visit

www.pharmhire.com

Our website details our 117-page guidebook for breaking into the industry, training seminars, PharmHire E-resume, pharmaceutical jobs listings and much more.

R_x

SPRINGTIME, WHEN A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY

URNS TO 6'7" POWER FORWARDS IN LONG SHORTS.



L lids.com

www.zhats.com
ZEPHYR
THE HAT