

Buffaloes stampede UNC Felton's fire inspires UNC to win

BY TIM CANDON
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

BOULDER, Colo. — All season long, making free throws has been a problem for the North Carolina women's basketball team. Heading into the NCAA Tournament, they were shooting 60.5 percent.

On Monday night, in their second-round matchup against Colorado, the Tar Heels didn't have to worry about that because they couldn't get to the charity stripe often enough. UNC shot 9 for 16 on the line.

The Buffaloes, on the other hand, took 39 trips to the free-throw line, knocking down 31 of them. That proved to be the difference as CU ended UNC's season with an 86-67 defeat before a crowd of 4,645 at the Coors Events Center. It was the Tar Heels' 15th appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

"It's pretty simple, the difference in the game was the foul line," said UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell. "I look at the stats, and basically the difference was on the foul line."

Six-foot-5 Colorado center Tera Byorkland didn't make things any easier on the Tar Heels (28-6). She pumped in a career-high 34 points on 11-of-14 shooting from the floor and hit 12 of 17 free throws.

"I think she was really tested at the free-throw line tonight," said Colorado coach Cael Barry. "She didn't really get a chance early to do anything."

"I think part of North Carolina's strategy was to rough her up a little bit. And a lot of teams look at

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Colorado 86
UNC 67

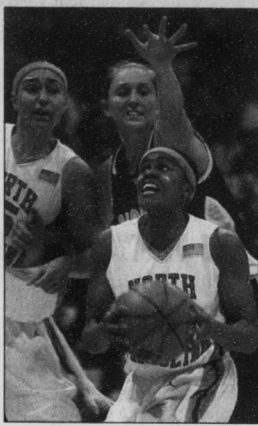


PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK KELLEY

North Carolina's Leah Metcalf tries to create a shot in traffic in Colorado's 19-point throttling of the Tar Heels on Monday night.

her stature and think she's going to be susceptible to physical play, and I think she responded well to that."

The loss ended the UNC careers of forward Jennifer Thomas and All-ACC point guard Coretta Brown. Brown was one of three Tar Heels to score in double figures with 10. Teammates Nikita Bell and Candace Sutton scored 12 apiece while Leah Metcalf had 10 points.

But Brown said she wasn't leaving on a bad note.

"I'm definitely going to leave this game with my head held high."

said Brown, who finished with 10 points and five assists. "I was telling them in the locker room I love each and every one of them."

"They're my sisters and we went out fighting. We didn't just lay down and die."

Although they were the higher seed, the Tar Heels had to play the Buffs (24-7) on their home floor due to the NCAA Selection Committee's switch to predetermined sites, and it was a subject Hatchell addressed after the game.

"From day one, I've been very vocal, against (predetermined sites)," Hatchell said. "My personal feeling is my team earned the right to play at home. Would things have been different had we played in Chapel Hill? I think you could definitely say that."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Colorado 86, UNC 67

Colorado	36	50	86
UNC	27	40	67

Colorado: Lappe 3-7 7-8 13, Scott 2-5 0-0 6, Bjorklund 11-14 12-17 34, Fagan 5-11 1-2 16, Billingsley 0-4 6-6 6, Metzger 0-0 0-0 0, Johns-Richardson 2-3 0-0 6, Wirt 0-3 5-6 5. Totals: 23-47 31-39 86

UNC: Atkinson 2-14 2-4 7, Bell 6-9 0-0 12, Sutton 5-8 2-4 12, Thomas 4-7 1-2 9, Brown 4-14 0-0 10, Laakkonen 0-0 1-2 1, Chambers 1-3 0-0 2, Metcalf 3-16 3-4 10, McBe 0-0 0-0 0, Baggett 1-4 0-0 2, Davis 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 27-76 9-16 67

3-point goals — Colorado 9-21 (Fagan 5-11, Johns-Richardson 2-2, Scott 2-5, Lappe 0-1, Billingsley 0-2), UNC 4-15 (Brown 2-6, Atkinson 1-3, Metcalf 1-5, Chambers 0-1). Rebounds — Colorado 35 (Bjorklund, Lappe 8), UNC 49 (Bell 10). Assists — Colorado 19 (Scott 7), UNC 15 (Brown 5). Total fouls — Colorado 17, UNC 28. Attendance — 4,645

BY KELLY LUSK
SENIOR WRITER

Sometimes, before they fall asleep in the quiet confines of their first-floor room in Hinton James North Residence Hall, freshmen Raymond Felton and David Noel talk about the future.

"We sit in our room and talk about leaving our mark at Carolina," Noel said. "We just didn't think it would be Raymond's freshman year."

But Felton seems determined to make UNC his first season a memorable one. His UNC freshman-record 14 assists bolstered North Carolina to a 90-74 win against Wyoming in the second round of the NIT on Monday.

"He has all the cliches," said UNC coach Matt Doherty. "The heart of a lion — the toughness, his enthusiasm, his competitiveness is contagious, and I think that spreads to our guys ... He doesn't care if he scores — he just wants to win."

Felton's passion has spread through his team in the NIT. His energy sparked a comeback that helped UNC (19-15) survive a first-round scare against DePaul. And against the Cowboys, Felton erased any doubts about the Tar Heels' postseason motivation in front of a sellout crowd at the Smith Center.

UNC's 34 field goals Monday matched a season high and translated to its first 90-point game since Feb. 18. UNC's 27 assists put Wyoming's 10 to shame, especially when combined with the turnover margin — the Cowboys had 19 to the Tar Heels' eight.

But Wyoming (21-11) wasn't going to let North Carolina waltz into the third round. With 16:35 left in the game, the Cowboys switched to zone defense and went on an 18-0 run to cut UNC's lead to three.

"When they cut (the lead) to 10, we started getting impatient," Noel said. "We just started jacking up 3s."

Eventually UNC's ice-cold shooting thawed, and the Tar Heels regained control of the game. Melvin Scott hit a couple of 3s and Felton found Noel for two dunks to get the Tar Heels bouncing up and down, gesturing toward the crowd.

"We've just been having fun out there," said UNC swingman Rashad McCants. "Just like in the beginning, in the Preseason NIT."

To repeat its preseason run to an NIT title, UNC will have to defeat Georgetown at 7 p.m. Wednesday in

the Smith Center. If that happens, UNC will return to New York City for the NIT semifinals on April 1. And every win gives the freshmen another chance to add to North Carolina's storied history.

"Ray and I talk about what we think we're going to leave behind," Noel said. "And now is the time to step it up."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

UNC 90, Wyoming 74

Wyoming	30	44	74
UNC	47	43	90

Wyoming: Rottinghaus 4-9 2-2 12, Rees 1-4 0-0 2, Nsonwu-Amadi 8-14 1-1 17, Richardson 6-14 6-9 20, Straight 4-10 4-4 13, Makun 0-2 0-0 0, Dunn 0-0 0-0 0, Adams 2-4 0-0 6, McMillan 0-0 2-2 2, Corne 1-1 0-0 2, Wilkenborg 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 28-58, 15-32, 74.

UNC: William 5-15 0-1 13, McCants 8-18 3-4 20, Noel 5-7 2-2 13, Scott 8-12 0-0 20, Felton 6-10 0-0 15, Manuel 1-2 1-2 3, Holmes 0-0 0-0 0, Price 0-0 0-0 0, Grant 0-0 0-0 0, McLamb 0-0 0-0 0, Miller 0-0 0-0 0, Sanders 0-1 0-0 0, Johnson 1-1 4-4 6. Totals: 34-66, 10-13, 90.

3-point goals — Wyoming 7-16 (Rottinghaus 2-6, Richardson 2-5, Adams 2-2, Straight 1-3), UNC 12-28 (Scott 4-7, Felton 3-6, Williams 3-6, McCants 1-6, Noel 1-1). Rebounds — Wyoming 39 (Nsonwu-Amadi 8), UNC 27 (Noel 7). Assists — Wyoming 10 (Rottinghaus 4), UNC 22 (Felton 14). Steals — Wyoming 5 (Rottinghaus, Richardson, Straight, Adams, Corne), UNC 11 (McCants 3). Total fouls — Wyoming 17, UNC 18.

Attendance — 20,235.

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Be Considerate

Pedestrians: Establish eye contact with drivers before crossing. Do not enter the crosswalk suddenly. Wave or thank drivers who yield.

Drivers: Establish eye contact with pedestrians who are crossing. Be patient.

Be Safe

Pedestrians: Cross the street between the lines within the crosswalk. If you cross the street at a place other than a designated crosswalk or intersection, remember the vehicle has the right-of-way.

Drivers: Yield to pedestrians crossing in marked crosswalks or at intersections. Failure to yield to a pedestrian in a marked crosswalk is a violation of North Carolina law.

As part of the "Yield to Heels" campaign, volunteers will be distributing informational fliers about pedestrian safety along with discounts from local merchants from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 26th at the following crosswalk locations: **South Road** by the Student Union, **Manning Drive** by the Dental School, **Pittsboro Street** across from the State Employees' Credit Union and **Columbia Street** at Frat Court.



Sponsored by the UNC Highway Safety Research Center and the UNC Department of Public Safety