

Trail of Tears: Tar Heels Drop 4th Straight

Hard Work Not Enough To Earn UNC Road Win

By Rachel Carter
Senior Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Delvon Arrington raised his arms and screamed at the Florida State fans after teammate Monte Cummings' layup put the score at Florida State 81, North Carolina 71.

Not 50 feet from Arrington's celebration sat the North Carolina bench. There were no shouts. There was no need.

The agony of dropping to 5-9, losing the fourth straight conference game, dropping yet another game on the road, didn't need a loud outburst to make itself known.

The quiet unhappiness of the Tar Heels was evident without a display. And with the long road ahead, including Connecticut, N.C. State and Duke in the next two weeks, it begs the question: Where do the Tar Heels go from here?

"We're working hard," said guard Brian Morrison. "Sooner or later, when we play like this, everything's going to go our way."

UNC played Wednesday without leading scorer and rebounder Jason Capel, who remained in Chapel Hill after getting a concussion diving after a ball in practice Tuesday. Without Capel, UNC was out-rebounded 41-27.

"Jason wasn't here, but there's no asterisk next to this loss," Doherty said. "We missed Jason, but we didn't lose the game because of Jason."

Doherty blamed the defense for UNC's early deficit. Against Virginia, North Carolina clung to the Cavs on the zone, but the Seminoles built a comfortable lead by attacking it.

Once UNC switched to a man defense, the energy it had against UVA surfaced again, and the team cut into FSU's lead.

"For our team to be successful is to play with that energy level and emotion," said guard Adam Boone. "We just have to count on the fact that other things will come."

Those things — fewer turnovers, better shot selection, cooler heads — will get a chance to be worked out again when the Tar Heels start preparing for UConn.

Doherty said he doesn't think his team will quit on him.

"I like the look of our guys," he said. "They believed we were going to win this game, and I don't think there will be a problem bringing energy to practice."

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

UNC erased an early 18-point deficit against FSU but fell victim to poor shot selection down the stretch Wednesday.

By Rachel Carter
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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Brian Morrison used the inside of his shorts to wipe away the blood running down his shin. The North Carolina guard then pulled his shorts down to cover the wound on his knee and continued on to try and snap the Tar Heels' three-game losing streak.

But Morrison's and North Carolina's wounds continued to bleed as Florida State topped the Tar Heels 81-71 at Leon County Civic Center in front of 7,523 on Wednesday night.

Morrison collided with Trevor Harvey with less than a minute left when both dove after a loose ball at halfcourt. Morrison went to the free-throw line and hit both shots to pull UNC within four.

With 46 seconds remaining, Morrison made a layup, scoring UNC's last points of the night. Then the Tar Heels' old enemies, bad shot selection and turnovers, showed up, and North Carolina (5-9, 1-4 in the ACC), playing without Jason Capel, picked up its fourth straight loss.

"We're in a hole," said UNC coach

Matt Doherty. "We're in a big hole, no question. But we're not going to quit."

Doherty's decision to employ a zone defense backfired when UNC played without the energy that kept the game close against Virginia on Saturday. With 8:50 left in the first, Florida State (9-6, 2-2) had a 28-10 lead.



UNC center Kris Lang notched 23 points and eight rebounds in a losing effort at Florida State.

"Given our track record, I would have played the zone too," said FSU coach Steve Robinson. "It just so happens that I really felt that we have become a better zone-attack team."

But by the half, UNC had pulled within nine of the Seminoles.

A Jawad Williams jumper tied the game at 45 five minutes into the second half, and Adam Boone gave the Tar Heels their only lead of the night on a 3-pointer with 10:11 left in the game.

Unfortunately for UNC, it lead lasted exactly 15 seconds. Michael Joiner sank two free throws to give the 'Noles a 51-50 lead after being fouled by Will Johnson.

FSU then went on a 10-3 run, but the Tar Heels battled back. UNC focused its effort to retake the lead on its outside game. This limited the touches of Kris Lang, who led all scorers with 23.

Doherty said, "We definitely want to go inside, too, but when you're down six with 1:20 to go and you know you can get a 3 and Brian's a good shooter — that

could really hurt them."

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