

DEPTH
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quit until the white team wins." Regardless of who wins in the scrimmages, those impromptu games are a big reason the Gators emerge victorious at the end of the real thing. Donovan had 10 guys ready to go and used them all, shuffling faster than a three-card monte dealer in New York City. UNC coach Bill Guthridge had six tired players and no one to relieve them. And it showed on offense. The

Gators went on a 25-9 run after Cota picked up his fourth foul. Of course, a chunk of those points came from the bench players. Once Cota picked up his fourth, he was forced to back off of Florida reserve guard Brett Nelson, who had seven points and an assist in the Gators' next five possessions to lead a 12-3 run against the Tar Heels. Nelson finished the game with 13 points, and Donnell Harvey pitched in eight. "It doesn't matter who you are or what kind of shape you're in, you just can't be in good enough shape to go

against our 10 guys with six of theirs," Miller said. "When you've got 10 guys who really want to win, and you practice competitively, it makes the games easier." The Florida bench, which has outscored opponents' reserves by an average of 11.8 points per game this year, outscored the offensively nonexistent Tar Heel backups 37-2. The lone Tar Heel bench bucket was a thunderous slam by forward Julius Peppers. "They just went on a scoring spree, and we couldn't score," Peppers said. "We didn't get good shots at all. They were getting good looks. Open looks.

Everybody was playing tentative." And while Peppers' two-handed stuff rocked the rim, it still only counted for two points. The fact that UNC didn't get nearly as much out of its reserves as Florida did proves that despite the Tar Heels' magical Final Four run, it's far easier to win when you have the type of high-quality depth Florida does. "They sustained a lot of energy for a long time," Florida point guard Teddy Dupay said. "I just think at the end, we had a little extra gas down the stretch."

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

REVELERS
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idea were quickly abandoned. Traffic was able to pass through Franklin Street without crowds or road blocks acting as impediments. However, Chapel Hill police had expected more of a fan reaction to the game and planned accordingly. Chapel Hill police Capt. Tony Oakley estimated that 20,000 to 30,000 revelers would have mobbed the street if UNC had won the game. Chapel Hill police officer Harold Horne said the police had taken measures to secure the streets. "The vehicles have been removed from the blocks to bring down vandalism," he said. "One hundred twenty-five

officers have been employed tonight." Additional officers were also recruited from the Orange County Sheriff's department, University Police and the Chapel Hill Fire Department. Phillips said Carrboro police had about 15 people stationed throughout a two-block area. Other precautions the police took included sending out reports to stores on Franklin Street advising store owners and managers to expect physical damage to their property if the Tar Heels lost the game. "The police told us to board up our windows and expect blue graffiti," said Ash Abedelhak, manager for I Love N.Y. Pizza. However, he insisted that I Love N.Y. Pizza's rapport with the students was so reputable that nothing would happen. To safeguard against the threat of van-

dalism, Hams general manager Alex Paschold said Hams had hired three bouncers for the night. None of the stores on Franklin Street suffered any damage as a result of UNC's loss, but many were able to profit from the larger than usual crowd. "We're doing business here at 400 percent more than a regular day," Abedelhak said. "We were here when UNC went to the semifinals two years ago, and we've been expecting all this rush." He said he prepared for the rush by having extra workers come in and ordering nearly twice the usual amount of ingredients. Franklin Street showed no signs of the loss Sunday morning except for boards on the windows of The Gap. Assistant Manager Paul Crockett said that although the boards were not need-

ed, they were originally put up for safety precautions. "We were hoping we'd have to put the boards up again for Monday," he said. "Unfortunately, it didn't work out that way but we're still proud of our Carolina Tar Heels." Despite the crowds on Franklin Street, many chose to watch the game at the Smith Center, where UNC had set up large-screen televisions for students. "I wanted to watch the game here just to see the atmosphere," said transfer student Cecile Barat. "I'm from France, and this is very different - we don't have anything like this."

Lisa Crist contributed to this story. The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL
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NCAA history, UNC (22-14) would have even worse memories of the 2000 Final Four.

It was Cota who drained a 3-pointer to end a 5:46 scoreless streak, ending a 16-0 Gator run, in the first half. And it was Cota who dribbled through the Florida press time and time again.

The 3-pointer sparked a Tar Heel revival that lasted through the second half. Trailing 18-3, Cota's long-range shot set off a 31-16 UNC run to end the half. Although Cota began the spurt, Brendan Haywood did most of the work.

Haywood, the focal point of UNC's offense during its four-game run to the Final Four, scored 16 points in the half. Florida's big men racked up all kinds of foul trouble trying to stop UNC's 7-foot center, and Haywood made them pay on the free-throw line when he connected on 6 of 9 attempts.

Although UNC trailed by just three at the half, the first half portended the Tar Heels' demise. UNC shot just 37 percent, and its best shooters - Joseph Forte and Jason Capel - combined for 3-of-14 shooting.

Forte, UNC's go-to guy in the regional final against Tulsa, tried to shake the ghosts of Tar Heel shooters past in the second half. Forte drained four consecutive shots to open the half, pushing UNC to a six-point lead.

But the poor shooting would return and the looming foul trouble of the first half - four Tar Heels (Cota, Capel, Forte and Haywood) had two fouls - began to haunt UNC. Forte and Capel, who both fouled out, finished the game 9-of-29 from the floor, including 4-of-14 from 3-point range. UNC shot a season-low 35 percent from the field.

With UNC's shooters limited by fouls, Florida turned its attention to defending Haywood in the post. As a result, he took just one shot and five free throws in the second half.

The foul trouble hampered UNC's ability to defend, especially Cota's on Florida's Brett Nelson. Nelson, a freshman whose game is similar to former Gator point guard and current NBA player Jason Williams, entered the tour-

Florida 71, UNC 59
Box Score

UNC		FL		UNC		FL	
pts	reb	pts	reb	pts	reb	pts	reb
Lang	3	24	0	34	13	1	3
Capel	3	4	0	2	2	5	3
Haywood	34	6	8	7	1	4	20
Cota	28	2	4	2	6	4	3
Peppers	18	1	0	1	2	0	1
Owens	8	0	0	0	0	1	0
Harvey	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brooker	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Melendez	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holmes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Evanoff	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wiley	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lichtowald	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	200	25-94	14-23	13-41	13	22	59

Percentages - FG .351, FT .609, 3-point goals - 6-22, 2/7 (Capel 1-4, Forte 1-10, Cota 1-4, Owens 0-1, Brooker 0-1, Holmes 0-1). Team rebounds - 1. Blocked shots - 9 (Haywood 3, Capel, Forte). Turnovers - 17 (Capel 5, Haywood 5, Cota 4, Forte, Lang, Peppers). Steals - 3 (Cota 2, Capel 1).

Florida (71)

UNC		FL		UNC		FL	
pts	reb	pts	reb	pts	reb	pts	reb
Weight	20	1	3	24	8	2	3
Miler	29	3	1	4	7	1	1
Haden	20	6	7	0	2	0	4
Hamilton	18	2	0	2	3	2	5
Dupay	26	1	1	2	0	2	4
Harvey	20	2	7	4	2	1	4
Borner	14	2	3	0	1	2	4
Nelson	22	5	10	1	0	4	2
Wicks	18	2	1	4	0	1	1
Parke	13	2	3	0	0	1	1
Total	200	25-94	14-23	14-43	13	23	71

Percentages - FG .351, FT .609, 3-point goals - 7-28, 2/5 (Wicks 1-4, Parke 2-3). Team rebounds - 10. Blocked shots - 2 (Hamilton 2). Turnovers - 10 (Haden 3, Dupay 2, Borner, Harvey, Hamilton, Nelson, Parke). Steals - 9 (Wicks 2, Borner, Dupay, Hamilton, Harvey, Miler, Parke, Weight). Technical fouls - UNC 2 (Forte, Peppers); Florida 1 (Parke). Attendance - 43,116. Officials: Jody Silverter, Donna Gray, John Cahill.

nament known more for his showboating style than his leadership qualities. But in Florida's run to the finals, Nelson has developed into another weapon for coach Billy Donovan's squad. In a testament to the Gators' depth, Nelson led the team with 13 points, eight coming in the rally after Cota's fourth foul. "We got a little excited," said UNC forward Kris Lang, who scored four points while nursing a sprained right ankle. "We started losing focus, and Brett Nelson started hitting some tremendous shots." The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu



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