

N.C. Rubella Rate Tops Nation

By RACHEL NYDEN
Staff Writer

North Carolina led the nation last year in reported cases of rubella, a measles-like virus that can result in birth defects like blindness if a pregnant woman is infected. North Carolina had 82 of the 152 cases of rubella reported nationwide, with 19 of the state's 100 counties reporting infections.

Forsyth County reported the most infections with 19, followed by Alamance County with 15, Wake County with 10 and Orange County with nine.

Sheree Smith, a spokeswoman for the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, said the state's high infection rate is due to the policy on reporting diseases. "The reason that North Carolina identified so many cases of rubella is because of enhanced surveillance the local health department does to identify cases," Smith said.

Judy Butler, Orange County Health Department community services coordinator, said the number of rubella infections was due in part to the county's

large Latino population. "Many Latinos have not been immunized because it is not regularly done (in their home countries)," Butler said. "The vaccine has not been readily available to them."

Rubella is uncommon in the United States because of the effectiveness of the measles, mumps and rubella shot administered to infants born in the United States prior to their first birthday and again before children enter kindergarten.

Smith said it is important to immunize people because the disease poses a high risk to pregnant women. "If a pregnant woman contracts rubella in her first trimester, there is a 90 percent chance the child will be born with birth defects," she said. "(The defects might include) cataracts or blindness, deafness, heart defects or any major organ defects."

Becky Garner, Alamance County Health Department nursing director,

echoed Smith's concerns, saying Alamance County officials administered more than 3,000 vaccines last summer.

"We worked very hard this summer to find persons that needed to be vaccinated," Garner said. "We went into the work place, the church - areas where a lot of people might congregate."

Butler said it only takes one infected person in a community to bring in the disease and infect several people.

She said the Orange County Health Department has given more than 1,000 vaccines to try to limit infections.

But she said despite the high numbers, rubella outbreaks are fairly localized. "Of the cases that we had, they only involved four households," Butler said. "All of our cases were isolated."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Campus Calendar

Today

5 p.m. - The Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship for students will meet in Union 208 for discussion and worship.

8 p.m. - The Carolina Production Guild meeting will be held in Swain Hall Studio 2.

The meeting is open to anyone inter-

ested in film production. No experience is necessary. For more information, contact cpfilms@hotmail.com.

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SCOUT

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said there is one other alternative it could choose. "The other (option) is to ask these troops to get a different sponsor and then allow the Boy Scouts to use the school facilities on the same basis as any other community group over which we have no control," he said.

But Carter said she does not expect the Boy Scout issue to be a hot topic at

the meeting. She said the issue of school overcrowding, particularly at McDougle Elementary, will probably draw more community members.

Gallagher said his troop has begun looking for alternate meeting places in case they can no longer use the schools for free. "Our preference clearly would be to stay where we are," he said. "But the Scout Motto is 'Be Prepared.'"

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

LABOR

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closely follow the FLA, the WRC and UNC's involvement with them. "We're in a critical stage," he said. "UNC's code will start to be implemented and differences are going to be made in workers' lives."

This week and next, UNC will be meeting with FLA officials and with the organization's board on Jan. 23. A

WRC meeting will take place in February, and the Labor Advisory Committee will meet on Jan. 17.

For now, Tufts said it's a wait-and-see situation. "We're betting on two horses and we don't know which will win the race. If we have a big enough cart to pull, it might be necessary to have two horses pull it."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

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that," said Forte, who finished with 26 points. "Sometimes - I'm able to."

Forte seemed like an unlikely candidate in the first half for hero of the game. He went to the locker room with six points.

But he and his fellow perimeter players came out gunning in the second half - thanks to help from UNC's post players.

The Terrapins collapsed down low on Brendan Haywood and Kris Lang, who were more than willing to kick the ball out for open shots. Jason Capel knocked down a pair of 3-pointers, and Ronald Curry also connected from long range as the Tar Heels exploded with a 22-6 run to open the second half.

Paced by three triples each from Capel, Curry and Forte, UNC hit 10-of-16 3-pointers in the contest.

"Coach stressed to get the ball inside, and then we'll get all the shots we want from the perimeter," Haywood said. "And tonight, it's almost like they disre-

spected Ron and some of our other wing players. They made them pay."

Despite calling three timeouts in the first eight minutes of the second half, Maryland (11-4, 2-1 in the ACC) could come up with no answers. The Terrapins, 4-for-19 to open the half, couldn't knock down shots even though most of them were open.

They also got out-hustled, something unheard of from a Gary Williams-coached team. On one trip down the floor early in the second half, UNC scored twice, drew two fouls and grabbed six offensive rebounds.

"We came out in the first 10 minutes and lacked the same defensive intensity we had in the first half," Williams said.

The Tar Heels had something to do with that. UNC didn't give in to Maryland's pressure, turning the ball over just 15 times. Few of those miscues came against the press, meaning that the Terps had to work for their points on offense.

The sellout crowd of 14,500 never could get energized for long because UNC outscored Maryland 20-13 on fast-

FINANCE

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against other agencies and having no experience handling college teams.

The Graingers and university officials have said the travel agency obtained the school's business fairly. Frank Grainger said he told the BOG and its former chairman when his wife started working with the school.

Edward Broadwell, chairman of the BOG Committee on University Governance, said the Grainger story that appeared in The News & Observer was one of the contributing factors to examining a change in board policy. "(That story) probably precipitated that we examine our policy," Broadwell said.

He also said that while it is nothing new for the BOG to look at revising its policy, it is crucial for the board to meet certain guidelines. "It's very important to all of us that the board maintain a perception and a certain level of integrity."

break points.

"If you look at Maryland, what gets them going and gets the crowd hyped is when you turn the ball over and they start getting layups and 3s," Haywood said. "The crowd starts jumping up and down, and the place starts going crazy. But if you take that offense away from them, sometimes they might struggle. Tonight was one of those nights."

Maryland's three-headed monster of Juan Dixon, Terence Morris and Lonny Baxter did some damage, but the rest of the team shot 9-for-34 from the field.

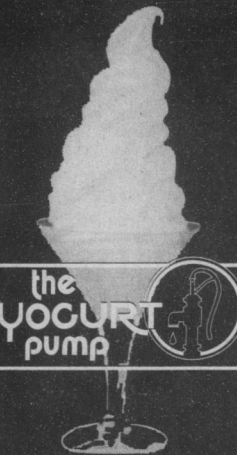
The Terrapins, big three included, were 6-for-20 from 3-point range and shot just 31.7 percent in the second half.

Those factors made UNC's 19-point lead just big enough to get the job done. "It was almost too much too soon," UNC coach Matt Doherty said. "You look at the clock, and it's not running. Fortunately, we ran out of time."

Score one more for the tortoise.

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

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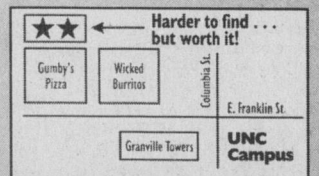


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