

Boone Excels as Reserve

Adam Boone stepped in at point guard after Ronald Curry fouled out with 5:59 left in the game Saturday.

By WILL KIMMEY
Senior Writer

Freshman point guard Adam Boone became the 16th North Carolina basketball player to start his first game for the Tar Heels.

Then after seven games, Ronald Curry returned to the court from the football field, pushing Boone into the role of backup.

And lately, Boone has been excelling in that role.

"When I go in for Ronald, I expect out of myself to keep things at the same level if we were playing well," Boone said. "And if we're a little stagnant, to elevate things."

So when Curry fouled out of Saturday's win against Georgia Tech with 5:59 remaining, UNC coach Matt Doherty calmly sent Boone in to face the trapping Yellow Jacket defense.

And Boone produced. He reached career-highs with 10 points and five rebounds, handed out two assists and hit a crucial jumper as the shot clock expired.

"He did a great job," UNC forward Jason Capel said. "He kept his composure, played smart, knocked in some shots and he's a great defender. There really wasn't a letdown when he got in the game."

The same was true in UNC's victory

against Duke last Thursday. Boone played 15 solid minutes while Curry struggled through foul trouble and a bruised thigh. Boone didn't score, but he didn't throw the game away either. He handed out three assists and had just two turnovers against the Duke pressure.

"It opened a lot of people's eyes where we have more than one point guard, where the team doesn't change, where we can get the job done if I'm not in the game," Curry said.

Sixth Man

Here's to starting the campaign for Julius Peppers as sixth man of the year.

Boone put Peppers' name in the running after the forward produced 14 points and four rebounds Saturday against Georgia Tech.

"Julius is a big force on our team," Boone said. "To come off the bench with a guy like Julius Peppers - he's definitely one of the best, if not the best guy off the bench in the country."

Peppers has averaged 6.7 points and 4.2 rebounds since joining the team on Dec. 23. The 6-foot-6, 270-pounder also provides plenty of muscle down low.

Peppers and Georgia Tech forward



Point guard Adam Boone scored a career-high 10 points and grabbed five boards in UNC's victory.

Michael Isenhour got tangled up under the rim at one point, and Isenhour drew a technical foul for throwing an elbow.

"I was just trying to get my arm back," said the 6-8, 248-pound Isenhour. "He just pushes on you and pushes on you and pushes on you. He's so strong."

Doherty hopes to have Peppers, who thought about leaving school for the NFL in January, on his roster again next season. After Peppers threw down one of his now-patented jams against Georgia Tech, Doherty leaned over to Curry for help.

"I said, 'Ronald, he better play basketball next year,'" Doherty said. "Ronald kind of shrugged his shoulders."

"Like Ronald, he seems to feel more comfortable each and every game."

'A Real Rebounding Guard'

Everyone knows sophomore Joseph Forte can fill it up. He's scoring nearly 23 points per game, and hit for that many Saturday against Georgia Tech.

But it's actually his rebounding that's been getting a bit more notice lately.

Forte pulled down 16 boards, the most ever for a UNC guard, Thursday against Duke and followed that up with nine more in Saturday's win.

"We've played two teams that take a lot of 3s," Doherty said. "When there's long shots, there's long rebounds and you have to go after the ball. And he's built for that type of thing. He's quick, he's strong, he has quick hands and a nose for the basketball. He's a real rebounding guard."

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

THE LOWDOWN ON TONIGHT'S GAME

F KRIS LANG, 6-11 Averages 13.2 points and 6.4 boards; shoots .563 on FG (third in ACC).	F JASON CAPEL, 6-8 Has made a 3-pointer in 19 of 21 games; has hit 26 of last 30 FT.
G JOSEPH FORTE, 6-4 Shot 1-for-10 on field goals and had four turnovers at Wake last season.	G RONALD CURRY, 6-2 Played only 12 minutes against Georgia Tech because of foul trouble.
G BRODERICK HICKS, 6-1 Junior scored double figures in four of last five games; did so in two of previous 43.	G CRAIG DAWSON, 6-5 Junior averages 12.9 points; leads team in 3-point FG (43) and accuracy (.394).
F JOSH HOWARD, 6-6 Sophomore slasher leads Wake Forest in scoring (13.9 ppg) and steals (1.9 spg).	F DARIUS SONGAILA, 6-9 Junior is only Deac to start all 21 games; averages 13.5 points and 6.6 rebounds.
C JOSH SHOEMAKER, 6-9 Senior averages 6.5 points; leads squad in FG shooting (.545) and rebounding (8.0 rpg).	

Game: No. 1 UNC at No. 19 Wake Forest
Time: 9:05 p.m.

Location: Joel Coliseum, Winston-Salem
Radio: WXII-830 AM

Television: Raycom/Jefferson Pilot

Series Record: UNC leads 145-57.

Keys for UNC: It's a broken record. Offensively, the Tar Heels need to get the ball inside first and then shoot from the perimeter if Wake collapses. Defensively, keeping Dawson from getting open looks and stopping Howard from driving should be top priorities.

Keys for Wake Forest: The Demon Deacons must shoot better. Wake is hitting 43.6 percent from the field in its last 10 games, down from 51.4 percent in its first 11. Songaila, who has fouled out five times this season, must keep himself on the floor.

UNC Bench: PF Julius Peppers gets better and better. He's coming off a career-high-tying 14 points against Georgia Tech on Saturday. PG Adam Boone posted career highs of 10 points and 28 minutes in that game.

Wake Forest Bench: The Deacons are deep. Wake's bench has outscored the opposition's reserves in 20 of 21 games and has tallied at least 20 points 19 times. G Robert O'Kelley (11.9 ppg) is always dangerous.

Final Analysis: UNC is on a roll, and the Deacs have been struggling. But Wake is still one of the nation's best teams, and tonight is a good time to show it.

Prediction: Wake Forest 74, UNC 71.

Compiled by T. Nolan Hayes

Ill Tar Heels Dominate Play

By KELLY LUSK
Assistant Sports Editor

There was no way Campbell could pull off a win at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center on Monday night.

But the Camels' second seed, Juan Osorio, refused to give up.

Osorio faced off against North Carolina senior David

Cheatwood in singles play.

The outcome of the dual

match, a 6-1 UNC victory, was decided long before the two stopped playing.

"I want to give everything I can to the court," Osorio said. "In the third set I was tired, but I could see that he was tired too, so I pushed and tried to get him more tired than me."

Even with Osorio's perseverance in his three-set victory, two injuries and a lineup shift after doubles play made it difficult for

Campbell to present even a flu-ridden UNC (2-0) with much of a challenge.

"I was a little worried coming into the match because we're battling the flu," coach Sam Paul said. "Four of our players have the flu. We're not well."

Paul had no need to worry.

Campbell lost Sasa Ljubic during the top-seeded doubles match against freshman Nick Monroe and junior Marcio Petrone. Ljubic aggravated a back injury and finished the game, but did not make an appearance at his normal No. 3 slot during singles.

Hence, the Camel lineup change. Players shifted up a seed, and without their No. 5 player Loic Legoff healthy either, the Campbell lineup left something to be desired.

The sick Tar Heels claimed victory in all their doubles matches and five out of six singles bouts.

Fifth-seed Chad Riley hacked his way to a 6-2, 6-3 victory. The rest of UNC joined him in straight-set singles wins.

Except for the match that wouldn't end. Cheatwood's strong serve and fast shots couldn't stifle Osorio's endurance. Every skilled shot Cheatwood made, Osorio rallied. He ran relentlessly all over the court returning shots that Cheatwood never expected to come back over the net.

In the end, Osorio's endless energy won the match 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.

"I just didn't have that much energy from the start, and it just got worse," Cheatwood said. "He just got more balls back. I had the bigger game, but I got tired and started making quick errors, trying to end the point early."

Despite UNC's dominance over the rest of the field, the win was not taken for granted.

"When we play a team like this we can work on a lot of things," Monroe said. "It will help us in the next match."

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Sutton Takes Advantage of Height

By ADAM D. HILL
Staff Writer

Candace Sutton has been a consistent producer for the North Carolina women's basketball team this year.

Coming into the Tar Heels' contest with Wake Forest, Sutton was averaging 8.3 points and 4.9 rebounds per game.

Sunday, the freshman traded stability for prominence.

Producing on both ends of the court, Sutton posted her first career double-double, tallying 18 points and 11 rebounds.

This game was Sutton's fifth straight in which she scored in double figures, and her 11 rebounds established a career high.

"Candace is playing with a lot of confidence," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "We haven't had a freshman step up that way since Marion Jones did."

Sutton not only stepped up her game, but did so at crucial junctures. Late in the game when WFU was closing in, Sutton's size and offensive prowess took over.

After Wake's Brenda Mock Kirkpatrick hit a jumper to close the score to 57-55

with 6:20 remaining, Sutton promptly nailed both free throws, spurring an 11-2 run that sealed the game for the Tar Heels.

The two free throws were part of a 4-of-7 performance from the line. From the field, Sutton hit on seven of 13 shots, scoring nine points in each half.

Sutton, while not making one of her own, contributed greatly to UNC's barrage of 3-pointers. The Tar Heels were 9-21 (42.9 percent) from behind the arc.

"When people have to move down and play her it opens up our other players," Hatchell said. "We'd draw in the defense and kick it out for that open shot."

The Deacons simply could not match up size-wise with the 6-foot-6 Sutton.

WFU's starting lineup had no one taller than 6-1, and Wake's two tallest bodies - 6-4 LaTisha Pearson and 6-5 Johanna Bjorklund - never stepped on the court.

"It is kind of hard for people to match up with her," Juana Brown said. "There aren't many 6-6 girls in the league. And especially today, they were playing a girl (Olivia Dardy) on her who was 6-1."

Thus, Sutton nearly had free range

down low.

"Candace has greatly improved," WFU coach Charlene Curtis said. "She has given them a true low-post presence and helped their shooters shoot better."

"They are a much improved team and she has a lot to do with it."

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