

Versatility Helps Capel Lead UNC

North Carolina junior forward Jason Capel will be counted on for his offense, defense and court savvy this season.

By MATT TERRY
Assistant Sports Editor

Jason Capel will probably be the same Jason Capel from the past two seasons of North Carolina basketball, barring some unforeseen circumstances, of course.

He's still expected to be the same versatile forward who can handle the ball, shoot a 3-pointer if needed and contribute double-digit points game in and game out.

But one thing is different. This year, the media guide lists the junior forward from Fayetteville. Previous rosters listed Capel as a Chesapeake, Va., resident, where he lives with his family.

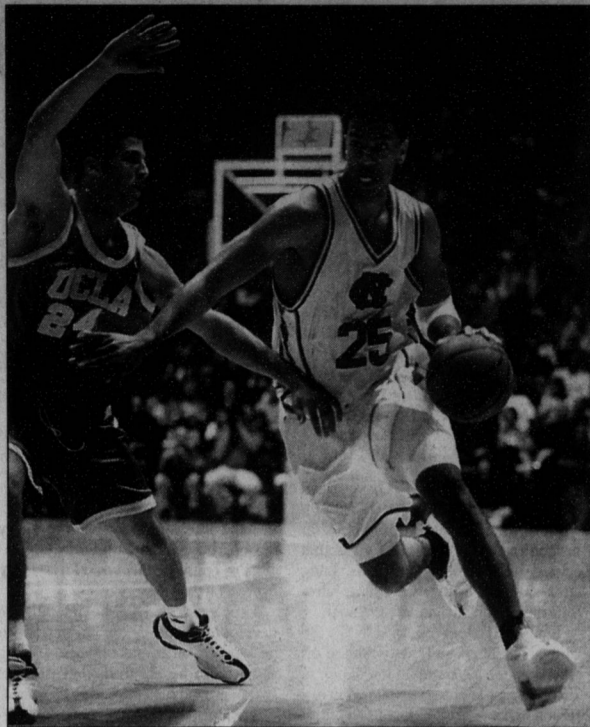
"I've been trying to tell people that since I've been here," he said. "Fayetteville is the only place that really claims me. I live in Virginia, but I only played ball there for two years, so they don't claim me."

"I was born and raised in Fayetteville. I'm proud of it. Not many people are proud to be from Fayetteville, but I am."

Wherever he's from, Capel will be helping to lead the Tar Heels to wherever they'll be going this postseason. New UNC coach Matt Doherty can count on Capel, along with senior center Brendan Haywood, to lead this experienced team through the always difficult ACC schedule and then into March.

UNC has four starters returning, but the team lacks experience at point guard. Doherty said that, in certain situations, he expects his veterans to be able to calm down and help instruct the point guard - whoever that might be.

That's where Capel comes in. The been-there, done-that junior knows what to expect after two years of college ball.



DITH/MILLER PEARSALL

Junior Jason Capel provides UNC with an all-around threat. He was second in the league in free throw shooting and 10th in rebounding last season.

"We have the best big man in the country in Brendan (Haywood), the best shooting guard in Joseph (Forte), and hopefully I can provide a lot of leadership for this team," Capel said.

"I think we'll be very good. If you look around, we don't have very many weaknesses."

The dependable Capel did just about everything for UNC last season. He averaged more than 12 points and six rebounds per game, chipped in about 2.5 assists per game and was second in the ACC in free throw percentage.

On the other end of the floor, Capel won the team award for most charges taken. He was a key element in the defense that held its NCAA tournament opponents to 36.4-percent shooting from the field.

"He's the guy that's often overlooked on our team," Haywood said. "He doesn't always have the 20 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds, but he's that heady player that every team needs."

And he has proven throughout his career that he's willing to do whatever is necessary to ensure the team's success.

If that includes handling the ball more this season in the absence of an Ed Cotacaliber point guard, then so be it.

"But I'm sure the ball is going to be in a lot of different people's hands this year," Capel said. "We've just got to get people the ball at the right times."

Capel scored more than 20 points five times last season, including a career-high 23 against UNLV. During the NCAA tournament, he was named to the All-South Region team in large part because of his defensive prowess.

But Capel would rather repeat last season's team success than improve upon or duplicate any of his personal highs.

"I think we'll be very good," he said. "I think we're going to have a great team, and we just have to play hard and play smart the whole game."

Not that he doesn't care about his performance on the floor.

"I mean, I have personal goals in my head, but I don't think it needs to be put out there like that," Capel said. "I just want to win. I want to win the ACC, the ACC Tournament, all the regions and the national championship."

Brooker Aims to Contribute

Michael Brooker returns for his senior season looking to help UNC with his outside shooting and leadership.

By IAN GORDON
Staff Writer

The 2000-01 North Carolina basketball media guide seemingly says it all.

Under each player's name is a brief synopsis of his skills along with a few fast facts. Michael Brooker's bio is no different.

But while his teammates' entries are highlighted with statistics, the page on Brooker starts with a phrase that is most telling:

Fifth-year senior whose career has been plagued by injuries.

Sure, the bio goes on to praise Brooker's outside shooting and his participation on three NCAA Final Four teams. But that first fragment is what people are reminded of when they hear Brooker's name.

It's hard not to think of his ravaged left knee, which has twice been injured in the past five years. It's equally hard not to think of what Brooker's career could have been like had he not torn his anterior cruciate ligament in May 1996 in a high school gym class - an injury that forced him to redshirt his freshman season.

But it's not the injury that Brooker thinks about when he ponders his last

four years here in Chapel Hill.

"I've been a part of some special things here," he said. "Three Final Fours, ACC championships (and I've) been around some unbelievable talent that has gone to the NBA."

Brooker, though, has been unable to cultivate the talent he had when he was recruited.

The 6-foot-6 swingman has shown brief flashes of the player the Tar Heels sought out of Brentwood Academy in Georgia, where he averaged 33.7 points and 10.5 rebounds per game his senior season. In a game against Appalachian State his sophomore year, Brooker scored a career-high 10 points on 3-of-5 shooting.

Last year, Brooker was a lone bright spot in a lopsided home loss to Michigan State. He drained two 3-pointers en route to six points for the game.

With the arrival of new coach Matt Doherty, many UNC followers assumed the Tar Heels would return to the pressing, helter-skelter defensive scheme that was the hallmark of Doherty teams during his playing days in the early 1980s. That system would call for a deep bench.



UNC swingman Michael Brooker has been a part of three Final Four teams during his Tar Heel career.

But Doherty has said he will not fully implement that strategy this year. And on a team loaded with talented wing players, Brooker said that the arrival of Doherty will not necessarily mean a new start.

"I don't think there will be any major changes," he said. "It's not like guys who started last year aren't going to be leading in those positions."

For his part, Brooker has remained realistic about his role on this year's Tar Heel squad. He realizes his most important contribution to this year's team may not even be seen in the box score.

Rather, it may be felt on the practice floor and in the locker room.

"It means a lot," Brooker said of being a senior. "It means younger guys can look up to me because I've been here awhile and ask me any questions and feel confident that I'll know the answer and be able to help them out if they need to be shown the ropes."

Of course, Brooker hopes to be more to UNC than just a fountain of knowledge. His 3-point shooting will continue to get him into games and allow him that chance to have that one big game.

Even if that game doesn't come, Brooker said he has no regrets about deciding to come to Chapel Hill.

"I feel like I'm a much better player than when I came here, although I haven't gotten a lot of time on the court," he said. "But I feel like it was a good decision for me lifewise, if not necessarily in basketball."

Everett's Goal: Taking Care of Business

By ADAM D. HILL
Staff Writer

Most of the players on the North Carolina basketball squad will look to the NBA, CBA, or, perhaps, to coaching for post-graduate employment.

Jim Everett, a senior forward, has different ambitions.

He'll be strolling down Wall Street after leaving UNC, working as an analyst with Lehman Brothers.

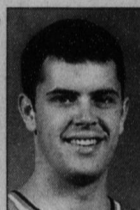
"I just accepted a job. I interned this summer with Lehman Brothers in New York," Everett said. "I did equity sales and trading with them, and they offered me a job a week after the summer ended. I accepted the job, so it's all out of the way, which I'm very happy about."

While Everett has always enjoyed

intellectual success - he was a National Merit Scholar in high school - achieving success on the hardwood has been a bit tougher.

The Minnesota native didn't make his high school varsity basketball team until his senior year and spent two years on the UNC junior varsity squad before making the varsity unit last year.

"Jim Everett has gone through every conditional drill that we've had," UNC



Senior forward Jim Everett is back for his second season on the varsity after appearing in 15 games last year.

coach Matt Doherty said. "Everett has done everything we've asked him to do. He's in great shape, and he's a great kid."

Everett played in 15 games last season, including the NCAA semifinal game against Florida.

The senior's best game came against Buffalo last December, when he posted four points and grabbed three rebounds.

"I learned a lot of fundamentals here, how to play the game," Everett said. "It's like a dream come true just to be out here."

"I can't jump. I'm not going to power in a dunk on somebody. But I'll power around and push people down."

If Everett can make that claim next year this time, after having a couple months of Wall Street under his belt, he'll be doing well.

You've been waiting since April...
and now it's finally here.

Carolina basketball

Don't miss your chance to cheer on the Tar Heels.

NABC Classic

November 10 7:30 pm (UNC vs. Winthrop)
9:45 pm (Arizona State vs. Tulsa)
November 11 6 pm (Consolation)
8:30 pm (Championship)

Smith Center

Students - \$10.00 for 4 games or \$5.00 a night
General Public - \$60.00 for 4 games or \$30.00 a night

Carmichael Double-Header

November 21

6:30 pm - UNC Women vs. NC A&T
9 pm - UNC Men vs. EA California All-Stars

Carmichael Auditorium

General Public - \$5.00 (\$3.00 for seniors and students age 13 - college)
All seating is general admission

Mini-Season Tickets

\$194.00

Nov. 10-11 NABC Classic
Dec. 4 7 pm vs. Miami (FL)
Dec. 17 1:30 pm vs. Buffalo
Jan. 6 9 pm vs. Wake Forest
Jan. 13 1 pm vs. Marquette University
Feb. 22 8 pm vs. Florida State

To order tickets call the UNC Ticket Office at 1-800-722-HEEL (4335)
Monday-Friday, 8-5 pm Visa, MasterCard

BLUE SKIES CLOTHIERS

SALE

ALL FLEECE & JACKETS 20% Off From

Columbia
Woolrich
Rusty
Quiksilver
O'Neill

Sunglasses from
Oakley
Dragon
Arnette
Anarchy
Quiksilver

Shoes from
Dr. Marten's
Birkenstock
Gravis

115 E. Franklin St. • 960-7277