

DUKE

FROM PAGE 1
one of the nets for himself, but he already had set his sights on a twine souvenir hanging in a gymnasium 800 miles west of Chapel Hill.

"I didn't want it," said forward Jawad Williams. "I want another net — the national championship net. That's the one I want hanging around my neck."

For now, however, the strands of cloth draped over the ear of each jubilant Tar Heel player, strands earned in one of the most dramatic conclusions in the history of the Duke-North Carolina rivalry, will have to suffice.

Center Sean May, who has emerged as perhaps the most powerful single force in the ACC, once again dominated play at both ends of the floor. He finished the game with 26 points and 24 rebounds — the highest rebound total of any UNC player since Rusty Clark in 1968.

"May was fantastic," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski. "That's just a magnificent individual performance."

Shelden Williams led the Blue Devils (22-5, 11-5 in the ACC) with 22 points, but he managed just four rebounds. Sharpshooting guard J.J. Redick scored 17, but not one of those points came in the second half.

In the critical final minutes of the game, it was the tremendous determination of guard Raymond Felton that propelled the Tar Heels (26-3, 14-2) past a Duke team that had led by nine points with 3:07 remaining.

Seconds after forward Lee Melchionni buried his career-high fifth 3-point shot of the game, a critical fifth foul assessed to forward Shavlik Randolph created an opening in the lane for North Carolina to exploit.

"When you're up nine with three minutes to go, you've got to take care of the ball, you've got to get to the free-throw line, not turn the ball over and get defensive rebounds," Melchionni said. "We didn't do any of those things."

Jawad Williams drew first blood, following misses by both Manuel and May with a tip-in to cut the lead to seven. But Felton dominated the game from that point forward.

The North Carolina point guard, scorched by observers for his inability to drive to the basket against Duke in February, forced guard Daniel Ewing to boot the ball across the end-line with 2:24 left.

Felton then made up his mind to drive relentlessly to the basket, and his second such attempt on the Tar Heels' ensuing possession resulted in two free throws for Marvin Williams. The freshman sank both.

After Duke rookie DeMarcus Nelson missed the front end of a one-and-one with 1:53 remaining, another penetration of the lane by Felton resulted in a May put-back and foul. Once again, the free throw found nothing but nylon, and Duke led by only two.

Felton had a chance after both Melchionni and J.J. Redick missed shots at the other end, but his one-handed floater missed and rolled out of play to give Duke possession.

But when Ewing dribbled the ball into North Carolina territory, forward David Noel — playing with four fouls — deflected the path of the ball just enough to allow Felton to pounce on it and emerge with possession from a critical scrum.

"My thoughts were, 'Dave, don't foul out of the game,'" Noel said. "I let him go by me and was able to get it from behind."

With the Tar Heels still needing one basket with 27.8 seconds remaining, Felton once again drove to the basket. This time, he drew a foul on Nelson and a chance to tie the game from the line.

The first shot sailed true, bringing North Carolina within a single point, and his second shot rattled off the rim into a tussle of arms — including Felton's own.

"Probably one of the most important things of the whole game was how aggressively Raymond went after the offensive rebound on his own missed free throw," said UNC coach Roy Williams.

The ball eventually landed in the hands of Marvin Williams, however, and he banked a shot off the glass and into the net to drive the Smith Center crowd into hysterics with 17 seconds remaining.

The opportunistic forward hit his ensuing free throw, and after both Redick and Ewing missed shots at the other end, May cradled the rebound that clinched the Tar Heels' dramatic victory.

UNC 75, Duke 73. Box score table with columns for Duke and North Carolina, listing players and stats like FG, FT, 3-point goals, REB, AST, STL, BLK, and PTS.

Randolph's foul trouble dooms Duke at the end

BY BEN COUCH SENIOR WRITER

As the final 27 seconds ticked off the clock, North Carolina trailing Duke by a point, Raymond Felton dribbled across the top of the key — eyes scanning the court, seeking the opening that would allow him a chance for redemption.

Felton sidestepped his defender, saw daylight and darted through the gap in the defense like he was escaping a rolling boulder.

DeMarcus Nelson fouled Felton as he laid up the ball, deflecting the shot and sending Felton to the free throw line.

With the Blue Devils gearing up for the possibility of snagging a critical rebound, Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski promptly sent Patrick Johnson into the game.

Patrick Johnson? With Shavlik Randolph relegated to the bench during the game's final three minutes after collecting his fifth foul, Johnson, who stands 6-foot-9, was the tallest player left on Krzyzewski's bench.

And the little-used backup forward — Johnson entered the contest averaging 3.9 minutes per game — failed to box out Marvin Williams.

UNC's freshman forward snagged the last of his team's 21 offensive rebounds and banked home the game-winning shot.

But Johnson's presence was less a factor than Randolph's absence in UNC's 75-73 victory.

"It was real key," said UNC swingman David Noel. "They went through a little stretch where they had to play DeMarcus at the four and (Lee) Melchionni at the four."

That kind of gave Jawad (Williams) and Marvin more of an inside presence. It was real key that we got them in foul trouble early."

Randolph played only three minutes in the first half and 15 in the game after picking up his third foul with 11 minutes and 31 seconds remaining in the first half.

"I was definitely thinking about it when I went back in," Randolph said. "You don't do certain things. I was more hesitant to step in and take a charge, try to block a shot. It definitely affects the way you play the rest of the game."

Randolph wasn't the only Duke player in foul trouble. After Shelden Williams' second foul of the first half, Krzyzewski held him out for the final four minutes.

The Tar Heels took immediate advantage, closing out the half with an 11-4 run. UNC center Sean May scored four of those points down low against Shelden Williams' replacements.

But the Duke big man wasn't fazed when he returned to the court for the second half, swatting six North Carolina shots.

"I've been in foul trouble before, and I've been in the game where I can stay in the game and not pick up my fifth foul," Williams said. "But for Shav, it kind of limited his play when he started getting in a groove — and all of a sudden he picked up another foul, and then he had to sit on the bench for a while."

Yet in the 12 minutes Randolph played in the second half, he showed a renewed commitment to defense, blocking a shot and altering several others.

"In my mind, I was like, 'Look,

this is the last 20 minutes of our regular season.' We had a couple of people in foul trouble, and Coach just said, 'Don't play like you're going to foul.'" Randolph said. "If they're going to call it, they're going to call it — just keep on doing what you're doing."

Though Randolph and Williams tried to do just that, May out-rebounded the pair 15-4 in the second half and 24-7 overall, logging his eighth double-double in as many games.

Williams' four rebounds were well below his season average of 11.4, and the Tar Heels' 21 offensive rebounds were a season high. Getting so many second-chance opportunities was key to UNC's comeback, because North Carolina shot just 30.3 percent from the floor in the second half.

"I think it affected us on the defensive boards — especially down the stretch there, when another 6-10 guy out on the court would have really helped us," said Duke forward Lee Melchionni. "But unfortunately, (Randolph) fouled out. We still had a nine-point lead, and we should have finished it off."

Now go back to Felton's missed free throw.

Imagine Randolph is there. When the shot clanks off the rim, maybe Randolph boxes out Marvin Williams and Duke stays ahead by one, heading to the foul line with a chance to ice the game.

But Randolph had fouled out — and Marvin Williams beat Patrick Johnson to the ball.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

FRANKLIN

FROM PAGE 1

ketball team's victory over Duke University, rowdy fans were lunging out the door of Ham's restaurant and onto Franklin Street.

There, they were joined by crowds streaming from nearby bars and racing up side streets to reach the scene of the celebration.

"I live down on South Columbia. I ran all the way up to Franklin," said sophomore Kevin Chandler. "It was intense."

As the crowds converged near the intersection of Franklin and

Columbia streets, they were greeted by a cheering crowd from the third-floor, outdoor dining area at Top of the Hill.

The crowd above threw napkins — tinder, in the crowd's eyes — to the crowd below, and soon the first of several impromptu bonfires flickered along Franklin Street.

The fuel of choice was whatever was available. On Fraternity Court, a table went up in smoke. On Franklin Street, as the fires spread east, the fuel was more varied.

Rolls of toilet paper, cardboard boxes, wooden pallets, cheap-looking furniture and stacks of newspaper all ended up incinerated on the pavement.

The last time UNC beat Duke while classes were in session, in 2001, several cars were set on fire and flipped during post-game celebrations.

"Yeah, we remember that too," said Lt. Frank Holloway of the Chapel Hill Police Department.

But crowds were mostly placid. When a couple of young men did start rocking a car, police stopped them with a few words.

Other police concerns for the night included people throwing toilet paper and climbing trees and students climbing to the roofs of several buildings lining the 100 block of Franklin Street.

"We just had a well-behaved crowd. We just let them go out and do their thing — tried to keep the fire down," Holloway said. No arrests were made in connection with the celebrations as of 9:45 p.m.

Cary Degraffenreid of the Chapel Hill Department of Public Works said that while the festivities were larger than expected, the department still was able to deal with the debris left without problem.

"We're used to doing this. It wasn't different at all," Degraffenreid said. "We knew what we needed to do."

But exchange student Kasper Jacobsen of Denmark was amazed by the intensity of the experience. "This is crazy. This is crazy," he said. "I had no idea it was going to be this wild."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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