

# UNC to feast on first Like the leaves, Tar Heel of holiday cupcakes athletics fell this season

Game and Time: Saint Louis at No. 23 North Carolina. Tipoff is at 9 p.m.

Site: Smith Center.  
TV/Radio: The game will be televised on ESPN2. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide radio coverage; the broadcast will air on WCHL-AM 1360.

Records: Saint Louis is 3-2. North Carolina is 4-1.

Series: UNC leads, 2-0.  
Probable Starters:

Saint Louis  
G: Dwayne Polk, 5-9 SO  
G: Anthony Drejaj, 6-2 SR  
G: Tommie Liddell, 6-4 FR  
G: Danny Brown, 6-4 SO  
C: Ian Vouyoukas, 6-10 JR

North Carolina  
G: Bobby Fraso, 6-3 FR  
G: Marcus Ginyard, 6-5 FR  
F: Reyshawn Terry, 6-8 JR  
F: David Noel, 6-6 SR  
C: Tyler Hansbrough, 6-9 FR

The Key Matchup: The North Carolina perimeter defense against Saint Louis guard Anthony Drejaj.

Through five games, the Tar Heels have demonstrated an ability to defend the perimeter and a vulnerability to talented scorers in the paint. Unfortunately for the Billikens and their four-guard lineup, they'll have to score from the perimeter to have any chance to spring an upset.

Six-foot-10 center Ian Vouyoukas has the ability to give Tyler Hansbrough trouble — the native of Greece is averaging 16.0 points and 8.4 rebounds per game — but no other Billiken forward or center is averaging more than 4.3 points this season.

Not only do four of Saint Louis' starters stand 6-foot-4 or smaller, but

## THE LOWDOWN ON TONIGHT'S GAME



(3-2)

Saint Louis at  
No. 23 North Carolina

Smith Center, 9 p.m.

(4-1)

### HEAD TO HEAD

#### Backcourt

The Billikens' 3-point shooters have shot a meager 27.4 percent this season, a number that doesn't figure to improve against the strong perimeter defense of Bobby Fraso, Marcus Ginyard and Wes Miller. **Edge: UNC**

#### Frontcourt

UNC struggled to contain Illinois big man James Augustine last week, and SLU center Ian Vouyoukas (16 points per game) presents a similar threat. But the Tar Heels have the athletes to compensate. **Edge: UNC**

#### Bench

SLU guard Kevin Lisch is averaging 7.6 points per game, but he's shooting only 25 percent from 3-point range. Miller and Danny Green turned the tide for UNC when they took the court in the Kentucky game. **Edge: UNC**

#### Intangibles

There's no danger of UNC looking past Saint Louis — its next close game might not be until January. Confidence from the Kentucky win and the home-court atmosphere should allow the Tar Heels to cruise. **Edge: UNC**

The Bottom Line — North Carolina 94, Saint Louis 61  
COMPILED BY BRIAN MACPHERSON

so does Kevin Lisch, the team's only true scoring threat off the bench.

The Billikens' small lineup likely will allow David Noel to return to the wing, his more natural role on the defensive end.

If Hansbrough and Byron Sanders can contain Vouyoukas, Noel and emerging defensive stalwart Marcus Ginyard can focus their attention on whichever Billiken has the hot hand from the floor. It'll likely be Anthony Drejaj, who hit four second-half 3-pointers for Saint Louis on Monday — he's now shooting 50 percent from

behind the arc for the season.

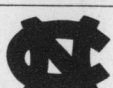
Final Analysis/Prediction: As the holiday season gets into gear, the Tar Heels now begin to receive the gifts the schedule has bestowed upon them — a parade of opponents who will provide little opposition.

The Billikens finished 9-21 last season, including 6-10 in the Atlantic 10 conference. (Yes, that's right — Missouri now counts as an Atlantic state.) Saint Louis put up a fight in a road game against Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Saturday, but it also lost by 18 at Hawaii the previous weekend.

North Carolina's young stars must use this opportunity to learn and to grow before the ACC schedule begins in January. A competitive game or two wouldn't hurt the maturation process, but they're not likely to get it from the Billikens.

The Bottom Line: North Carolina 94, Saint Louis 61.

— Compiled by Brian MacPherson



## SPORTS CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY

■ **MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. Saint Louis, 9 p.m.  
Smith Center

### THURSDAY

■ **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. Wofford, 7 p.m.  
Carmichael Auditorium

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## BLOGGIN'

### ■ MAJOR LEAGUE

Rumors are flying that men's soccer sophomore Dax McCarty might jump to the MLS next season.  
go to: <http://apps.dailytarheel.com/blogs/pressbox.php>

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DAVID MOSES  
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— Maryland, Duke in the ACC Tournament finals and Southern Methodist in the national quarterfinals — UNC was 0-3.

For a team that has the prestige to recruit the National High School Player of the Year (Stephen Bickford), that simply isn't going to cut it. Maybe the Tar Heels will live up to their potential next season when they most likely will return all 11 starters.

To be honest, I don't think the women's soccer season was as disappointing as the men's. The debate will continue to rage on as to whether the dynasty is dead, but I don't think a dynasty of that magnitude even is possible anymore.

While parity in women's athletics still is nowhere near as strong as in men's sports, the gap

between the better teams and the worse teams in women's athletics quickly is closing.

As the women's basketball team showed Monday night, UConn hoops no longer is an unbeatable dynasty — and neither is the UNC women's soccer team.

The field hockey team always seems to be ranked near the top nationally, yet the Tar Heels are only the third-best team in their conference. Any time the No. 5 team in the country bows out in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, it's a disappointment.

The volleyball team actually had a tremendous season, but it's a shame that probably not a single student on campus realizes that. And women's cross country was led to a top-25 national finish by a freshman, Brianna Feltnagle, who finished in the top 50 in the nation.

Volleyball and cross country aside, the end of the fall was one massive Spewell-esque choke job for UNC athletics.

Too bad LT and Mia are long gone.

Contact David Moses  
at [dmoses@email.unc.edu](mailto:dmoses@email.unc.edu).

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