

# Volleyball Aims for Better Banner

By Ben Couch  
Staff Writer

In the history of its program, the North Carolina volleyball team has never gotten past the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

This year, UNC expects that to change.

"This year's squad is better. That's the bottom line," said outside hitter Malaika Underwood. "We have a good seed, which helps us out, and the seniors are really motivated. So those three things together, we have a great opportunity to do something special."

The statistics back her up. No. 14 North Carolina's winning percentage of .909 is the highest in school history. UNC (30-3) has hovered between 11 and 15 in the polls for most of this season. The previous high for an ACC team was 13, set by Clemson in 1999.

Outside hitter Laura Greene, voted the ACC player of the year, is the first Tar Heel to record 1,500 digs and 1,500 kills in her career. She was named to the all-ACC first team, along with setter Eve Rackham, who is second in career assists. Sophomore Molly Pyles was named to the all-ACC second team.

However, all of the individual and team accolades could not prevent the Tar Heels from losing to Florida State in the second round of the ACC Tournament two weekends ago.

But after a tune-up 3-1 victory against Marquette on Friday, UNC is refocused on one goal - winning an NCAA title.

"Just because we lost ACCs doesn't mean we can't go far in the tournament," Underwood said. "To tell you the truth, having a NCAA banner is way more prestigious than having an ACC championship banner. We like our seed, and we think that we have a good chance of getting a banner up there."

UNC is seeded third in the central region of the bracket and 11th overall. When tournament play begins on Thursday, the first obstacle in North Carolina's way is Winthrop (28-10), winner of the Big South conference cham-



Senior outside hitter Malaika Underwood has averaged 2.43 kills and 3.06 digs per game this year.

ampionship. "We're looking at a team that won their conference, so their feeling positive, they're successful, they're a winning team," said UNC coach Joe Sagula. "Any team you play is coming here with a winning season, and they're going to be dangerous."

Sagula said that his team has been watching tape of the Eagles and is wary of Winthrop's outside hitters, Mary Hock and Jennifer Pritchard, who have very contrasting styles.

Controlling the outside hitters and also the tempo will be key for the Tar Heels. It is something that they could not do in their loss to the Seminoles, when Florida State's Erica Bunch and Kristin Frye dictated the pace of the game. As a result, the Seminoles broke down UNC's typically strong defense.

The team believes that a repeat performance is not in the cards. "We expect to win," Greene said. "We don't expect to go home in the first round the way we have since I've been here. I think that's a huge change in the mindset of the program."

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

# Elder Illinois Takes Over Against UNC in 2nd Half

Staff Report

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Illinois seniors Brian Cook and Sean Harrington were too much for North Carolina's talented freshmen.

Cook scored 22 points and Harrington had a career-high 20 as the 25th-ranked Illini ran past No. 12 North Carolina in the final eight minutes Tuesday night and beat the Tar Heels 92-65 in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

Illinois (4-0) led 64-57 with 7:42 left and then took off, outscoring the Tar Heels 28-8 while sending UNC (5-1) to its first loss. North Carolina was coming off a championship in the Preseason NIT after defeating then-No. 2 Kansas in the semifinal game and Stanford in the final.

In a game featuring talented first-year players - North Carolina started three freshmen and Illinois two - the Illini's experience made the difference down the stretch.

Harrington shot 7 of 9 from the field, including 6 of 8 from the 3-point line, to give the Illini the boost they needed.

Cook was 8-of-12 from the field and had eight rebounds and added five assists.

Freshman Sean May led North Carolina with 21 points, sophomore Jawad Williams had 15, and freshman Rashad McCants had 13.

Harrington sparked an 11-2 second-half run, making a steal and driving layup and then hitting a 3-pointer as Illinois ran off to a 57-45 lead with just

under 13 minutes left.

May, with his father, former Indiana star Scott May, watching from a seat several feet behind the Tar Heels' bench, then brought North Carolina back.

He worked inside and made three free throws and an easy layup to cut the lead to 58-52 with just under 10 minutes to go.

But Harrington, Luther Head and then Cook hit 3-pointers in a two-minute span, spurring a 15-6 spurt as the Illini broke away to stay, taking a 79-63 lead with four minutes left. UNC never regained its composure.

Harrington's 3-pointer and Head's spectacular dunk on a lob pass from Brown in the final two minutes of the first half helped the Illini take a 40-36 lead.

Things didn't look so bad from the start for the North Carolina. The Tar Heels didn't let the rowdy crowd at Assembly Hall rattle them and jumped out early in the game to lead 11-3.

Illinois finally caught up as Harrington's first 3-pointer gave the Illini their first lead, at 19-17, and they went on to build a late eight-point lead.

North Carolina rallied and evened the game on a 3-pointer by Jonathan Holmes before Illinois went up four at the half. As the final minute wound down, Illinois fans chanted, "Overrated," referring to North Carolina's No. 12 ranking released Monday.

Tar Heel coach Matt Doherty told his team, which hadn't experienced a loss

yet this season, that there will be days like this.

Illinois 92, UNC 65											
		UNC		36		29		65			
UNC		36		29		65		Illinois		40 52 92	
UNC (65)											
	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp				
Williams	38	6-11	3-5	2-8	1	3	15				
McCants	33	4-8	4-6	5-8	3	2	13				
May	34	8-15	5-6	2-5	3	4	21				
Fulton	33	2-6	4-4	0-3	3	2	3				
Manuel	14	0-5	0-0	0-0	0	2	2				
Scott	25	1-5	0-0	0-0	0	2	2				
Holmes	2	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	3				
Noel	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0				
Sanders	5	1-1	0-0	1-1	0	1	2				
Johnson	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0				
Total		200	23-54	16-21	11-32	12	19	85			
Percentages - FG .426, FT .762, 3-point goals - 3-15, 20%											
McCants 1-5, Fulton 1-2, Holmes 1-1 Team rebounds - 2											
Blocked shots - 3 (Williams, May, Fulton) Turnovers - 19											
Fulton 8, McCants 3, Manuel 2, Williams 2, Holmes 2, Holmes, May, Noel, Scott) Steals - 4 (Williams 3, Fulton											
Illinois (92)											
	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp				
Cook	32	8-12	5-6	1-8	5	3	22				
Powell	17	3-6	1-2	2-4	0	4	7				
Smith	19	2-8	2-2	1-3	1	4	6				
Williams	19	2-4	1-3	0-1	5	2	6				
Brown	26	6-8	0-0	2-3	3	6	12				
Spears	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0				
Head	23	5-8	0-2	3-3	3	0	12				
Ferguson	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	2				
Harrington	25	7-9	0-1	1-4	3	0	20				
Howard	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0				
Huge	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0				
Wilson	1	0-0	0-0	1-0	0	0	0				
Augustine	17	2-4	1-2	1-3	0	1	5				
Total		200	35-68	12-20	12-37	23	18	92			
Percentages - FG .515, FT .600, 3-point goals - 10-22, 45%											
(Williams 1-1, Harrington 6-6, Head 2-5, Cook 1-2, Howell 0-1,											
Smith 0-1, Brown 0-4) Team rebounds - 4 (Blocked shots											
- 3 (Augustine, Smith, Spears) Turnovers - 11 (Williams 4,											
Head 4, Cook 2, Powell, Spears) Steals - 17 (Harrington 5,											
Brown 4, Cook, Head, Williams)											
Technical fouls - None. Attendance - 9,500											

# Peppers Suspended for Rest of Season

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE - Star rookie defensive end Julius Peppers of the Carolina Panthers was suspended Tuesday for the final four games of the season for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy.

Peppers' agent, Marvin Demoff, told the league Tuesday morning that he was withdrawing an appeal of the suspension. Demoff said last month that the league told him Peppers tested positive for a banned substance in a dietary supplement.

"It's disappointing for me, the Panthers

and the fans and everybody," Peppers said in a conference call Tuesday afternoon. "I wish I could finish the season. I'm just going to get over it and come back next year and be even stronger."

The 22-year-old defensive lineman ranks third in the NFL with 12 sacks but will end his season short of Jevon Kearse's rookie record of 14 1/2. He will be eligible to play in the Pro Bowl if selected.

"Obviously when you lose a player of his caliber and it is disappointing," Panthers general manager Marty Hurney said. "But we've known this was a possibility for a few weeks. So we're

not surprised by it."

Demoff wouldn't say what supplement Peppers had taken.

"We didn't want the suspension to affect some of the 2003 season," Demoff said. "Julius did not want to do that. Julius is going to stand up and admit he made a mistake, although unwittingly, and learn from it."

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



## SPECIAL RATES

LET OUR HOME BE YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

AT THE CAROLINA INN

\$99.00 - \$149.00

Single or Double Occupancy

Sunday 12/8/02 through Sunday 1/5/03



Call for Reservations  
1-800-962-8519



Owned by The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Operated by ARAMARK/Harrison Lodging - a Doubletree Affiliate Hotel

"But what we found out, is that each one of us is..."

a brain a basketcase a criminal

an athlete a princess

**Breakfast with**  
**THE BREAKFAST CLUB**  
Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m.  
Great Hall, Student Union

Breakfast Food, '80's Costume  
and Hands-Free Lipstick Contests,  
Free Games and Prizes and  
'80's Dance Party after the Film!

**FREE** with OneCARD

Sponsored by CUAB Reel Crew Films,  
Carolina After Dark and RHA

**Domino's**  
The Pizza Delivery Experts

**UNC Pizza Headquarters**  
**Student Value Menu**

**412 E. Main Street, Carrboro**  
**929.0246**

**Sides:**  
Fresh Express Salad \$3.99  
Cheesy Bread \$3.49  
Cinnastix \$3.49  
Breadsticks \$2.99  
Buffalo Wings \$5.99  
Domino's Buffalo Chicken Kickers \$5.99 **AVAILABLE NOW!**

**Coke:**  
12-oz. cans \$8.00  
2-liter \$2.08

**We accept UNC One Cards**

**\$6.99** Get a Large 1-Topping Pizza or Get a Small 1-Topping Pizza & an Order of Breadsticks

**\$7.99** Get a Medium Pizza with up to 4 Toppings or Get 2 Small Cheese Pizzas

**\$9.99** Get a Large Pizza with up to 4 Toppings or Get 2 Medium Cheese Pizzas

**\$10.99** Get 2 Medium 1-Topping Pizzas

**\$13.99** Roommate Special Get 3 Medium 1-Topping Pizzas

FOR THE PEOPLE

**CAROLINA**  
**SUMMER SCHOOL**

Summer School Abroad  
Registration Continues  
Through March 7

Spaces available in 2-5 week programs  
in 13 areas of study and in 14 different locations

Need-based scholarships available

Summer School • 134 East Franklin Street • 2nd floor  
919-966-4364

[www.unc.edu/summer](http://www.unc.edu/summer)

**We Want YOU!**

Granville Towers is looking for enthusiastic students to fill our Resident Assistant Program openings for Fall 2003-Spring 2004! Compensation includes a Single Room, Unlimited Meals, Parking, and More! If you are looking for a rewarding work experience, pick up an R.A. application today!

R.A. Staff

Make Lifelong Friends...Gain Valuable Work Experience...Why Wait?  
**APPLY TODAY!**

Applications will be available at the South Tower front desk until Dec. 17th - they will be due Jan. 7, 2003!

Questions? Contact Matt Fulton at 370-4500 or email [mfulton@granvilletowers.com](mailto:mfulton@granvilletowers.com).

BOE M/F/D/V

Sweater coats, sexy junior tops & fashion denim

**WE GOT IT WORKING!**

**LOOK OUT**  
A DIFFERENT KIND OF OUTLET

All stores open 7 days

**CARRBORO:**  
118 East Main St.  
(across from Weaver Street Market)  
933-5544

**DURHAM:**  
706 Ninth Street  
(next to Francesca's)  
286-7262

**CHAPEL HILL:**  
Elliott Rd. @ Franklin St.  
(next to Whole Foods)  
933-3003