

Defense key in matchup with VT

UNC backcourt faces tough tests

BY NICOLE LUKOSIUS
SENIOR WRITER

It has been a rough week of conference play for both No. 5 North Carolina and Virginia Tech.

And for the Tar Heel guards especially, things could continue to shape up that way Saturday.

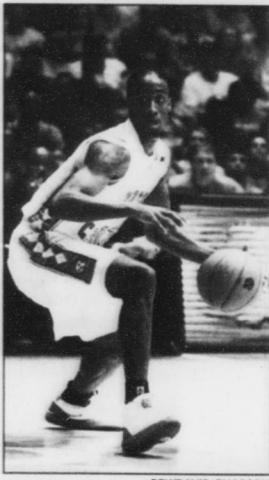
That's because the assignment of containing Hokie sharpshooter A.D. Vassallo won't be an easy one.

Coming off a season-high 24 points in a 3-point loss to Miami last weekend, Vassallo is a threat from all over the court. He ranks third in the conference, shooting almost 41 percent from behind the arc.

If Vassallo gets hot from downtown, that could open up the driving lanes for human highlight reel Deron Washington.

Either Vassallo or Washington has been the Hokies' leading scorer in the last eight games, so the Tar Heels are going to need the entire backcourt to put its best foot forward on the defensive end if they hope to contain the Hokie playmakers.

Although Va. Tech has lost its past two games — seeing its conference record drop to an even .500 — the Hokies' guard play has been consistent.



DTH/DAVID ENARSON

With Ty Lawson's status still in limbo, North Carolina will look to senior guard Quentin Thomas against Virginia Tech on Saturday.

And with the status of North Carolina's point guard extraordinaire Ty Lawson still up in the air, replacement senior Quentin Thomas will need to rebound from a difficult outing Tuesday against Virginia in which he scored just five points to go along with just three assists and two turnovers.

But Thomas has responded to poor performances well recently. After a six-turnover performance

THE LOWDOWN ON SATURDAY'S GAME

Virginia Tech vs. No. 5 North Carolina
Smith Center, 1 p.m.
Broadcast: CBS
Radio: 1360 WCHL

(14-10, 5-5 ACC) (23-2, 8-2 ACC)

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Backcourt	Quentin Thomas again will see a battle at the point, as VT's A.D. Vassallo could spell trouble for UNC. Vassallo is a 3-point threat — making 40.8 percent — and he also contributes 16.3 points a game. Edge: VT	
Frontcourt	Even when UNC seems destined to lose, Tyler Hansbrough continues to shine. VT's Jeff Allen can only hope for successful double- and triple-teams to keep the All-America from having his way inside. Edge: UNC	
Bench	Va. Tech doesn't see considerable numbers once its starters come out, but Danny Green has been consistent for UNC. With Ty Lawson possibly out, it's important now more than ever that others step up. Edge: UNC	
Intangibles	The Hokies have dropped two straight, and the Tar Heels just barely squeaked by UVa. If a double-overtime victory and a one-point win aren't enough to get UNC fired up, there could be gray skies ahead. Edge: UNC	

The Bottom Line — North Carolina 90, Virginia Tech 77

—COMPILED BY NICOLE LUKOSIUS

in a loss against Duke on Feb. 6, he stepped up big against Clemson.

Thomas tied the game near the end of regulation and came through again when he hit two clutch free throws to send the game into a second overtime.

So after a few close calls, North

Carolina is just trying to make it through the week unscathed. But Vassallo, Washington and the rest of the Hokies will certainly be looking to ruin the Tar Heels' plans.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

BLUES BROTHERS

FROM PAGE 1

"We were all kids when the Blues Brothers' movie was released, so it was relevant to us in our lifetimes," said former UNC band member Stephen Lytle. "We played the tune for a while on its own before the idea came to add characters."

Aykroyd and Belushi's "band" debuted as a musical guest on the sketch comedy show but quickly expanded.

They even released an album, titled "Briefcase Full of Blues," in 1978.

But the duo really gained fame after their 1980 movie, which quickly became a classic.

The plot revolves around Jake and Elwood Blues, who go on a "mission from God" to save the home in which they grew up, raised by nuns.

After Jake is released from prison, the brothers try to get their former blues band back together, hoping to put on the gig of a lifetime and raise the \$5,000 in taxes they need to keep the home in business.

With the costumes and elements of the dance coming from the 1980 movie, very little has changed about the performance in 20 years.

But the accuracy of the dunks has improved, Lytle said.

The Blues Brothers skit started as

"This is the only job I can think of that gives you the opportunity to roll around on the Dean Dome floor ... and kiss the videoboard camera lens."

ANDY BLACKMORE, BLUES BROTHER

a way to keep the crowd involved and entertained, said Blake Long, former Blues Brother from the early 1990s.

"This was back before the JumboTrons were installed and when there was much less canned music being played during timeouts and halftime," Long said. "So really, the band and the cheerleaders were all there was to entertain."

Long said he will never forget the time he and his fellow Blues Brother were standing in the tunnel preparing to perform when Michael Jordan walked by them. Jordan smiled as he saw them and said, "You guys are great!"

Long said having anonymity gives Blues Brothers the freedom to try things they wouldn't normally do.

"It is the only job I can think of that gives you the opportunity to roll around on the Dean Dome

floor, put a Carolina blue wig on Dickie V and kiss the videoboard camera lens all in a three-minute time span," Blackmore said.

But Wallace said that although performing at games is fun, the duo always gets nervous before running out onto the court.

"Running out there for the first time was probably one of the top 10 things I've done at Carolina — just hearing everyone screaming and feeling all the energy," he said.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

MURDER

FROM PAGE 1

A grand jury will have to decide whether to indict Stroud on the murder charge. The next grand jury meets March 3, but Perez said she was not sure if the district attorney's office will pursue an indictment on that date.

Susan Houston, a spokeswoman for University relations, said Brown was paid \$24,691 per year for work as a floor maintenance assistant for UNC Housekeeping Services, where he worked since Feb. 2, 2004.

At the same Northside neighborhood intersection six months ago, a drive-by shooting left a Carrboro man and Chapel Hill teen injured.

Chapel Hill Police Captain Jackie Carden would not comment on a pending investigation.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

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STD TESTING

FROM PAGE 1

from doing so, said Craig Roberts, an epidemiologist at University of Wisconsin health services.

"STD testing should be available at as low a cost as possible for students."

Christine Peterson, director of gynecology at the University of Virginia's student health center, said STD testing is not covered by UVa. student fees because the price tag is too high, adding that public universities generally are under pressure to keep fees down.

But student health fees for UVa. and UNC, which don't offer free testing, are more than \$40 higher than those for the universities of Wisconsin and Michigan, which do cover the tests.

Fees at UNC and UVa. still reduce the price of STD screening.

"We think more students will come get tested because they pay less than with their private doctors," Peterson said. "It's not a big burden compared to the price of textbooks."

In addition, Sarahmona Przybyla, a former sexual health counselor at CHS, said she referred students with concerns about test prices to the Orange County Health Department, where N.C. residents can get screened for most STDs at no cost.

Student Body President-elect J.J. Raynor said expanding student awareness of local free testing options could be a way to avoid raising student fees to cover the service.

"It's an interesting idea," Raynor said of including STD tests in fees. "I'm really hesitant to apply student fees without seeing if they're really necessary."

At UNC about 9 percent of students in the 2006-07 academic year were tested for chlamydia at CHS, assuming no one was tested more than once.

Only 364 people ages 18 to 24 got tested at the county health department last fiscal year, said Wayne Sherman, personal health services director for the department.

If more students take advantage of the free service, the department would be stretched for resources, Sherman said, stressing that no one is turned away. "We're pretty much full up right now."

There is no tally of how many students get tested with private doctors.

At Wisconsin 13 percent of

"Anything that keeps kids away from health care is a real issue, a real barrier."

FRED WYAND, AMERICAN SOCIAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION SPOKESMAN

students were tested at university health services last academic year. But the number of students who get tested isn't necessarily an indicator of a campus's overall sexual health, experts say.

Przybyla said if testing were free on campus, students could be less likely to practice safe sex. The emphasis in college sexual health should be on prevention, not testing and treatment after unsafe sex, she said.

The CDC recommends sexually active women ages 25 and younger get screened at least annually for chlamydia. That's the only broadly accepted guideline for STD screening in young people, leaving the door open to a spread of recommendations from different experts.

"If you're sexually active with more than one partner in the last year, you should get tested annually," Roberts said.

Others shied away from blanket suggestions, saying the need for testing should be decided by health professionals on an individual basis.

Peterson and others said the unwillingness among students to speak frankly with health professionals about their sex lives can be as much of a deterrent as cost is.

"Although cost can be a barrier, there are other barriers that are bigger than cost," Peterson said. "For many students, they do not perceive themselves to be at risk."

Contact the Investigative Editor at iteam@unc.edu.

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