

May is my pick for player of the year

He's not the leading scorer in the ACC. He's not the leading rebounder in the ACC. He doesn't lead the league in assists, either. In fact, he doesn't even write his own poetry.



DAVID MOSES
YOUR BOY

But none of these things should matter this year, as Sean May has set himself apart late in the season and deserves to be ACC Player of the Year.

Earlier in the season, a certain incredibly brilliant and hilarious Daily Tar Heel columnist compared May's play in big games to that of curdled milk.

I was wrong. Yes, I actually said it. As the ACC season progressed, May has had a string of games that hasn't been seen on Tobacco Road since Antawn Jamison — the last Tar Heel to average a double-double for a season.

May has double-doubles in six consecutive contests and eight of his last 10 games.

On Jan. 18, I wrote, "May hasn't come to play in a big game in a very long time."

Since that day he has effectively shut me up, averaging 16.5 points and 12.5 boards in 11 games. Ten of those games were important ACC battles, while the other was a huge road game at Connecticut.

Who cares that after the game-winning block at Maryland, May didn't realize the game still wasn't

technically over? His immediate jersey pull showed a fire and intensity that has rarely been seen in the big man.

The huge block got a ton of recognition, but another play that he made just moments before probably went unnoticed by some.

Raymond Felton drove the lane, and May boxed out two Maryland defenders, allowing Felton to put the Tar Heels up two with an uncontested lay-in.

Duke's Sheldon Williams plays the same position as May and puts up similar numbers, but he does so on a less-balanced offensive team.

The way I look at it, POY is synonymous with most valuable player. With North Carolina leading the ACC, and most likely to get the No. 1 seed in the ACC Tournament, POY should go to the most important player on the best team.

Sean May. May is putting up 15 points per game on a team where at least four other guys are capable of scoring 30 on any given night. Not taking away anything

from the likes of Lee Melchionni and Reggie Love, but the competition for shots on Duke is nothing like the balanced Tar Heel attack.

In the biggest game this year for both teams — the matchup in Cameron — May had 23 points and 18 rebounds. J.J. Redick had 18 points, but it was on 4-for-12 shooting, compared to May's 8-for-14. In that game, Williams had 11 and nine.

Lines like 15 points and 14 rebounds are just becoming commonplace for May, as he has shown a more physical style of play and his numbers have increased.

With Rashad McCants' mysterious illness, May has stepped up to carry the load for the offense, and the team hasn't missed a step.

While I'm sure many Duke lovers out there have already filled in their ballots for Redick, May deserves some serious consideration.

May didn't score 30 or more twice against Wake Forest this year like Redick did.

May certainly can't create his own shot off the dribble as well as Chris Paul can.

In fact, May might not even be in the top-three talent-wise on his own team.

But he certainly would get my vote for ACC Player of the Year.

Contact David Moses at dmoses@email.unc.edu.

Towns place transit as budgetary priority

BY BRANDON REED
STAFF WRITER

Despite budget constraints, area municipalities are going ahead with long-term priority lists for their most coveted transportation projects.

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted Monday to go forward in developing its local transportation project priority list and will hold a public forum on it March 21.

Carrboro officials met Tuesday — about the same time the Triangle Transit Authority was updating the county on its massive regional project — to discuss the priorities they hope to finalize March 15.

Municipalities use these lists to request federal funding for their transportation projects.

Project requests then will be analyzed and compiled with the needs of Durham and Hillsborough to form a regional list for 2007 to 2013.

No. 1 on Chapel Hill's list likely will be capital needs for public transit projects, said David Bonk, Chapel Hill's principal transportation planner.

Capital funds include the building of facilities, replacing buses and repairing equipment, he said. The

town also is looking to upgrade its traffic signal system.

"It's a top-to-bottom replacement," Bonk said, adding that software needs to be updated to better monitor traffic flow.

A majority of Carrboro's project requests center on enhancing safety and mobility by adding sidewalks or bike lanes to already existing roads, said Dale McKeel, the town's transportation planner.

He added that Carrboro also will be working with Chapel Hill to update its traffic signal control system.

"Typically, there is a pretty good balance between the districts," McKeel said of the regional list.

Lists will be returned to the municipalities in May.

Independent of the list, Chapel Hill also is developing a bus-monitoring system that will track bus flow and better serve riders, said Jeanmarie Curtis, Chapel Hill Transit's special projects coordinator.

Buses will be equipped with global positioning system receivers so that riders can check on the Internet exactly where a bus is in its route. LED screens at 14 selected bus stops also will help let riders know when to expect bus arrivals, Curtis said.

She said Chapel Hill hopes to have a firm to work on the project by midsummer and have the projected completed by next year.

"We think it's something that patrons will be excited to use," Curtis said.

In its annual report, the TTA provided the Orange County Board of Commissioners with an update on its regional light rail project.

TTA's main update was that it has been forced to reduce the number of stops for the light rail, from 16 to 12 stations, because of funding shortages.

"We don't want to get into the middle of this and not be able to finish," said TTA General Manager John Clafin.

These scalebacks will reduce the cost of the project from \$831 million to \$694 million, he said.

The rising costs of steel and concrete, compounded with the stagnation of a 5 percent tax collected on rental cars, also has constrained project funding.

Clafin added that although Chapel Hill is not included in current plans for the light rail, there is the desire to extend the rail into the area after the rail's completion — planned for 2008.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Latta named 1st team All-ACC

Larkins garners 2nd team, Little 3rd

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Three North Carolina women's basketball players have earned All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors, as announced on Tuesday.

Sophomore Ivory Latta was named to the All-ACC first team, freshman Erlana Larkins was named to the second team and sophomore Camille Little to the third team.

"I'm really pleased with what our team has done so far this season, and Ivory, Erlana and Camille have played major roles in that success," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "It's great for them to be recognized as being among the top players in the ACC, especially considering that they're two sophomores and a freshman."

"But they know that our success this season has come from playing together and that it's going to take contributions from everyone to do the things we want to in the post-season. I think all our players are focused on the team goals ahead."

The three five-player ACC teams are selected by a vote of members of the Atlantic Coast Sports Media Association.

Latta, a point guard, leads North Carolina in scoring (15.9 ppg), assists (4.7 per game) and three-pointers (2.6 per game). Her

free-throw percentage of .908 is the best in the ACC. She received the third-highest number of votes overall.

Latta earned second-team All-ACC honors last season when she was also named to the All-Freshman team.

Larkins, a forward, received the seventh-highest number of votes. She and fellow second-teamer Crystal Langhorne of Maryland were the only freshmen named to the All-ACC teams. Larkins ranks second on the team in scoring (15.3 ppg) and rebounding (6.9 per game) and leads the conference in field goal percentage (.633).

Little, a forward, ranks third on the team in scoring (11.9 ppg) and rebounding (5.6). She is also shooting .459 from the field and ranks seventh in the ACC with 2.3 steals per game. Like Latta, Little earned All-ACC honors for the second year. She was named to the All-ACC first team and to the All-Freshman team in 2004.

Junior La'Tangela Atkinson earned honorable mention.

The Tar Heels (24-3, 12-2 ACC)

moved up to third in this week's USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll and fourth in the Associated Press poll after beating Duke on Sunday to claim a share of the regular-season conference title and the top seed in the ACC Tournament.

UNC will play as the top seed for the first time since 1997, when the Tar Heels won their third of four titles in a five-year span.

UNC earns 8th at Mo-Morial

The North Carolina women's golf team finished eighth

at the Texas A&M Mo-Morial Invitational on Tuesday, with a final team score of 112 over par, 34 strokes behind champion Southern Methodist.

Ann Laney was the low scorer for the Tar Heels, firing a 21 over par 237 for the tournament to tie for 13th place. Laney was tied for second heading into Tuesday's final round, but she faltered, shooting an 86 — her highest score of the tournament by 10 strokes.

Samantha Richdale from Illinois State won the tournament with a score of 14 over par.

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Volunteering

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