

Dawson's Huge Night Not Enough for Deacons

Wake Forest's Craig Dawson kept his team competitive with the Tar Heels early on but faded down the stretch.

By T. NOLAN HAYES
Senior Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — Wake Forest guard Craig Dawson has a little extra incentive to perform every time he plays against North Carolina.

For one, Dawson wasn't recruited by UNC, the school his uncle and NBA standout Jerry Stackhouse attended.

But Dawson also has other ties to the Tar Heels.

He played AAU basketball with UNC's Brendan Haywood, Kris Lang and Julius Peppers on the Carolina Warriors.

Dawson almost gunned down his friends in baby blue Wednesday night, scoring a game-high 29 points as the Demon Deacons fell to the Tar Heels 80-74.

"I have a lot of friends who play for Carolina, so there's a bit of a rivalry," said Dawson, who set a career high with his 29 points.

"When the ball goes up, we're not friends anymore until that final buzzer sounds."

Dawson, who began the season as Wake's sixth man, earned a spot in the starting lineup for the fifth consecutive game in front of senior guard Robert O'Kelly.

By the end of the first half, he had firmly established himself as the Demon Deacons go-to guy against the Tar Heels.

He went to the locker room with 15 points on 7-of-11 shooting.

Dawson picked up in the second half where he left off. He scored from all over the court — except from behind the arc. He had his mid-range jump shot going but finished just 1-for-7 from downtown.

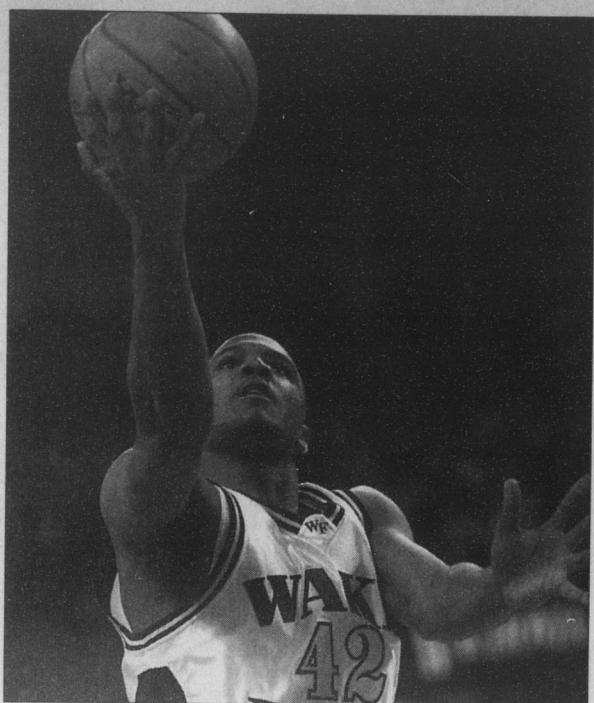
"I just felt really good tonight, and my teammates did a great job of getting me the ball," said Dawson, who made 13 of his 19 2-point attempts.

"The 3s weren't falling, so I tried to take it inside and get some easy baskets that way."

The man responsible for stopping Dawson much of the night was Joseph Forte. But Dawson used his 6-foot-5, 205-pound frame to help him get looks against Forte, who is listed at 192 pounds.

Twice in the second half Dawson rebounded his own missed shot and scored. With those garbage baskets combined with layups and assorted jump shots, Dawson got his points in an efficient manner.

So efficient, in fact, that his buddy Lang had no idea he had done so well.



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Wake Forest's Craig Dawson goes up for a lay-in against North Carolina. Dawson finished with 29 points on 14-of-26 shooting.

"I didn't know he had that many points," Lang said. "But on our AAU team, Craig Dawson could take over games for us. He's just a great player, and tonight he was feeling it."

"He's such a great player that even if you have a hand in his face, you can't stop him all the time."

But the Tar Heels finally found a way to slow Dawson down. Dawson scored just four points in the game's final nine minutes.

Forte locked down on him, and Wake had nowhere else to go. One man had carried Wake offensively to a five-point lead with eight minutes remaining, but no one else was involved.

"That's not something I want to get into night in and night out, and that's not something he wants either," Wake Forest coach Dave Odom said. "That's a tough way to win games night in and night out."

It didn't work for Dawson and the Deacs on Tuesday.

That means Dawson will spend today, his 21st birthday, with a smaller smile on his face than he might have had.

"I was excited to come out here and play tonight," Dawson said. "But I would have been happier with the win."

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

UNC 80, Wake Forest 74

UNC	38	42	80
Wake Forest	37	37	74

UNC (80)	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Forte	37	7-17	8-8	0-0	3	1	24
Lang	22	6-9	1-1	2-3	0	2	13
Haywood	34	5-7	3-7	2-4	6	3	13
Curry	33	7-3	0-0	1-5	5	0	6
Capel	31	3-6	5-7	1-10	5	3	13
Morrison	4	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	3
Owens	11	1-3	0-0	0-0	1	1	2
Boone	7	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Peppers	16	3-3	0-0	3-5	0	3	4
Total	200	28-52	15-21	9-26	21	16	80

Percentages — FG 53.8, FT 71.4
3-point goals — 9-20 45.0 (Forte 4-8, Curry 2-3, Capel 2-4, Morrison 1-1, Owens 0-2, Boone 0-1)
Team rebounds — 1
Blocked shots — 6 (Haywood 4, Peppers, Capel)
Turnovers — 20 (Capel 4, Forte 4, Haywood 4, Curry 3, Lang 3, Boone 2)
Steals — 10 (Forte 5, Capel, Curry, Haywood, Lang, Peppers)

Wake (74)	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Howard	33	6-16	7-7	9-12	1	4	20
Songala	21	2-10	1-1	0-2	1	2	5
Shoemaker	18	3-3	0-1	3-6	2	4	6
Hicks	9	0-3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Dawson	33	14-26	0-0	2-3	1	2	25
O'Kelly	21	2-6	0-0	0-1	2	3	4
Murray	24	2-3	2-2	1-3	5	0	6
Scott	7	0-4	0-0	1-2	0	0	0
Vidaurieta	24	5-2	2-3	3-5	0	3	4
Total	200	30-76	12-14	18-34	13	16	74

Percentages — FG 40.0, FT 85.7
3-point goals — 2-13 15.4 (Howard 1-2, Dawson 1-7, O'Kelly 0-1)
Team rebounds — 4
Blocked shots — 3 (Howard, Songala, Scott)
Turnovers — 12 (Howard 4, Songala 3, Dawson, Hicks, Murray, Scott)
Steals — 12 (Howard 4, Songala 3, Dawson, Hicks, Murray, O'Kelly, Shoemaker, Vidaurieta)

Technical fouls — None Attendance — 14,407

Wrestling Pummels Blue Devils

UNC lost only one match and recorded two pins while maintaining its perfect record in the ACC.

By JAMES GIZA
Assistant Sports Editor

DURHAM — Corey Bell admitted he was a little apprehensive about traveling to Duke on Tuesday after North Carolina's basketball win last week.

His fears appeared to be confirmed when he and the rest of the UNC wrestling team approached the doors of Cameron Indoor Stadium and a group of Duke students blocked the way.

"Nobody would let us in the door or nothing," Bell said. "They were yelling at us, 'What are y'all doing?' 'We're just trying to get in.' I didn't know what was going on. I just wanted to get out of here. I was like, 'I hope nobody comes, I don't want no shooting.' But it worked out."

The Duke fans were noticeably more sedate inside the stadium as UNC rolled to a 35-3 victory. Three of them sat in the stands doing organic chemistry problems, which easily provided them more excitement than watching their home team as the Tar Heels (6-4 in dual meets, 3-0 in the ACC) dominated the match from the opening whistle.

North Carolina led 12-3 when back-to-back victories from heavyweight Matt Kenny and 125-pounder Chris Collins ripped open the scoring.

Kenny completely abused Duke's Levi Karnehm from the bout's outset, bullying his way to a win by technical

fall in the second period.

Within 30 seconds of the start of the match, Kenny led 5-0 after a takedown and a near fall. Another near fall and two takedowns later, he carried an 11-2 advantage heading into the second round.

Fifteen seconds into the second period, Kenny picked Karnehm up off the floor and slammed him on his back, scoring a two-point near fall.

A pair of three-point near falls soon followed, earning Kenny a 19-2 win with 56 seconds left in the period.

"I wanted to work on my technique more than anything," Kenny said. "And a main point was, endurance-wise, just taking it to him. That's why I let him up a couple times — just to keep the pressure on him, and it paid off."

Kenny's win gave the Tar Heels a 17-3 advantage, and Collins strode onto the mat to square off with the Blue Devils' Tommy Hoang.

Collins worked his way to a 2-1 lead, and with 1:52 left in the second period, he pinned Hoang with a lightning-quick move he said he had been practicing since the Tar Heels' meet against Virginia on Saturday.

"The guy stood up on all fours, and I just cradled and rolled him through," Collins said. "It was kind of ironic how we went over it in practice, and it came today. The guy was supposedly supposed to beat me, so I got excited about



UNC senior wrestler Corey Bell overcame his fears to defeat Duke's Frank Cornely 6-3 at 174 pounds.

that." UNC's Jason Wilson, filling in for the injured Jake Reynolds in the 165-pound slot, got out of a bind late in his match and took a 6-5 decision against Tim Marcantorio.

JohnMark Bentley, ranked No. 7 in the nation at 149 pounds, capped the evening by pinning Andy Soliman with one second left in the second period.

The lone blemish for the Tar Heels on the day was a loss by sophomore Nick Richmond.

The 184-pounder, who has been mired by a shoulder injury, competed Tuesday but clearly was not at full strength during his 6-3 loss to Duke's Thomas Cass.

With challenging matches approaching against Navy (Feb. 10), Maryland (Feb. 11) and N.C. State (Feb. 15), the Tar Heels will need Richmond pain-free.

UNC coach Bill Lam said he expects each of those meets to be decided by one match. He said Richmond's status would be clear by the time practice begins today after he is examined by doctors.

"I'm real concerned about Nick's shoulder," Lam said. "I hope that we'll have him because we can't beat those three teams without him."

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

WRESTLING UNC 35, Duke 3

167: DiGiuseppe (UNC) def. Sheidan 8-1
166: Wilson (UNC) def. Marcantorio 7-5
174: Bell (UNC) def. Cornely 6-3
184: Cass (Duke) def. Richmond 12-6
197: Odom (UNC) def. Smith 5-4
Wet: Kenny (UNC) def. Karnehm 19-2 (major)
125: Collins (UNC) pinned Hoang 3:09
138: Byers (UNC) def. Mankin 11-4. 149: Booth (UNC) def. Clarke 3-1. 149: Bentley (UNC) pinned Soliman 2:59.

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