

State cruises after slow start Faltering offense stalls UNC

BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

For a few minutes Wednesday night, it seemed that the North Carolina wrestling team was on track to provide first-year coach C.D. Mock with an ideal debut to ACC competition.

Venroy July and Ryan Adams won the match's opening bouts and gave the Tar Heels a quick 6-0 advantage against N.C. State.

The Wolfpack responded by winning six consecutive decisions, however, and cruised to a 26-12 victory at Carmichael Auditorium.

Although he would have preferred a victory, Mock said he was pleased with the team's performance against its rival, especially considering the circumstances.

The Tar Heels (1-3), who have relied heavily on experienced wrestlers throughout the season, were dealt another major blow this week when Chris Rodriguez, an All-American at 125 pounds in 2002, was dismissed from the team.

"I don't like to lose, but I saw a lot of good things out there today," Mock said. "My guys wrestled very

well, and they're struggling through some adversity.

"We asked them to step up, and some of these guys are filling big shoes."

July set the tone for UNC with a 4-2 overtime victory in the opening bout at 197 pounds. After battling with Wolfpack freshman Zach Garren through two overtime periods, July scored a takedown to give his team a 3-0 lead.

In the ensuing bout, Adams doubled UNC's lead by manhandling Wolfpack heavyweight Jaior Palma 8-3, but the rest of the night belonged to N.C. State.

The Wolfpack rattled off six consecutive victories in the lower weight classes to take a commanding 26-6 lead.

Josh Lee finally stopped the bleeding by gutting out a 6-4 overtime victory against Wolfpack 174-pounder Rick Brownlee.

Mark Canty won the night's final bout at 184 pounds with a 7-4 decision against Daniel Humphries.

There were a few bright spots for UNC during the six-loss stretch.

Freshman 125-pounder Drew

Forshey was impressive in his new starting role. Forshey fought back from an early deficit to tie his bout at 5-5 in the third period, but was outlasted in overtime by Jeremy Hatrum, and lost 7-5.

Garrett Atkinson stayed close with Wolfpack 165-pounder Dustin Kawa, a two-time ACC champion, before losing by pinfall in the third period.

"We've got guys that are stepping up, and I'm really pleased," Mock said. "Two weeks ago, Drew Forshey thought he was a red shirt. Now he's in there, and he almost beat that kid, and he will beat that kid."

"We're getting better. It might take some time, but we're going to be back on top."

July also said he thought Wednesday's match was an encouraging sign.

"We're going to keep on going on," he said. "We've got the guys who want to wrestle now, and we're going to keep on getting better. We will get better."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

BY CARON FITT
SENIOR WRITER

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — After the way things started, few would have thought Wednesday's showdown between No. 9 North Carolina and Maryland at the Comcast Center would be decided by one team's offensive ineptitude.

But the Tar Heels couldn't duplicate their early-game scoring flurry when it mattered most, and the

Terrapins made just enough free throws to lock UNC 84 up a 90-84 win Maryland 90 in their ACC home opener.

UNC (10-3, 1-2 in the ACC) trailed for most of the second half, but a Rashad McCants 3-pointer from the left corner tied the game at 78 with three minutes to play.

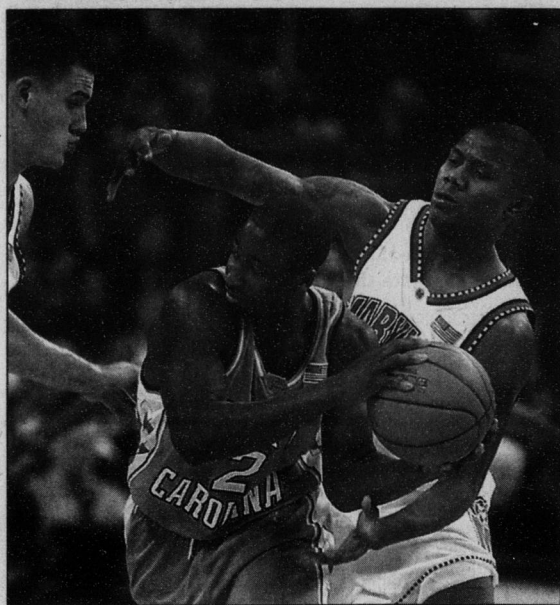
Half a minute later, Jamar Smith made 1 of 2 free throws to put Maryland (10-3, 1-1) up for good, thanks to UNC's offensive meltdown.

"We didn't make a lot of shots that we had open," said UNC point guard Raymond Felton, who missed a crucial trey with the game tied at 78. "A lot of the shots we just didn't knock down."

North Carolina's first two shots after Smith's go-ahead free throw, a McCants jumper and a May turnaround, were blocked by Nik Caner-Medley. Then a McCants 3-pointer came up short, and Maryland's Travis Garrison knocked down another pair of free throws to put the Terps up 82-78.

From there, it was just a matter of making free throws, and Maryland did. The Terrapins went 10 of 14 from the line in the last three minutes — and they kept the Tar Heels from getting good looks at the basket.

"The bottom line is that Maryland made big-time plays down the stretch," said UNC coach



DTH/KIM CRAVEN

North Carolina guard Raymond Felton (center) looks for a pass while trapped between Terps Nik Caner-Medley (left) and John Gilchrist.

Roy Williams.

Terp center Jamar Smith made big-time plays for most of the game. The senior scored 22 points on 8-of-14 shooting and had nine rebounds. He put Maryland in control early in the second half, scoring 10 of the Terrapins' first 15 points.

"He's a great player in his senior year," May said. "He did what he had to do to win, and I didn't. I played like a little baby out there."

May's frustration was caused by his 7-for-19 shooting and his four turnovers. Whenever he got the ball in the post, Maryland's defense collapsed on him, forcing a bad shot or a turnover. But several times, May simply missed easy layups.

"They were swarming him," Williams said. "They were getting people around him, and I think that was one of their focuses."

Early on, it wasn't a serious problem for the Tar Heels. They were getting scoring from a variety of sources in the extremely fast-paced game. All their starters had at least eight points at halftime.

But Maryland kept pace, thanks largely to the play of guard John Gilchrist and forward Ekene Ibekwe, who scored 11 and 13 points, respectively, in the first half.

Still, North Carolina stretched its lead to 10 at the 6:43 mark in the half. It looked like the game was close to getting out of hand, but Tar Heel turnovers kept it close.

"There were times in the first half where North Carolina started to make runs," said Maryland coach Gary Williams. "I don't think

there are many teams in the country that can put points up on you that fast. I'm really proud because we won this game as a team."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Robert H. Wolfe

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ACROSS

- 1 1953 Leslie Caron film
- 5 Short-lived elementary particle
- 9 Low joint
- 14 Arkin or Sandler
- 15 Part of A.D.
- 16 Cruise ship
- 17 Bum who stitches endlessly?
- 19 Vegetable to cry over
- 20 Farm vehicle
- 21 Religious belief
- 23 Tours season
- 24 Wrestling hold
- 26 Pops
- 29 Kind of motor or mechanism
- 31 Salacious stare
- 32 Wealthy
- 33 Pacific coast mollusk
- 35 Sound reflection
- 36 Examine in detail
- 39 Bent into a tight curl
- 41 Pizzeria fixture
- 42 Unrestrained
- 46 Etta or the comics
- 47 "la Douce"
- 48 Money lending
- 52 Period of history
- 53 More peaceful
- 55 Classical leader
- 56 Busy
- 58 Shone

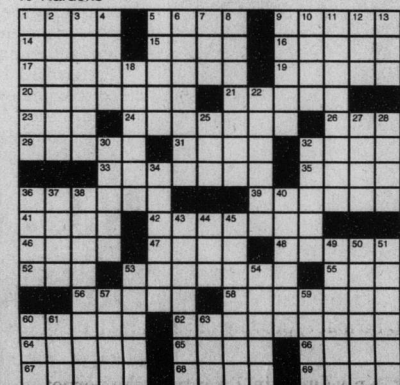
DOWN

- 1 Whip strokes
- 2 Imagine
- 3 Attorney
- 4 Apple PC
- 5 Chaplain
- 6 Put on the hard drive
- 7 Half and half?
- 8 So, to the next issue
- 9 "All ___ the Watchtower"
- 10 September's number
- 11 Criticize choice of

stitching?

- 12 Zodiac cat
- 13 European eagle
- 18 Fat cats /
- 22 Ahal
- 25 Antique auto
- 27 Aspirin target
- 28 Wearing shoes
- 30 Brag about
- 32 Tears
- 34 Eagles' nests
- 36 Jab
- 37 At any time
- 38 Seller fixing stitching anew?
- 40 Hardens

- 43 Transfixes
- 44 Fr. woman's title
- 45 Hypothetical supercontinent
- 49 Cast off
- 50 Nike rival
- 51 Calls to the Alps
- 53 Spumous
- 54 Bernstein or Rice
- 57 Nebbish
- 59 ___ boy!
- 60 Mil. captive
- 61 Fuss
- 63 Before, once upon a time



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9:00am
A DAY FOR SERVICE 2004
Hamilton Hall, Room 100

6:00pm
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Tate Turner Kuralt Auditorium

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Hill Hall

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