

Atkinson keys UNC victory

BY JACOB KARABELL
SENIOR WRITER

With the game comfortably in hand for North Carolina, the only question was whether La'Tangela Atkinson would score the basket she needed to eclipse the 1,000-point mark for her career.

"You've got to score!" Alex Miller yelled at her on the court.

But the admittedly unselfish and defensive-minded Atkinson didn't decode the message, and Coach Sylvia Hatchell finally pulled the senior from the game stuck on 998.

Atkinson's late-game scoring drought is one of the few things that's gone wrong for the

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL No. 7 Tar Heels

Wofford 50 easily topped

UNC 87 Wofford 87-50

Thursday, the team's final game before final exams.

Atkinson scored her final point with 10:35 to play. Hatchell left her in the game until the final media timeout, but she failed to net a field goal during that span.

"I left her in there for a while," Hatchell said. "She wasn't going to score, so I was going to get her out."

Atkinson scored a game-high 15 coming off her 18-point effort at Connecticut on Monday. But she also added a season-high in assists with six on a night when the scoring spotlight was on her.

"Offense is never on my mind," Atkinson said. "I'm always worrying about having intensity on the ball, staying the passing lane. Just defense is on my mind all the time."

Aside from Atkinson's 1,000-point saga, the rest of the game transpired similarly to most of the Tar Heels' games this year — an easy victory with balanced scoring.

UNC (9-0) never trailed in the game despite missing freshman Rashanda McCants because of a stomach flu.

The Terriers (4-2), though, stayed relatively close by hitting five of nine 3-pointers in the first

UNC 87, Wofford 50

| | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| Wofford | 25 | 25 | 50 |
| North Carolina | 45 | 42 | 87 |

| | min | fg | ft | rb | a | pf | tp |
|---------|-----|-------|-----|-------|----|----|----|
| Mister | 26 | 2-10 | 0-0 | 2-4 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Strong | 20 | 2-3 | 0-0 | 0-2 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Wardell | 22 | 3-9 | 0-0 | 2-6 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| Correll | 25 | 4-13 | 0-0 | 1-3 | 3 | 0 | 11 |
| Yee | 25 | 3-5 | 0-0 | 0-1 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| Miller | 20 | 2-7 | 0-2 | 0-3 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Koenig | 16 | 1-3 | 0-0 | 2-2 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Nichols | 15 | 2-5 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Depko | 15 | 0-3 | 0-0 | 0-1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dempsey | 14 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1-1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Total | 200 | 20-58 | 0-2 | 10-24 | 18 | 16 | 50 |

Percentages — FG 34.5, FT 0.0, 3-point goals — 10-20, 500 (Connell 3-6, Yee 3-5, Miller 1-4, Strong 2-3, Koenig 1-2). Team rebounds — 2. Blocked shots — 1 (Mister). Turnovers — 26 (Dempsey 4, Strong 3, Correll 3, Yee 3, Miller 3, Koenig 3, Nichols 3, Depko 3, Mister, Strong). Steals — 15 (Miller 4, Depko 3, Correll 2, Depko 2, Mister, Strong, Yee, Dempsey).

| | min | fg | ft | rb | a | pf | tp |
|-----------|-----|-------|-------|------|----|----|----|
| Little | 25 | 3-9 | 3-5 | 2-4 | 4 | 0 | 10 |
| Larkins | 23 | 4-4 | 0-0 | 4-8 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| Atkinson | 25 | 6-9 | 2-4 | 0-4 | 6 | 1 | 15 |
| Sell | 19 | 3-7 | 1-1 | 0-3 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| Latta | 22 | 5-8 | 0-1 | 0-2 | 4 | 1 | 11 |
| Nelms | 12 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 0-1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Dewitt | 7 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 0-1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Pringle | 18 | 0-0 | 6-6 | 2-4 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Miller | 21 | 4-6 | 2-2 | 0-1 | 3 | 0 | 13 |
| Clayton | 13 | 3-7 | 0-0 | 0-4 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| McFarland | 7 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 0-4 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Austin | 2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wood | 2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 200 | 31-45 | 15-19 | 9-38 | 24 | 7 | 87 |

Percentages — FG 56.4, FT 78.9, 3-point goals — 10-26, 385 (Clayton 3-7, Sell 2-4, Latta 1-5, Miller 3-4, Little 1-3). Team rebounds — 5. Blocked shots — 8 (Atkinson 3, Sell 2, Larkins, Little, Pringle). Turnovers — 21 (Larkins 5, Miller 5, Atkinson 2, Latta 2, Nelms 2, Pringle 2, McFarland 2, Dewitt 1). Steals — 13 (Latta 3, Pringle 3, Larkins 2, Clayton 2, Little, Dewitt, Miller).

Technical fouls — None. Attendance — 1,013.

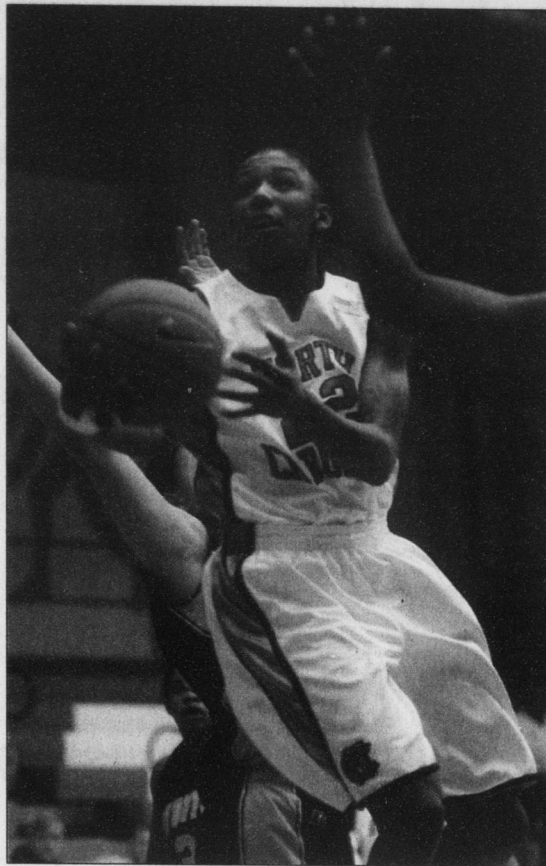
half. A K.C. Correll 3-pointer cut the Tar Heel lead to 32-20 with less than seven minutes to play in the first half.

But UNC then embarked on an 8-0 run to distance itself, keyed by an Ivory Latta jumper and three layups from Atkinson. The lead held at 20 points until halftime.

And the home team's good fortune continued after the intermission. The Tar Heels quickly salted the game away in the early second half, expanding the lead to 28 before the first media timeout.

And Latta finished with only 11 points, third best on the team. Aside from Atkinson, Miller bested her backcourt counterpart by scoring a career-high 13.

The balanced scoring proved



DTH/BRANDON SMITH

Senior La'Tangela Atkinson goes up for a shot in Thursday's 87-50 rout of Wofford. Atkinson scored a game-high 15 to improve UNC to 9-0.

too much for the Terriers, who are coached by Edgar Farmer Jr. — a manager on North Carolina's 1994 women's basketball title team.

"The people in Spartanburg, they asked me how I felt about the Tar Heels on Tuesday — and I said I thought they were a national-championship basketball team," Farmer said. "After seeing it in person, going 94 feet, I believe that."

And now, the Tar Heels finally will get a chance to breathe after playing seven games in the last

14 days, including trips south to Mexico and north to Connecticut. "We're tired," Hatchell said. "We played a lot of games in a short amount of time. I don't know when the last time was that we had a (full) practice."

But with the way her team has been playing, Hatchell might want to schedule another couple of games in the next week.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Mason dismissed, junior wrestler suspended

BY DANIEL MALLOY
SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina wide receiver Mike Mason was dismissed from the football team Thursday for a violation of team rules, according to a UNC press release.

No further information could be released, a team official said, cit-

ing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Head coach John Bunting did not have a comment.

Mason, a junior, finished with 22 catches for 372 yards last season, and was the team's third leading receiver.

Forshey suspended after DUI

Wrestler Drew Forshey has been suspended from the team after being arrested early Wednesday morning on charges of driving while impaired.

A team spokesman refused further comment about Forshey's status with the team.

The junior was arrested at 3:01

a.m. Wednesday morning, according to Chapel Hill police reports. Reports state that Forshey's blood alcohol content was .19 percent.

So far this season, Forshey was 10-2 with two pins.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Tar Heels elicit comparisons to 2002-03 squad

Must stay focused during exam break

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON
SENIOR WRITER

Three seasons ago, a youthful North Carolina men's basketball team brimmed with confidence as it recessed for December exams.

With a win against a top-10 opponent as a morale boost and a loss to Illinois in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge as a reality check, the Tar Heels appeared ready to obliterate the low expectations placed before them.

Sound familiar?

Before classes reconvened in January, however, North Carolina would lose twice to unranked opponents en route to missing the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season.

To add injury to insult, freshman center Sean May broke his foot in a December loss to Iona and missed all but one of the Tar Heels' remaining games.

If this season's UNC team is to maintain the momentum of its first six games, it will have to avoid the pitfalls that plagued the freshman-laden squad three years ago.

"We just have to stay positive, stay poised and stay focused, and when we have our break, make sure nobody goes home and gets out of shape eating all that Christmas food," said forward David Noel, one of only two players remaining from the 2002-03 team.

The Tar Heels also will have to stay healthy.

Point guard Bobby Frasor has exceeded expectations in the absence of the injured Quentin Thomas — so much so, in fact, that it's unlikely Thomas will start upon his return.

But UNC doesn't have the depth up front to weather an injury to Noel or, worse, rookie Tyler Hansbrough. The pair has combined to score 30.8 points and grab 15.0 rebounds per game thus far.

Even if the Tar Heels do stay healthy, Wednesday's surprisingly tough win against Saint Louis should quell fans' suddenly stratospheric expectations.

"We've got to continue to get better every day," said Frasor, who had 12 assists and five steals against the Billikens. "We've learned from this to come out with energy in every

MEN'S BASKETBALL BREAK SCHEDULE

- Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. vs. Santa Clara
- Dec. 21 at 10:30 p.m. at Southern California
- Dec. 28 at 8 p.m. vs. UNC-Asheville
- Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. vs. Davidson
- Jan. 7 at 3 p.m. vs. No. 25 N.C. State

game, and thank God we didn't have to lose to get the lesson."

But energy isn't the only inconsistency North Carolina has faced this season. Four days after holding Kentucky's talented perimeter shooters to 33 percent from behind the arc, the Tar Heels allowed Saint Louis to hit 56 percent of its 3-point attempts. What seemed to be North Carolina's only sure-fire defensive strength suddenly looked like a weakness.

"Defense, that's everything to this team," said guard Wes Miller. "That's our spark. That's what gets us going."

But the Tar Heels struggled defensively Wednesday against a Saint Louis team that won only nine games a season ago.

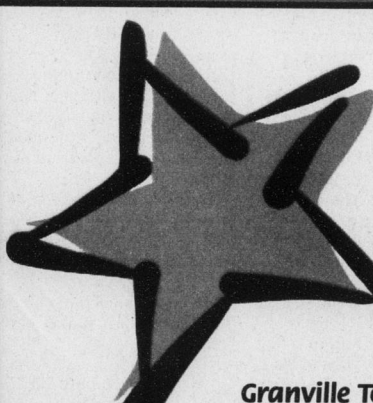
Fortunately for Coach Roy Williams' team, plenty of time still remains for adjustments before the ACC schedule begins.

"Every game, we're finding something else out about our team, things we need to work on," said guard Marcus Ginyard. "It needs to come to a point where we learn from every game and we put it all together into one game."

If North Carolina can get to that point during the upcoming break from classes, the ACC might be in for a surprise or two once the conference schedule begins.

And with nine games against ranked teams looming after the start of the new year, the schedule might be a little tougher than those finals.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.



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Direct all inquiries to LaNiece Dillon at 919-370-4500 or ldillon@granvilletowers.com.

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And break out the Festivus Pole, a metal pole with no decorations. Tinsel is very distracting. I got a lotta problems with you people! FRANK COSTANZA.</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY PENNY!</p> <p>Thanks for all the award-winning ads. You Rock!</p> | <p>Personals</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY LISA!</p> <p>Thank you so much for everything you do for us! We'd be lost (and hungry for M&M's) without you! Love, the front desk and the rest of your DTH family!</p> <p>HAPPY (Belated) BIRTHDAY ROSANNE!</p> <p>Welcome to the DTH family.</p> <p>Personals</p> <p>IT'S TIME TO 'FESS UP. TELL THE CUTE GUY IN YOUR PSYCH CLASS YOU HAVE THE HOTS FOR HIM.</p> <p>DTH PERSONALS</p> <p>25 WORDS OR LESS • \$6 • 962-0252</p> |
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