MCCANTS

"I think Rashad was focused," Williams said. "He had 20 at halftime, 28 for the game, so he accomplished more in a couple of minutes here today than he did last year in

the whole game."

McCants also gave a strong effort on the defensive end. He hustled back to stuff 6-foot-10 Randolph Morris

In the first half, McCants picked the ball from his man and raced down the court for a left-handed slam to put the Tar Heels up 24-6—their biggest lead of the game.

But it is McCants' prodigious scoring ability that made him the

center of attention at the postgame press conference and the focal point of the UNC offense

McCants has been sinking 3pointers with lethal accuracy, connecting on 53.5 percent of his shots. He hit 4-of-7 attempts against Kentucky from behind the arc.
"I feel like whenever I shoot the

ball, it's got a 50 percent chance of going in — maybe more now," said McCants, who raised his scoring average to 20.3. "I feel comfortable just shooting the 3 right now, but I want to add more and more to my grape"."

But McCants was wreaking havoc in the paint as well. When he wasn't scoring, he was getting to

the free throw line. After struggling from the line earlier in the year, he took advantage of his opportunities

Saturday, going 10 for 11.

"Rashad, he's a scorer, that's what he does," said UNC forward David Noel. "He can put the ball in the cupboard any given time, and that's what we need from him. He stops a lot of their runs with a deep 3-ball or a drive to the basket tting fouled."

McCants knocked down a 3 with four seconds left in the first half to

stake UNC to a 15-point lead.

And when Kentucky responded with a 9-0 run after the break, McCants killed the Wildcats' omentum with a twisting layup off a lob from Sean May.

off a 100 from Sean May.

"I'm looking to penetrate to (McCants') side, hoping his guy will come help, and I can kick it to him for an open 3," said point guard Raymond Felton. "If I'm trying to get a jump shot, then yes, I'm going to Rashad's side because he's a very good shooter under pressure and in big parts of games." McCants' only misstep came

when Felton was out of the game midway through the second half

because he reinjured his left wrist.

McCants walked the ball up the floor and tried to squeeze off a shot through a triple team without passing the ball.

Williams sat McCants immediately after the sequence. It was a

scheduled rest — McCants played a team-high 34 minutes — but Williams said he still was annoyed by the lack of ball movement. Three minutes later, McCants

was back in, and on the first pos-session, he wound up matched up with Morris on the perimeter. After lulling Morris with the dribble, the 6-foot-4 McCants drained a 3 over the Kentucky center

"He's playing a lot more com-fortable in his second year under Coach Williams," said Kentucky oach Tubby Smith. "He's understanding where to take his shot and he's patient. We didn't really have an answer for him."

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PENN STATE

body said it, we believed we were going to get that stop, and they eren't going to get any closer."
Erlana Larkins scored 15 points

for the Tar Heels, who jumped out to a seven-point lead when La'Tangela Atkinson stole an errant pass from Harris and made a layup 6:11 in.

But the Lions came back and took their first lead, 23-21, on Harris' 3-pointer from the top of the key with 8:56 left in the half.

Penn State 77, UNC 71							
North	Caro	ina	43		28		71
Penn	Penn State		40		37	77	
North C	erolina	(71)					
		fg	ft	up.			
Atkinson	min 29	m-a 4-8	0-1	35		PI	TO S
Bell	19	3-8	00	0.0	Ċ		6
Little	35	3-10	0:0	411	3	2	6
Latta	40	7-16	0-0	0-1	1	2	19
Metcalf	29	2-9 6-9	0-0 3-3	0-2	4	2	5
Larkins Nelms	32 9	2-2	3-3	3-6 2-3	1	2	15 7
McBae	7	34	0-0	2-2		3	5
Total	200	29-66	6-7	14-30	12	17	71
Percentages — FG .439, FT .857. 3-point goals — 7-22, .318 (Latta 5-9, Metcalf 1-7, McBee 1-3, Arkinson 0-1, Bell							
.318 (Latta 5-9, Metcelf 1-7, McBee 1-3, Arkinson 0-1, Bell							
0-1. Little 0-1) Team rebounds — 2. Blocked shots — 2. [Atkinson, Larkins). Turnovers — 14 (Lette 4, Atkinson 3,							
Bell 3, Metcelf 3, Larkins). Steals — 10 (Atkinson 3, Bell							
3, Little 3, McBee).							
Ponn State (77)							
1 0000	min	fg m-a	m m-a	rb o-t	900		
Brown	32	4-8	24	3-5		2	10
Schwab	26	4-8	34	2-6	0	2	11
Strom	40	3-8	44	2-7	9	3	11
Wright	40	9-19	2-2	0-3	7	3	21
Harris	38	7-13	2.2	34	• 2	0	19
Brenden	9	1-2	0-0	1-2	0	2	3
Joseph Bland	13	1-2	00	0-2	0		2
Total	200	29-58	13-16	11-29	0	1	0
			STATE	Til So			
Percent	eges -	- FG .60	0, FT 8	12. 3 -p	oint a	cals	8-12
Percentages — FG. 500, FT. 812. 3-point goals — 6-12 .500 (Harris 3-5, Strom 1-4, Brenden 1-2, Wright 1-1).							
Team rebounds — 4. Blocked shots — 2 (Brown 2). Turnovers — 12 (Strom 3, Wright 3, Harris 3, Brown 2.							
Turnove		2 (Stron	1 3, Wri	ght 3, I	larris 3	Brow	n 2.
Joseph).	Steals	- 0 12	uom 3,	marms	s, Sch	web, W	right).
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- management	Charles Shifts	THE REAL PROPERTY.	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.	MICH PER	THE REAL PROPERTY.	STREET, STREET,

WRESTLING

who survived Mock's trial by fire is Drew Forshey, who had a strong performance Saturday.

Although he lost to Christian Staylor from Old Dominion in the 125-pound semifinals, Forshey

showed promise.

After falling behind 4-0, Forshey battled back, but Staylor stalled

enough to earn the 5-2 victory.

"Drew looked phenomenal in that match," Mock said. "(Staylor

"It cuts down on the other team's momentum, just like if the oppos-

ing team hits 3s on us, it's going to stop our momentum," said swing-man Jackie Manuel. "Rashad hit-

second half to answer a Kentucky

run that closed the scoring gap to

thought that we came down and took a couple of ill-advised shots

that were out of our offense," said

Kentucky coach Tubby Smith. "The

leadership that we needed at that point in time, it just wasn't there." The man who provides that leadership for the Tar Heels (6-1), Jawad Williams, posted 19 points

and 7 rebounds.

He also kept Chuck Hayes,
Kentucky's leading scorer, in foul
trouble. Hayes fouled out with 1

minute, 35 seconds remaining and was one of three Wildcats to be dis-

Guards Rajon Rondo and Ramel

Bradley fouled out within 20 sec-onds of each other with five min-

utes remaining — largely because of the efforts of UNC point guard Raymond Felton, who began play-

ing like a man possessed after Rondo struck his injured wrist

with 15 minutes remaining.

Felton appeared to be in extreme pain, grimacing while hunched over the ball before a timeout was

The crowd seemed to think the blow was intentional, boo-

ing Rondo heartily every time he touched the ball for the remainder

of the game. Felton said he didn't

believe the contact was mali-

We got it to six there, and I

KENTUCKY

behind the arc.

six points.

qualified.

try, and as far as I'm concerned, he didn't lose — he ran out of time." UNC was able to pick up the slack for Evan Sola, the team lead-er and 2003 All-American, after he

is) one of the best kids in the coun-

injured his shoulder last weekend. Mock said he was not going to take chances with his star.

"In the preseason, if they are hurt, we pull them out, don't wres-tle them," Mock said.

Although the season has tech-

nically started, Mock still refers to this part of the schedule as the pre-

better and improve." Contact the Sports Editor

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season. The Tar Heels will wrestle in

two more large tournaments before

And for a program looking to turn itself around, efforts like Saturday will pay dividends in ACC play.

"We don't worry about winning or losing," Mock said. "This is a preseason tournament; that's

what these are, up until we get into January. What they are for is to get

the dual-meet season opens.

"We're good, and we know we're good, and we know everything

we have to do."

ting threes helped us out a lot."
But McCants wasn't the only "I don't think he's that type of one getting good looks from deep range — freshman Marvin Williams nailed the first trey of player," Felton said. "I don't know the kid that well, but I don't think his career seven minutes into the

Felton took out any frustrations on the court by attacking the basket vigorously when he returned three minutes later.

"I was sort of angry a little bit," he said. "Not necessarily angry at the fact that he hit my arm, but that it hurt. Of course I came out and played harder."

That latter statement also could have been applied to Sean May as he rebounded — literally — from his poor showing at Indiana.

May was monstrous on the boards, snatching 19 rebounds in the game. He also ran the floor with abandon, finishing five fast breaks for UNC, four of them with

Three of those buckets and an assist came during a two-minute stretch early in the second half that extended North Carolina's lead to 10 after a brief Wildcat run to open the period.

May and his Tar Heel team-

mates passed every test Kentucky provided and are starting to get a handle on their full potential.

"We're good, and we know we're good, and we know everything we have to do," said forward David Noel. "We have to go out and play defense every night, and if we can do that every night ... hopefully the outcome will be like it was tonight."

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UNC 91, Kentucky 78



dis Plane SHOWTIMES FOR TODAY ONLY

North Carolina center Sean May scored 14 points in UNC's sixth straight

win on Saturday afternoon. He also gathered 19 rebounds, a season high.

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