

McCants leads UNC to win Tar Heels top South Carolina

Felton adds 12 assists, 4 steals

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SENIOR WRITER

After years of using N.C. A&T as its Division-I measuring stick, D-II N.C. Central got a crack at North Carolina on Saturday.

And on a positive note, at one point, the Eagles had a 2-0 lead.

But in UNC's first game without the injured David Noel, Rashad McCants came off the bench to lead UNC to a 97-59 exhibition

blowout of NCCU at the Smith Center on Saturday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
N.C. Central 59
UNC 97

Melvin Scott got the starting nod at shooting guard after McCants missed five recent practices and the Blue-White scrimmage with a strained quad.

But after McCants came in at the 16:45 mark, he proceeded to score 14 points in 13 minutes.

"Rashad McCants, he can score," said UNC coach Roy Williams. "That's a great talent."

The sophomore guard, who finished with 26 on the game, hardly looked like an injured player, especially on a pair of second-half plays.

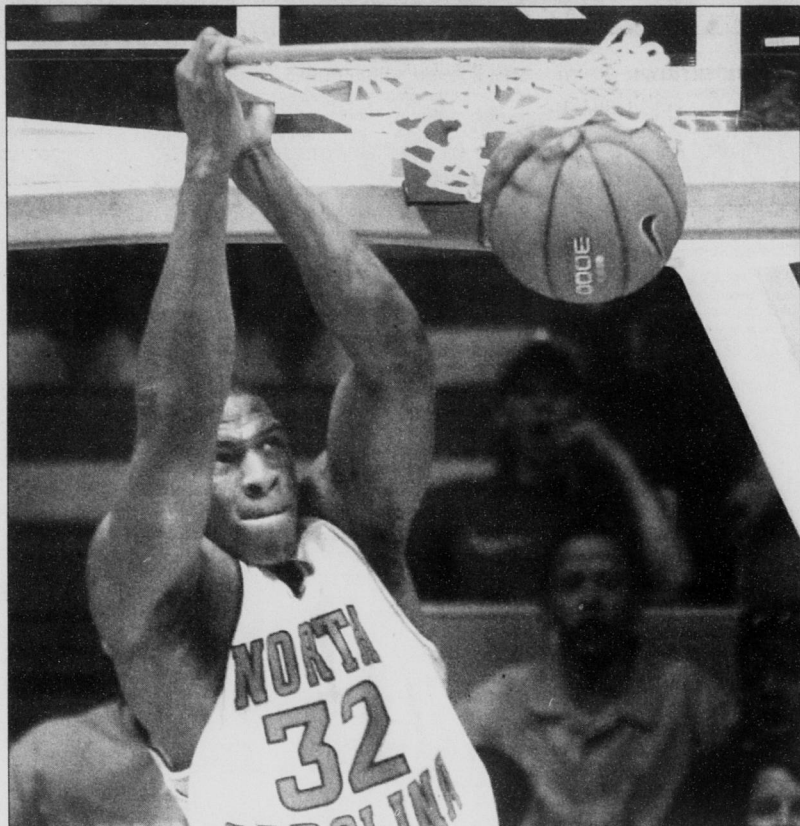
On one, Raymond Felton threw a no-look pass to an unsuspecting Byron Sanders. The ball zipped behind Sanders and there was a scrum for it near the UNC bench. McCants emerged and took it in for an uncontested reverse dunk.

Later on, McCants cleaned up a Sean May miss rolling around the rim with a put-back jam that roused the crowd of 16,658.

"It felt pretty good," McCants said of his quad. "I'm still a little sore, but I fight through anything." McCants went 10 of 15 from the field, and he also tallied five steals and five assists in the contest.

Felton, though, led the Tar Heels in assists with 12, compared to only one turnover. May had 15 points in the game, going along with his team-high 10 rebounds.

But Williams was bothered by the amount of offensive boards the Eagles had. Nine came from Brandon Bowman, who finished the game with 15 total rebounds.



DTH/ANDREW SYNOWIEZ

North Carolina wingman Rashad McCants, who missed the Tar Heels' first exhibition game, slams home two of his 26 points in Saturday's win against N.C. Central. UNC will play its final exhibition game Thursday.

"I'm not an idiot," Williams said. "They shoot 33 percent, they're going to have a lot more offensive rebound opportunities than if we shoot 56. But you can't give up 22 offensive rebounds."

Freshmen Justin Bohlander and Reyshawn Terry played 12 and 10 minutes, respectively, at forward. Bohlander found his way to the free throw line often and hit on 5 of 6 attempts, but neither player was a monster on the glass.

The Tar Heels will have one more exhibition to increase their rebounding prowess, as they will take on Nike Elite this Thursday at the Smith Center.

A big reason for McCants'

impressive performance and the increased roles for Terry and Bohlander was the absence of Noel, who injured his hand last Tuesday in practice.

Noel was running up the court after a lay-up when he collided with Terry. Noel's hand banged into Terry's hip, hyperextending his thumb and tearing ligaments.

Noel is scheduled for surgery on Wednesday and said the 6-to-8 week timeframe for his return is still in place.

In the meantime, he'll continue to work on conditioning with the team, including lifting weights with his left hand.

"The left side of my body is

going to be real big, and (the right) one is going to be real flat," Noel said. "Nah, I'm just playing."

Williams, feeling his team lagged on defense at times despite the 38-point margin of victory, sounded less light-hearted after the game. He implied there might be some running in Noel's, and everyone else's, futures.

"In some ways, they sent a big signal to a coach because they almost made me feel like we're not in very good condition," Williams said. "And that's not a good signal to send to the coach."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Seeing his first action in nearly a month, freshman forward Corey Ashe came off the bench to score late in the first half to lead the No. 13 North Carolina men's soccer team to a 1-0 victory at South Carolina.

Ashe, who missed the last four matches with a sprained ankle, scored his fourth goal of the season in the 43rd minute mark off an assist from rookie midfielder Wes Shull. Ashe now has 10 points on the season, third on the squad. The goal was also Ashe's second game winner of the season.

After Ashe gave UNC (12-3-3) a 1-0 lead at the half, goalkeeper Justin Hughes and the defense kept the Gamecocks (8-7-2) off the scoreboard in the final frame. Hughes finished with four saves and picked up his fourth shutout in seven starts. As a team, the Tar Heels have tallied nine shutouts this season.

UNC also continued to excel in close contests, improving to 10-2 in one-goal matches.

South Carolina goalkeeper Brad Guzan made five saves and allowed one goal. The Gamecocks outshot the Tar Heels, 13-12.

North Carolina returns to action at the 2003 ACC Tournament, which begins Wednesday, Nov. 12. The No. 4 Tar Heels face No. 5 N.C. State at 3 p.m. The winner faces top seed Maryland Nov. 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Tar Heels split in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The North Carolina men's and women's swimming and diving teams went 3-1 as double dual meets concluded with Minnesota and North Dakota at the Minnesota Aquatics Center on Saturday.

Coach Frank Comfort's women's team, ranked No. 15, went 2-0 on the weekend to improve to 2-1 overall on the season. The Tar Heel women downed the host Golden Gophers by a score of 201-169 and defeated the University of North Dakota by a score of 306-63.

The Tar Heel men split their meets in Minneapolis and are now 2-2 on the season. The No. 24

UNC men beat the Fighting Sioux of North Dakota 292-78 and fell to the No. 8 Golden Gophers 227-138.

Individually on Saturday, UNC grabbed five individual women's wins and two individual men's wins. North Carolina also won one women's relay.

On the men's side, freshman Tristan Davidson claimed a win in the 400-yard individual medley as he clocked a time of 3 minutes, 55.31 seconds. UNC senior co-captain Yuri Suguiyama had the other Tar Heel win as he won the 500-yard freestyle in 4:32.15, leading a 1-2 finish in that event for UNC as junior Reid Owen took second place.

North Carolina's women finished the meet on a strong note as the 400-yard freestyle relay of Virginia Hanson, Emily Carroll, Jessi Perruquet and Amanda Smith won the event in 3:28.13.

Senior Becky Acker led the Tar Heels to a 1-2-3-4 finish in the 400-yard individual medley as she won in a time of 4:25.00 followed by Smith, Lizzy Bruce and Kathleen Quinn. Quinn produced a win of her own as she led all finishers in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:04.35. Bruce and Acker also finished in the top two spots of the 200-yard breaststroke with Bruce finishing first in 2:17.24.

UNC's other wins were both in freestyle events as Perruquet took top honors in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 51.06 seconds and Kelly Weeks captured the 500-yard freestyle with a clocking of 4:50.53.

Duke gets elusive ACC win

DURHAM — Duke's Chris Douglas ran for a career-high 218 yards and two scores, and Malcolm Ruff had a 42-yard interception return for a touchdown to lift the Blue Devils to a 41-17 win against Georgia Tech.

Duke (3-7, 1-5 in the ACC) had not won an ACC game since beating Wake Forest 48-35 on Nov. 13, 1999, a league-record losing streak of 30 games.

FREE SCREENING

CNN Documentary explores challenges of our education system by following four new Teach For America teachers working in some of the nation's toughest schools.

University of North Carolina
Monday, November 10 • 8:00 pm
Gardener 105

Alumni Q & A to follow

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