

Illini to test Tar Heels' depth Canty plugs hole in UNC lineup

BY AARON FITT
SENIOR WRITER

North Carolina coach Roy Williams has been candid about the Tar Heels' lack of depth since the preseason.

UNC had seven players who had proven they could play at the level Williams wanted. Now, it likely has five.

After injuring his knee against Cleveland State on Saturday, sophomore swingman Jackie Manuel might join the injured David Noel on the UNC bench against Illinois tonight.

Manuel, who is listed as questionable with a sprained left medial collateral ligament, could be out 10 to 14 days, according to the UNC medical staff. But Williams said Monday that he hopes his defensive stopper will be back in the lineup sooner than that.

"(Sunday) Jackie came in and worked a little bit," Williams said. "He had a brace on and said it felt better. I saw him out in the parking lot (Monday) morning when I got here, and he said it felt better."

To make matters worse for the Tar Heels, forward Jawad Williams is not certain to play against the Illini, either. He suffered a hip pointer in practice Sunday, and Roy Williams said the junior would have to make "some pretty significant improvement" before the 9 p.m. tipoff in order to play.

The injuries assault UNC as it prepares for its first real challenge of the season, a clash with a top-15 team. Freshmen Reyshawn Terry and Justin Bohlander and sopho-

THE LOWDOWN ON TUESDAY'S GAME

No. 11 Illinois (3-0)
vs.
No. 10 UNC (3-0)

PROBABLE STARTERS

Illinois
C: Nick Smith, 7-2
F: James Augustine, 6-10
F: Roger Powell, 6-6
G: Deron Williams, 6-3
G: Dee Brown, 6-0

UNC
C: Sean May, 6-9
F: Jawad Williams, 6-9
F: Rashad McCants, 6-4
G: Melvin Scott, 6-2
G: Raymond Felton, 6-1

Game: Illinois vs. North Carolina
Time: Tuesday, 9 p.m.
Location: Greensboro Coliseum
Radio: 100.7 FM, WCHL-1360 AM
Television: ESPN
Keys for UNC: Stamina. The Tar Heels were thin to begin with, but injuries have reduced their core rotation from their preseason seven men to five. UNC still will try to run, but it must make sure it has enough energy left to rebound. The Illini have a significant size advantage inside, led by 7-foot-2 center Smith and 6-10 forward Augustine, and they will bang UNC ragged on the boards. May and Jawad Williams just have to make sure Illinois doesn't dominate the offensive boards, or the Tar Heels won't be able to get easy transition buckets.
Keys for Illinois: Don't make mistakes. Led by the much-heralded Brown and less-lauded but very talented sophomore Deron Williams, Illinois can almost match UNC's talent in the starting lineup. Powell, like Jawad Williams, is a junior poised for a breakout season. But the Illini's biggest advantage is they can go nine deep, and UNC most certainly cannot.
UNC Bench: With Jackie Manuel hurt, freshmen Reyshawn Terry and Justin Bohlander will have to accelerate their learning processes.
Illinois Bench: Junior Luther Head provides back-court depth, and the Illini will give significant minutes to three players 6-8 or taller.
Prediction: Illinois 84, North Carolina 77.

COMPILED BY AARON FITT

more Byron Sanders will have to improve their play, Roy Williams said, because they will be called upon to fill the injury void.

"We haven't played those top-25 teams yet," the coach said. "Depth was a much less problem in those first few games than what it is going to be. Justin Bohlander has to get a lot better, a lot quicker. Reyshawn Terry has got to get a lot better, a lot quicker. Byron Sanders has to get a lot better, a lot quicker. "We can't draft anybody and we

can't bring anybody up from the minor leagues, so we have to go with what we have."

Roy Williams said he would rather not change UNC's frenetic style of play, even though it takes a toll on his starters.

"I haven't conditioned the team the way I'd like to because of our health," he said. "But we are still going to play very fast."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

This was supposed to be a breakout season for Mark Canty.

After claiming his first conference championship as a sophomore at 174 pounds last season, Canty was poised to build on his success and make an even bigger name for himself on the national scene this year.

Canty might complete his quest to become one of the elite wrestlers in the country, but things won't work out quite the way they were originally planned.

In the past few weeks, Canty has had to readjust his focus by bumping up a weight class from 174 to 184 pounds in order to fill the void left by departed teammate Dusty Heist, who quit the team for personal reasons last month. Most wrestlers would struggle with such a sudden change of pace, but Canty said he is up for the challenge.

In fact, moving up to 184 pounds was Canty's idea.

"This was something Mark told me that he wanted to do," said Coach C.D. Mock. "The slot was open after Dusty quit. Mark felt

like he had trouble making weight at 174 and was pretty determined that he could get the job done at 184.

"He seems to be very confident wrestling at his normal weight. It still might not be the place where we thought he should be, but confidence is everything in wrestling. He's kept that, and he should be able to make some things happen."

Canty has appeared capable of making the move through the early part of the season. He finished fourth at the Mat-Town USA Invitational last weekend and has posted a respectable 5-4 record in his matches thus far.

"As a wrestler, sometimes, people think that if you're moving up a weight class, you're going to do worse automatically," Canty said. "I don't look at it that way at all. I've worked hard to get stronger. I don't feel as drained from making weight so I think I have a lot of energy."

"It's actually helped me refocus on wrestling, because I'm not as concerned about losing weight and that kind of stuff."

Although Canty was confident

he could to the job from the start, Mock said it was a tough call to make because none of the coaches on the staff had worked out with him in practice.

"None of the coaches that have been around for a while were big enough to be going at him," Mock said. "So in the end, I went and talked to some of his teammates that I trusted would be a good judge of his progress."

"They said he was wrestling well every day. The bottom line is that he has kept wrestling well since then. He's a tough kid and a smart kid. He just wants to get the job done."

Canty has even more motivation because this will be his last season on the mat. He has one year of eligibility remaining after the end of season, but he said he plans to graduate in the spring and will not wrestle next year.

"I don't want my last season to be a bad one," Canty said. "I'm trying to work as hard as I can to make the most of this as possible."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Stanley B. Whitten

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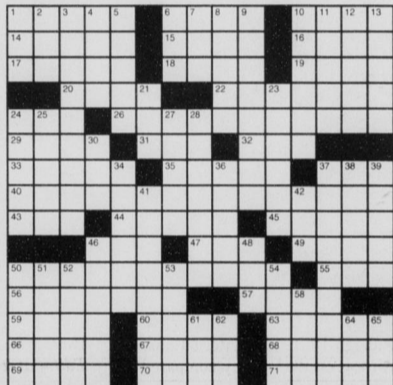
ACROSS

- 1 Chips in chips
- 6 Grinder or hoagy
- 10 Crushing blow
- 14 Winning position
- 15 Norwegian saint
- 16 Model MacPherson
- 17 Popeye's nemesis
- 18 Neap or ebb
- 19 Mournful cry
- 20 Elegant
- 22 Put in order
- 24 Noah's vessel
- 26 Presiding officer
- 29 Small brook
- 31 Leb. neighbor
- 32 Marksman
- 33 Egg-shaped
- 35 Body trunk
- 37 Employ
- 40 Risky way to fly by?
- 43 Terminate
- 44 Palmer of the links

DOWN

- 13 Actress Hayes
- 21 Greek letter
- 23 Duplicate again
- 24 Got up
- 25 Torn apart
- 27 ___ Martin (Bond's car)
- 28 Pressing
- 30 Ignited
- 34 Possible
- 36 "Touched by an Angel" star
- 37 Removing bindings
- 38 Stone marker
- 39 Cromwell's earldom
- 41 Opposite of 37D
- 42 Arctic seabird
- 46 Baffling problems
- 48 Sadness
- 50 Arboreal mammal
- 51 Uptight
- 52 Academy Award
- 53 Japanese immigrant
- 54 Mr Moneybags
- 58 Muse of history
- 61 Support piece
- 62 Ames and Asner
- 64 Hit the slopes
- 65 Compass pt.

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ROUSE CRAT TRUE
IONIA AMIE RIGA
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HAYS LOVERS
GAFFER REFER
OGLER WHARF ITT
LEAD RIOTS OGRE
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?s: contact Reggie, hinton@email.unc.edu

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