

Tar Heels aim to reverse recent skid against State

BY AARON FITT
SENIOR WRITER

For the first time in 30 years, N.C. State can claim an active four-game winning streak against North Carolina.

As difficult as it might be for Tar Heel fans to stomach, the Wolfpack hold bragging rights in the series. UNC hasn't beaten its Raleigh rivals since Joseph Forte was making headlines on the Smith Center court (rather than in the Orange County District Court).

Before that, of course, the Tar Heels had grown accustomed to breezing past the Pack, winning seven in a row from 1998 to 2001.

North Carolina coach Roy Williams said Tuesday that it is important for his team to reverse its negative trend against State with a win in the Smith Center tonight but that there isn't a quick fix.

"You can't change it overnight," he said. "If we win (today), that means they will have beaten us four of the last five. So they can say it anyway they want to and I can't do anything about it. So we can just do something (Wednesday) night and try and get a run of our own started."

There are several reasons to believe the Tar Heels should be able to reverse their recent fortunes tonight. First, UNC plays considerably better at home, where it is 8-1 on the season, with wins against Georgia Tech and Connecticut. Conversely, the Tar Heels are 4-3 away from the Smith Center.

Further, North Carolina is 63-21 all-time against State in Chapel Hill. That home court advantage has deteriorated in recent years, as Wolfpack fans have smelled blood and managed to infiltrate the Smith Center to heckle down-on-their-luck UNC fans.

THE LOWDOWN ON WEDNESDAY'S GAME

N.C. State
(11-4, 4-1 ACC)
at
No. 12 UNC
(12-4, 2-3 ACC)

PROBABLE STARTERS

N.C. State
C: Marcus Melvin, 6-8
F: Ilian Evtimov, 6-7
F: Julius Hodge, 6-7
G: Scooter Sherrill, 6-3
G: Engin Atsur, 6-3
UNC
C: Sean May, 6-9
F: Jawad Williams 6-8
F: Rashad McCants, 6-4
G: Melvin Scott, 6-2
G: Raymond Felton, 6-1

Game: N.C. State at North Carolina
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Smith Center
Radio: 100.7 FM, WCHL-1360 AM
Television: ESPN



Keys for State: The Pack somehow survived leading scorer Julius Hodge's two-point performance in their win against Georgia Tech on Saturday, but State will not be able to withstand a similar outing from Hodge today. The junior likely will be guarded by Rashad McCants for much of the game, a matchup that should favor Hodge. But McCants has played his best defense of the season against top-tier opponents, such as Tech's B.J. Elder.

Keys for UNC: Patience on the defensive end. The Wolfpack will use every tick of the 35-second clock in their slow-down offense and will force UNC defenders to fight through screen after screen. The Tar Heels, the nation's highest-scoring team, want to push the ball, but in order to do that they must be dedicated to forcing State to make turnovers.

State Bench: Juniors Jordan Collins and Levi Watkins give N.C. State valuable front-court depth, allowing it to aggressively attack Sean May in an effort to get the UNC center in foul trouble.

UNC Bench: David Noel and Jackie Manuel haven't scored much lately, but Coach Roy Williams still is comfortable playing both. The same can't be said for the rest of the UNC bench.

Prediction: UNC 81, N.C. State 69.

COMPILED BY AARON FITT

With North Carolina's fortunes on the rise this season, Pack fans probably will find it more difficult to get seats tonight. But that doesn't necessarily mean the home court advantage will be as strong as Williams would like. He has been bothered by late arrivals at some games this season.

"Particularly this game, though, with the weather conditions as they are, who knows if people are going to be able to get here or not?" Williams said. "That concerns you, because you look at games on television and that is the same thing prospects are looking at. If we truly want to get this to be an exciting place to play and get the excitement level up, we can't have empty seats."

But the crowd won't dictate whether or not the Tar Heels can reassert their dominance against N.C. State. The outcome will, of course, be decided by the players — and this group of UNC players looks to have a talent advantage.

"They are going to try to slow the game down against us, but that is not what we want," said UNC's Raymond Felton. "We are going to have to defend them for however long we have to defend them. Then, once we get the rebound or they score, we are going to have to get the ball out real fast and push it down their throat."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

UNC hits midseason slump

BY DANIEL BLANK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

By the time the last lap in practice had been run Tuesday, every member of the North Carolina women's basketball team was bent over in exhaustion.

This was coach Sylvia Hatchell's exact intent when she labeled the practice "blood, sweat and tears," following a shocking 69-67 loss to Wake Forest in Winston-Salem on Monday night.

"We didn't finish, but we never should have been in that situation," Hatchell said. "We didn't play with intensity. ... We've got to get more mentally tough."

"I just want them to play every game with the focus like we did against Penn State, like we did for most of the game against Duke."

The Tar Heels (15-3, 5-2 in the ACC) have struggled with their shooting in each of their last five games, in which they've gone 3-2.

UNC has hit the 40-percent mark only once in that stretch. Even in that game, a 72-59 victory at Maryland, the Tar Heels converted on only 41 percent of their attempts. In games against N.C. State and

Duke at the beginning of the slump, Hatchell attributed the bad shooting to poor shot selection.

But against Wake, who UNC beat 90-79 on Jan. 2, the Tar Heels were just blowing easy layups.

"We didn't finish," Hatchell said. "We had so many easy looks around the basket. The physical contact frustrated us."

Hatchell said some of the team's struggles have been a result of a brutal January schedule.

Since a home win against Clemson on Jan. 4, the Tar Heels have played once in Carmichael Auditorium.

In that same amount of time they have played four road games and will travel to Charlottesville on Thursday to take on Virginia.

The schedule becomes more favorable for North Carolina after that trip.

Starting with a matchup against Florida State on Sunday, the Tar Heels play six of their final nine games in Chapel Hill, where they have yet to lose.

Nevertheless, UNC's struggles go beyond cold shooting and a tough schedule.

Junior guard Leah Metcalf said the young Tar Heels might have overlooked some of the weaker ACC teams like Georgia Tech and Wake.

"For Duke, of course you have to step it up to another level," said Metcalf, who hit five of 10 3-pointers against Wake after missing the previous game with a stomach virus. "So I guess for some teams, you might get a little laid back and take them for granted, not playing every possession hard."

The inconsistency comes partly as a result of UNC's youth. On most nights, the Tar Heels start only two upperclassmen.

Hatchell said she knows that, young or old, the team is loaded with talent. For Hatchell, it's a matter of convincing her players to show that talent for 40 minutes at a time.

"We've got a great group of kids with the potential to be a great team," Hatchell said. "But some of them still don't understand how hard you have to work."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Norma Steinberg

©2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

ACROSS

- British baby buggies
- Mamie Eisenhower's maiden name
- Hollow tooth
- Syrupy drink
- Actress Falco
- Once again
- Bart or Belle
- Gangster's gal
- Had on
- Taped/not taped
- Hungarian
- Nice summer
- Lair
- Penny picture?
- Circumspect
- Chips off the old block
- WWII zone
- "West Side Story" song
- Is here/not here
- Stand one in good
- Mighty long stretch
- "South Park" kid
- Intercepts, as a pass
- WSW opposite
- Snoop
- Front of a shoe
- Egyptian pharaoh
- Bear down on/stop bearing down on
- Citrus fruit

DOWN

- Brief sleepwear
- Boring routine
- In the manner of
- Joyful
- Distribute widely
- Performer's promo
- Fragrance
- "Our Town" playwright
- Take out
- Birds
- Steer clear of
- Chutzpah
- Masters jacket color

21 Wept

22 Judges

23 Marina poles

24 Circa

25 Art grouping

30 R-V connection

31 Perseveres

32 Pravda source

34 Lose one's cool

37 Ceremonies

38 Silly

39 Choreographer DeMille

41 Makes a long story short?

42 Comment from Bossy

43 Structure starter?

48 Aureole

49 Continue

50 In less time

52 Divide

53 Lion clan

54 Oman's neighbor

57 Granular

59 Part of a chair

60 Grassy expanse

61 "Lohengrin" lady

65 Actress Farrow

66 Kitchen utensil

67 Buffoon

BUB O'MALLEY'S

157 E. ROSEMARY ST. (UPSTAIRS) 942-6903

EVERY WEDNESDAY

dollar drafts

AT BUB'S

30 Taps! 100 Different Bottled Beers!
NEVER A COVER AT BUB'S!

2004-2005 SUBSTANCE FREE & THEME HOUSING

Applications are available at <http://housing.unc.edu>

For more information see your Community Director or call: 962.5406

Applications Available Now!!

Are you interested in something special? So are we!

Applications for the 2004-2005 academic year are being accepted now.

There are seven Residential Learning Communities (Theme Houses) at UNC that are available to returning students and you can be a part of one. From building your foreign language skills to increasing your multi-cultural awareness, there is something special for everyone. To learn more about these programs go to the Housing & Residential Education web page at: <http://housing.unc.edu/undergrad/themes/index.html>. The application is there for you to complete.

Submit your application by Wed., February 18, 2004.

NOTE: A \$200.00 housing deposit is or financial aid deferment (due Monday, March 1st) is required to be selected for a Theme House. If you are not selected for a program, you can apply the \$200 to the regular room renewal process later this spring. You can pay the deposit at the Cashier's Office.

WATCH FOR INFORMATION NIGHTS—COMING SQON!

Department of Housing and Residential Education
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
CB #5500, Carr Building, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5500
919.962.5406 • Email: housing@unc.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO
Inspire. Change.

I HAD THE SAME QUESTIONS.

- Can I get my MBA without a business degree?
- Can I study abroad?
- Can I afford it?
- Can I reach my goals?

YES YOU CAN.

OPEN HOUSE FOR THE DAYTIME MBA PROGRAM:
February 21 from 10:30 am—3:00 pm
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Bryan School of Business and Economics
For more information call 336-334-5390,
visit mybryanmba.com or send an e-mail to mba@uncg.edu.

MY BRYAN MBA