

Heels step on gas, jet past Eagles

30-1 UNC run puts BC away for good

BY MIKE EHRlich
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

For almost 15 minutes Thursday night, Boston College gave North Carolina a game.

But then the No. 3 Tar Heels fired up the ignition, switched on the jet burners and blew BC away with a 30-1 run.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
UNC 59
BC 2-2

ONLINE
The Tar Heel defense led UNC to the rout. Read more at dailytarheel.com

"We started to really put pressure on the ball, and from that we got deflections and from those deflections, we were getting transition buckets," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said.

The offensive firepower during the run, as well as the rest of the game, started with freshman Cetera DeGraffenreid. The speedy point guard turned every UNC steal or defensive rebound into an instant fast break.

She scored a career-high 20 points, the majority of which came off drives to the basket and contested layups.

"Coach told me to drive instead of staying outside and not doing anything and passing the ball," DeGraffenreid said. "So I just drove and put the ball up."

Tar Heel junior Rashanda McCants was complimentary of DeGraffenreid's quick strikes to

the hoop.

"You can't guard it," she said. "Anytime she does it, she's going to get a foul. Real good body control, it's kind of crazy — wish I had that."

BC defenders were having trouble guarding McCants herself. She used everything from 3-pointers to short put-backs to drop 19 points on the Eagles, including 10 in a row during the UNC burst.

Sophomore forward Jessica Breland came off the bench to contribute 18 points and nine boards, and junior Heather Claytor added 10 points.

UNC continued its tradition of utilizing pressure defense to dismantle the opposition. The Tar Heels pressed, trapped and jumped out in the Eagles' passing lanes to force 31 turnovers, which they converted to 25 points on the other end.

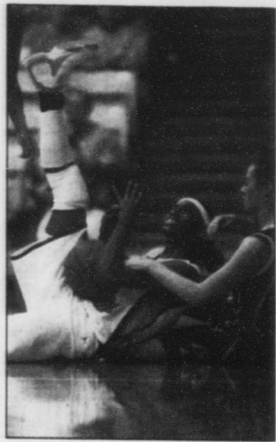
"You can't, with a team like this, throw the ball away," BC coach Cathy Inglesse said.

"With Carolina you've got to take care of the ball. We threw the ball away, and they just capitalize on that quickly with layups."

Even with senior stars Erlana Larkins and LaToya Pringle held to five and six points, respectively, UNC still netted 48 points in the paint.

Just as important, the North Carolina bigs held Boston College freshmen standouts Stefanie Murphy and Carolyn Swords to a combined 15 points. The two stand at 6-foot-4 and 6-foot-6, respectively, and entered Thursday night averaging more than 32 per contest combined.

But even in a lopsided vic-



DTH/JULIE TURKEWITZ

Tar Heel junior Rashanda McCants calls time-out during UNC's 87-59 thrashing of BC on Thursday night. McCants scored 19 points.

tory like the one UNC produced, Hatchell said the performance was not complete.

"I thought we had moments of brilliance out there where we looked really good," she said. "And then we had times where we got just really lethargic and we were just messing around, and I didn't like that."

The Eagles were unable to capitalize on UNC's sloppy periods, but the Tar Heels' next opponent might. Next up on the schedule is a visit to top-ranked and undefeated Connecticut, which recently lost 3-point threat Mel Thomas for the rest of the season because of a right knee injury.

"We're going to Connecticut next, and we've got to play 40 minutes of good intense basketball," Hatchell said.

And from there, it doesn't get

UNC 87, Boston College 59

Player	fg	ft	reb	ast	stl	blk
Murphy	22-47	12-24	1	1	4	2
Swords	33-15	3-4	0	0	0	0
Thomas	21-26	2-3	0	4	6	0
Claytor	22-24	0-0	12	1	3	4
Pringle	36-51	22-16	2	1	1	0
Miles	27-31	22-30	4	1	1	0
Smith	31-30	0-0	0	0	1	0
James	8-02	0-0	0	3	1	0
Rubin	6-12	0-0	11	0	2	2
Reed	12-14	0-0	12	1	2	2
Wilson	2-00	0-0	0	0	0	0
Total	280	22-82	59-15	15-36	17	18

Percentages — FG: 42.3, FT: 88.7. Points: 24 — 5-14, 30 — 3-8, Miles 2-6, Brown 0-2. Team rebounds — 6 (Blocked shots — 2 (Smith, Pringle). Turnovers — 22 (Thomas 7, Swords 6, Miles 4, Murphy 3, Brown 3, Pringle 2, Smith 2, James, Rubin, Wilson). Steals — 10 (Brown 2, Swords 2, Pringle 2, Reed 2, Miles, Wilson).

Player	fg	ft	reb	ast	stl	blk
Larkins	26-15	3-7	3	1	5	0
Pringle	19-24	2-2	12	0	4	6
McCants	27-39	1-1	16	2	1	10
Claytor	18-46	0-0	12	2	1	30
DeGraffenreid	21-36	14-0-1	2	1	30	0
Smith	28-33	8-8	14	3	3	18
Lucas	15-03	0-0	12	4	0	0
McFarland	22-25	3-3	0	1	6	0
Wood	5-12	1-2	0-1	0	2	3
Berry	4-00	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Berry	3-00	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Austin	2-00	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Total	280	22-82	59-15	20-38	17	18

Percentages — FG: 42.3, FT: 88.7. Points: 24 — 5-14, 30 — 3-8, Miles 2-6, Brown 0-2. Team rebounds — 6 (Blocked shots — 2 (Smith, Pringle). Turnovers — 22 (Thomas 7, Swords 6, Miles 4, Murphy 3, Brown 3, Pringle 2, Smith 2, James, Rubin, Wilson). Steals — 10 (Brown 2, Swords 2, Pringle 2, Reed 2, Miles, Wilson).

much easier, with No. 4 Maryland and the rest of the difficult ACC looming in the weeks ahead.

"This stretch coming up ... these next couple weeks will be tough," Hatchell said. "But it'll make us better and get us ready because we want to get back to the Final Four and another ACC championship."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.



DTH/EMMA PATTI

North Carolina's Thomas Scotton grapples with Duke's Voris Tejada during the Tar Heels' 32-6 victory against the Blue Devils on Thursday night.

UNC wallops Duke, evens ACC record

BY GABE HIATT
SENIOR WRITER

The venue changed, but the result stayed the same for the North Carolina wrestling team against Duke on Thursday night.

Hosting the Blue Devils in Fetzer Gym because of the women's basketball game, UNC (5-3, 1-1 ACC) easily recorded a 32-6 victory, their 33rd win in the last 34 meetings between the rival schools.

Such dominance against Duke brought raucous cheers from the home crowd, which over-

WRESTLING

Duke 6
UNC 32

flowed the bleachers to watch, forcing latecomers to stand around the mat in order to catch a glimpse of the action.

"The (Carolina) Fever have been fantastic," coach C.D. Mock said. "They make a big difference."

A distinctive cheer greeted team leader Keegan Mueller as his roommate gave the Dallas-native cowboy yelps and yeehaws. Mueller kept Duke's Aaron Glover hogtied, winning his bout 15-1.

Coming in ranked No. 12 in the nation, Mueller has lost only three bouts this year. Mock described Mueller's progression as coming along "just perfectly," and his major decision was one of four North Carolina recorded in its last five bouts.

"Keegan right now just reeks of confidence," Mock said. "I'm excited about his potential this year and what he can do."

Mueller's record proved the ability to rise to his potential, and he is watching his young teammates do the same.

Four freshmen competed Thursday, going 3-1 in their bouts. Freshmen Kyle Kiss posted a major decision, while fellow rookie Nick Tenpenny dropped his bout by one point.

UNC's Nick Stabile and Thomas Scotton, both a year removed from their redshirt seasons, dominated Duke sophomores and contributed a combined seven points to the team.

"Our young guys are a breath of fresh air," Mueller said. "They believe in themselves. They don't think that anyone is better than them. I love it."

Mock shares Mueller's enthusiasm for the next generation of UNC wrestlers, stressing that their attitude is an essential element for the team.

"They are just a good hard-nosed tough bunch," Mock said. "That's been kind of the key in our program."

Still, the key Thursday was not the freshmen. It was not even Mueller or No. 18 heavyweight Justin Dobies.

The performance of the night went to Vincent Ramirez, who was the only wrestler to contribute six points to his team with a pin of Duke freshman Mike Bell in 57 seconds.

Mock said that pins will need to come more often for this team to be as successful as possible. He also stressed the importance of doing well in a much-improved ACC.

"It feels good to get a pin whenever you can in college," Ramirez said. "They don't come very often."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

At 18-0, North Carolina in rare company

Looks to continue streak against UM

BY JESSE BAUMGARTNER
SENIOR WRITER

With a chaotic 83-82 victory against Georgia Tech on Wednesday night in Atlanta, the North Carolina men's basketball team took a historic step by extending its record to 18-0 on the season.

The unbeaten start ranks as the Tar Heels' best since the 1985-86 season.

Before Wednesday's win, this year's squad was tied with the

1997-98 team that reached the Final Four before bowing out to Utah.

The 1985-86 squad eventually ran its record to 21-0 before stumbling to a 28-6 final record that ended with a loss in the Sweet 16.

If the Tar Heels were to beat Maryland and Miami, they would face Boston College at home to tie that record and, with a win there, Florida State on the road to break it.

Playing down low

The post play was brutal from the opening tip, and Georgia Tech rose to the challenge by using four athletic forwards to give North Carolina trouble at the defensive end of the floor.

Jeremis Smith, Gani Lawal and Zack Peacock were the most effective of those, combining for 42 points and 24 rebounds for the game while shooting better than 57 percent from the field.

North Carolina coach Roy Williams wasn't happy with his team's lack of help defense down low at times.

"I was really mad early in the game because Quentin (Thomas) had a guy under the basket. It was a bigger guy, and he went right past him," he said after the game.

"We had three other guys standing there buying a freaking ticket instead of getting involved ... you can't just stand there and say it's

not your man."

Run, run, run

The Yellow Jackets chose to push the pace Wednesday night, which allowed them to put up 73 shots during the entire game and hang with the speedy Tar Heels.

"That's arguably the fastest team in the country, and I don't think they can outrun us," Yellow Jacket coach Paul Hewitt said.

UNC junior forward Danny Green wasn't surprised by the tactics and thinks the Tar Heels will see more of the same as the conference season progresses.

"They're an ACC team, and most ACC teams do run. Most ACC teams are going to push the ball right back at you. And we expect that. We just didn't get back as best as we could or as (well) as we wanted to."

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THE LOWDOWN ON SATURDAY'S GAME

Team	Record
Maryland at No. 1 North Carolina	(11-7, 1-2 ACC)
Smith Center, 3:30 p.m.	(18-0, 3-0 ACC)

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Backcourt	The matchup to watch on Saturday will be Maryland's Greivis Vasquez versus UNC's Ty Lawson. Vasquez has improved his scoring dramatically this season — 16.8 ppg — but he's also prone to turnovers. Edge: UNC
Frontcourt	The Terrapins' frontcourt tandem of James Gist and Bambale Osby have combined for about 25 points and 14 rebounds per game. UNC's Tyler Hansbrough accounts for 21.6 and 10 by himself. Edge: UNC
Bench	One of UM's top reserves, guard Cliff Tucker, has been forced into starting duty since an injury to Eric Hayes. That leaves UM a little thinner, and with UNC's Danny Green and Co., the Tar Heels are deeper. Edge: UNC
Intangibles	The Tar Heels are coming off of a physical battle with Ga. Tech, and there is always the potential for a hangover. UNC-Asheville played them tough after the win at Clemson, and so should Maryland. Edge: UM

The Bottom Line — North Carolina 86, Maryland 76
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