North Carolina outlasts Deacs for ACC road win

Pringle, McCants pace UNC effort

BY POWELL LATIMER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

When the final buzzer sounded, the North Carolina women's basketball team was just better.

Wake Forest clawed, fought and hustled for 40 minutes, but it couldn't stop the Tar Heels (19-2, 6-0 ACC) from coming away with the 76-55 victory.

"I have to give Wake Forest a lot of credit for hanging tough in there and playing us tough," coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "We started off not real good but finally got going."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UNC	76
WFU	55

UNC struggled to pull away for most of the first half as Wake Forest double-teamed Erlana Larkins every time she touched the ball in the post. The Deamon Deacons were successful in that regard as Larkins only scored two points on 1-3 shooting. Not helping the cause was a struggling Rashanda McCants, who registered two points and three fouls in the first half.

But even with two of their main scoring options shut down, UNC kept right on rolling. When Wake Forest double-teamed Larkins, it often left LaToya Pringle wide open in the lane, and eventually Larkins found her fellow senior.

"I think we kind of had to get used to it," Pringle said of the Wake Forest trap. "I think in the second half, me and Erlana found each other more, and we kind of got it figured out where we needed to be so she could find me on the double team."

Pringle certainly reaped the benefits, leading all scorers with 23 points — her third straight game with 20 or more points.

DTH/KATE NAPIER

North Carolina guard Cetera DeGraffenreid dribbles past Wake Forest's Alex Tchangoue in UNC's 76-55 win in Winston-Salem.

But UNC also had one weapon that the Deacons (13-10, 0-8) couldn't stop no matter how hard they tried: the one-woman fast break of Cetera DeGraffenreid. Of DeGraffenreid's 15 points, 14 came on fast-break layups, and the one other point came from a foul shot resulting from a fast break.

"Coach told me to push the ball and keep pushing it," DeGraffenreid said. "She was putting me and Italee (Lucas) in there sometimes so that we would both be able to push it at points."

With UNC nursing an eight-point lead heading into the half, the team needed a characteristic second-half burst to put the game away. They got it in the form of an re-energized McCants, who scored 12 points in the second half to put the game out of reach.

Defensively, UNC struggled to stop Wake Forest from scoring — the Deacons drained mid-range jump shots all night. However, the Tar Heels found success in pressuring Wake Forest ballhandlers to the tune of 13 steals and 22 takeaways.

However, the game was also marred by two serious injuries. First, UNC forward Iman McFarland went for a layup and came crashing down on her left arm.

"We don't know about Iman's arm, probably not good," Hatchell said.

Hatchell also said McFarland couldn't feel her arm after the fall.

Even worse, after a McCants layup, Wake Forest guard Brittany Waters blacked out and collapsed on the floor. Waters regained consciousness and could move her legs and arms but appeared to have trouble breathing and was taken to Wake Forest Baptist Hospital, a member of the Wake Forest athletic association said.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

UNC 76, Wake Forest 55

North Carolina	38	38	76
Wake Forest	30	25	55

North Carolina (76)

	fg	ft	rb				
min	m-a	m-a	o-t	a	pf	tp	
Larkins	24	1-3	0-1	2-6	2	4	2
McCants	28	7-11	0-1	2-6	0	3	14
Pringle	32	8-13	7-10	2-8	1	1	23
Clayton	29	0-4	0-0	1-7	1	1	0
DeGraffenreid	36	7-12	1-2	1-4	0	2	15
Burney	1	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
Gray	14	1-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	2
McFarland	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Wood	2	0-0	3-2	0-0	0	1	2
Lucas	14	2-5	0-1	3-2	2	0	4
Breland	19	5-6	0-2	0-5	0	0	10
Total	200	33-61	10-19	13-38	7	13	76

Percentages — FG .541, FT .526. **3-point goals** — 0-10 .000 (Clayton 0-4, McCants 0-2, Lucas 0-2, DeGraffenreid 0-1, Gray 0-1). **Team rebounds** — 2. **Blocked shots** — 7 (Breland 4, Pringle 3). **Turnovers** — 19 (McCants 4, Pringle 4, Larkins 3, Clayton 2, DeGraffenreid 2, Gray, Wood, Lucas, Breland). **Steals** — 13 (Larkins 3, McCants 3, DeGraffenreid 3, Gray, McFarland, Lucas, Breland).

Wake Forest (55)

	fg	ft	rb				
min	m-a	m-a	o-t	a	pf	tp	
Graves	38	7-18	2-2	2-7	0	3	16
Valentine	22	1-4	1-2	1-3	0	5	3
Tchangoue	40	6-12	0-0	0-3	4	2	14
Collier	29	0-1	0-0	1-3	4	1	0
Morris	32	2-6	0-0	0-3	4	4	6
Wilson	9	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	2
Waters	10	2-3	0-2	1-2	0	0	4
Brown	17	5-10	2-2	2-4	0	1	10
Riddle	3	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Total	200	22-67	5-8	9-30	12	17	55

Percentages — FG .386, FT .625. **3-point goals** — 6-15 .400 (Tchangoue 2-4, Morris 2-6, Brown 2-6). **Team rebounds** — 5. **Blocked shots** — 1 (Valentine). **Turnovers** — 22 (Tchangoue 6, Graves 3, Waters 3, Collier 2, Morris 2, Brown 2, Valentine, Wilson). **Steals** — 9 (Tchangoue 3, Morris 3, Valentine, Waters, Brown).

Technical fouls — None. **Attendance** — 2,488.

McCants fuels strong second half

BY MIKE EHRLICH
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In the first period, North Carolina's Rashanda McCants was out of rhythm, out of sorts and — as she put it — just plain out of it.

The junior scored just two points in the period, turned the ball over three times and committed three fouls. She dribbled the ball off her leg, missed passes out of bounds and looked uncharacteristically overwhelmed.

"I was a little frustrated in the first half," she said. "I couldn't get into my rhythm. It was real physical, and I was just really out of it."

Her struggles have been a nagging problem of late. After beginning the year on fire, McCants has cooled recently.

She would recover in the second half of UNC's 76-55 victory against Wake Forest, though.

She largely abandoned her outside shot, choosing to put the ball on the floor and get into the lane. That aggression resulted in 12 second-half points. Just as importantly, she did not commit any more fouls and turned the ball over just once more.

"That's my counter when my shot's not going," she said. "I've got to take it to the basket and be more aggressive. When they respect the drive, then that's when I can start making shots outside."

UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said she tried to encourage McCants at halftime.

"I tried not to put any pressure on her and just told her that we need her," she said. "We need her to get going and all that stuff."

But even with the strong second period, her 14 points still fell two below her season average. And it is the third straight game she has scored 14 or fewer points.

"I've been struggling right now trying to get my rhythm back," she said. "I think I've been thinking too much. I need to not think about it and just go out there and play."

But where she lacked on the offensive side of the floor, McCants picked up the slack on defense. Of the many Tar Heels Hatchell threw at the Deacon's biggest scoring threat, Alex Tchangoue, she said, McCants did the best job.

McCants had three steals and six rebounds and used her size to guard the smaller Tchangoue.

"I take pride in my defense," she said. "I knew from the scouting report her weakness, and I think I was really effective making her do things she wasn't really comfortable doing."

DTH/KATE NAPIER

North Carolina's Rashanda McCants shoots over a Wake Forest defender. She scored 12 of her 14 points in the second half.

With Duke looming as UNC's next challenge, they might need McCants to break out of her slump.

"She just needs to relax and play," Hatchell said.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

THE LOWDOWN ON SUNDAY'S GAME

No. 4 North Carolina at Florida State
Donald L. Tucker Center, 2 p.m.
Broadcast: FSN
Radio: 1360 WCHL

(20-1, 5-1 ACC) (13-9, 2-5 ACC)

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Backcourt — FSU has four guards that average 11 or more points per game, but none more than 14.3. UNC's Ty Lawson and Wayne Ellington, who combine for 30.7 points per game, should handle business. **Edge: UNC**

Frontcourt — FSU's top big man, Uche Echefu, scores 11.3 points per game, and his 7.3 rebounds are no. 10 in the ACC, but UNC's Tyler Hansbrough scores 22 and grabs 10.1 rebounds — both tops in the conference. **Edge: UNC**

Bench — FSU brought in six players off the bench in Tuesday's loss to Virginia Tech. Only one of them scored any points. UNC sixth man Danny Green continues to play like a starter, leading a solid Tar Heel bench. **Edge: UNC**

Intangibles — The Seminoles are 2-5 in the ACC, and those two victories are by a total of four points. UNC looked strong against Boston College after an seven-day layoff and will continue that trend in Tallahassee. **Edge: UNC**

The Bottom Line — North Carolina 90, Florida State 76

COMPILED BY GRAY CALDWELL

games

Sudoku
By The Mepham Group

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Level: 1 2 3 **4**

4					8	1		
				9	3			6
			6		4			
8	1					9	6	7
		3				4		
7	4	9					3	5
			5		1			
1			7	8				
		5	4					9

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

Solution to Thursday's puzzle

3	2	4	7	1	5	8	6	9
8	6	1	9	2	4	7	5	3
5	7	9	6	3	8	1	2	4
2	1	5	4	8	7	9	3	6
6	4	7	3	9	1	2	8	5
9	3	8	5	6	2	4	1	7
4	9	2	1	5	6	3	7	8
1	5	3	8	7	9	6	4	2
7	8	6	2	4	3	5	9	1

Funds unfrozen

A N.J. student newspaper comes to a publishing agreement with its student government. See pg. 5 for story.

'Rat' auction

An auction of Rathskeller items will be held Saturday morning. See pg. 3 for story.

Kisses for soldiers

UPS offers free postage for care packages to soldiers. Go online for story.

Pell Grants for Kids

President Bush's voucher proposal is drawing debate. Go online for story.

Final countdown

As of today, seniors have 100 days until their graduation. See pg. 1 for story.

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7:10, 9:10, SAT-SUN 1:45, 4:00
Chelsea Weaver Dairy Timberlyne 968-3005
SAVAGES
7:10, 9:20, SAT-SUN 2:15, 4:40
JAMES McAVOY KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
ATONEMENT
7:00, 9:30, SAT-SUN 2:00, 4:30
NO COUNTRY 4 OLD MEN
6:50, SAT-SUN 1:50
DIVING BELL/BUTTERFLY
9:10, SAT-SUN 4:20

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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ACROSS
1 Place for pumpkins
6 Stuff to the gills
10 Pesters
14 Waikiki greeting
15 Sole
16 Farmland parcel
17 Himalayan kingdom
18 Grimm beast
19 Branch of Islam
20 Do the utmost
23 Prickly-topped plant
25 Potash
26 Braggart's problem
27 Winding curve
28 Scatterbrained
31 Kitchen cover-up
33 Marshal Dillon
35 Nurse a drink
36 Botanist Gray
37 Flaunt boundaries
43 Period
44 August sign
45 __ since (as of)
46 Tropical plant with brilliant flowers
49 Massive amounts
51 Musical sensitivity
52 N.A. country
53 Mushroom top
55 Periods of readiness
57 Find a scapegoat
61 Driving expense
62 Your majesty
63 Reluctant
66 Sandwich cookie
67 M.I.T. grad
68 Web-footed mammal
69 Nothing more than
70 Nerve fiber
71 Tablelands

DOWN
1 Moving shot
2 Tankard fill
3 Schooner features
4 Wild disorder
5 Cut in two
6 Latch (onto)
7 Brand symbol
8 Rambunctious
9 Itsy-bitsy
10 Spaceflight org.
11 More sore
12 Foreigner, in Latin America
13 Add herbs
21 Old Testament prophet
22 Try to get one's goat
23 Interim worker
24 Jacob's twin
29 Deadlock
30 Magic incantation
32 Bleached out
34 In the past
36 Profession
38 Leaflet handout
39 Hillary Clinton, __ Rodham
40 Pigs out
41 Bog fuel
42 Misses the mark
46 Tradition
47 On land
48 Carpenter, at times
49 Man-lion figure
50 Tack on snow
54 Bewildered
56 Play the ham
58 Floating ice
59 Therefore
60 European capital
64 Kind of pot or bag
65 60 min. multiples

A	H	S		C	C	I		K	G	B		A	T	E
L	A	T	E	R	A	L		A	R	E		C	H	I
T	H	E	W	I	S	E		R	O	A	S	T	E	D
S	A	N	E	S	T		L	E	W		E	I	R	E
				P	A	R	E	N	T	N	E	V	E	R
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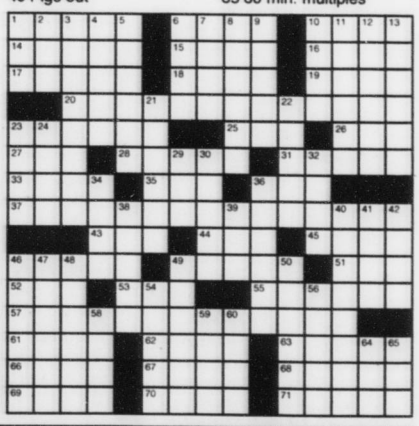

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