

Defense powers UNC past 'Cats

BY POWELL LATIMER
SENIOR WRITER

Kentucky's Ramon Harris hung in the air, suspended by momentum and the arm of North Carolina's Deon Thompson.

A second earlier, Harris had a clear lane to the hoop for an easy layup, but instead of the basket, Harris' shot met Thompson.

It was not a pleasant exchange. Harris ended up on the ground, with Thompson standing over him screaming, "Let's go!"

"I think that's what really helped our team," Thompson said. "We were in such a frenzy that first 15 minutes."

That play set the tone for the kind of treatment No. 1 North Carolina dished out in the post.

It started with Patrick Patterson, who took the heaviest beating from the Tar Heels. At every opportunity, UNC players banged, bumped or somehow made contact with Patterson. It seemed that, at any given point, at least one Tar Heel had a hand on Patterson.

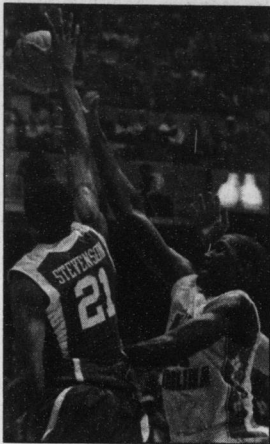
"We got a good lesson on how extremely hard you have to play," Kentucky coach Billy Gillespie said. "I think our guys play hard, but they didn't play near hard enough tonight."

It certainly seemed as though the beating took its toll.

By the second half, Patterson and his frontcourt mate Perry Stevenson spent most of their time around the 3-point line, and when Kentucky's big did venture into the paint, UNC surrounded them with at least two players.

Coach Roy Williams used Ed Davis' length to front Patterson — Davis twice broke up lobs intended for the post — and Tyler Zeller and Thompson to bump and shove him. And as soon as Patterson got into a rhythm against one of UNC's big men, Williams brought in another.

"We've got to get the ball to Patrick," Gillespie said. "But Patrick has to get more than two offensive rebounds. He needs to get seven, like Thompson did."



DTH/ANDREW JOHNSON

Deon Thompson led the Tar Heels with a career-high 20 points and also featured seven offensive rebounds against the Wildcats.

The result was that Patterson's teammates stopped looking at their big forward and instead ran their offense through trigger-happy guard Jodie Meeks, who laid a whopping 15 bricks for a 25 percent shooting clip on the evening.

And while Patterson's stat line was impressive — 19 points and 11 boards on 8-of-11 shooting, most of his points came after the game was already decided. Patterson's first-half stats — six points with only three shots — indicated that he was not involved in the offense during UNC's opening punches.

All told, Kentucky's starting posts combined for nine turnovers, many of those from throwaways while the post players were out at the top of the key handling the ball.

UNC also took some casualties from their enforcement — Thompson fouled out and Zeller left the game with a wrist injury — but in the end, UNC just had too many big bodies to throw at the Wildcats.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Heels scratch and claw way to victory

BY DAVID ELY
SENIOR WRITER

For about the first 12 minutes, the North Carolina men's basketball team delivered a not-so-subtle message to the rest of the college basketball world — the defense played in Chapel Hill is pretty good, too.

That was certainly the case Tuesday at the Smith Center. For a team that's built its reputation on a high-octane offense, the No. 1 Tar Heels pressured Kentucky up and down the court and forced 28 turnovers in a 77-58 win.

"That's what we emphasize," UNC guard Wayne Ellington said, referring to defense. "We knew they had the capability to turn the ball over a lot, and we wanted to get out and get in the passing lanes and force them to make tough plays."

All the turnovers that UNC generated served as a spark plug for its play on the other side of the court. As soon as a Tar Heel got his hands on a rebound or picked a Wildcat's pocket, the ball immediately swung to a streaking Ty Lawson to set up a fast break and an easy bucket.

Throughout the first half, that formula translated into made baskets underneath by Deon Thompson — whose 20 points led UNC — or open jumpers on the wings. But the game's signature moment came in a more razzle-dazzle fashion.

North Carolina led 23-6 as Lawson raced up the right sideline to jump-start another UNC fast break.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Kentucky 58
UNC 77

This time the Tar Heel point guard locked eyes with a pointing Ellington and threw the ball near the hoop.

With that, Ellington leapt into the air and jammed the ball for a crowd-pleasing alley-oop.

"I didn't know he was going to get up that high," Lawson said. "He didn't expect that I was going to throw it, that's what he said. But I trust him; that's the only reason I threw it, and he converted it."

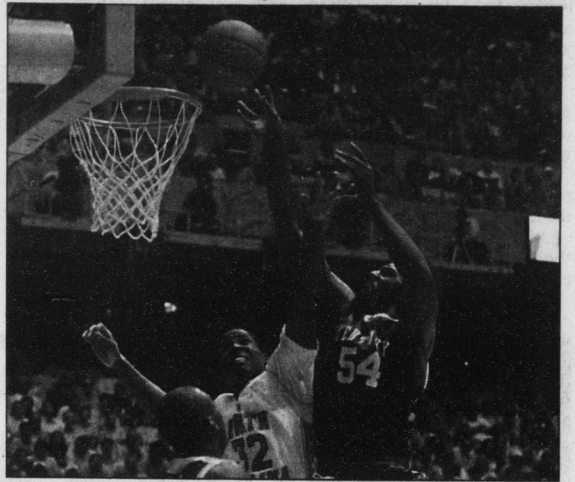
But North Carolina was not able to sustain that kind of defensive intensity for 40 minutes. Defenders who looked dominant early slacked off and allowed Kentucky to get to the hoop and stay within striking distance in the second half.

"We've got to concentrate more and stay focused, especially in the second half when we're up," Ellington said. "We gotta continue to fight, and we gotta continue to execute."

Despite the lapse, the Wildcats couldn't chip away from the deficit completely. After scoring 39 points against VMI, Jodie Meeks missed more shots than he made against UNC, finishing with 19 points on 5-for-20 shooting.

Forward Patrick Patterson rebounded from a six-point first half to end the game with 19 points, but he never dominated the game to the degree Kentucky needed.

UNC won't get too much time to



DTH/ANDREW JOHNSON

Ed Davis and UNC beat the Wildcats defensively Tuesday, keeping Jodie Meeks, UK's leading scorer against VMI, at 5-for-20 from the floor.

DTH ONLINE: Check out a slideshow of photos from Tuesday night's matchup.

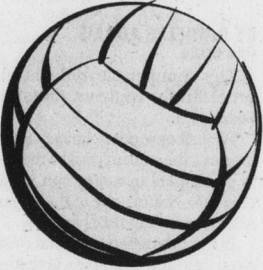
DTH ONLINE: Watch video highlights from the Tar Heels' game against Kentucky.

savor the win — the good vibes didn't even make it to the final buzzer.

With less than two minutes left in the game, freshman Tyler Zeller was struck by a UK defender as he tried to jam the ball from the paint and crashed to the court as coach Roy Williams rushed to his side. Williams said after the game that Zeller injured his left wrist.

"Right now we feel really good about the win, at the same time we're concerned about Tyler Zeller," Williams said. "He's on the way to the hospital right now taking the X-ray to see what it is, but it doesn't give us a good feeling."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.



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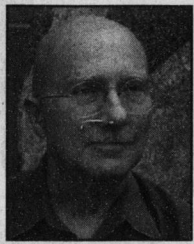
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Scientific Uncertainty and Climate Policy: Moving on without all the answers



with
Dr. Henry Pollack

Thursday, Nov. 20
7:30 p.m.
Carroll Hall

Dr. Henry Pollack is Emeritus Professor of Geophysics in the Department of Geological Sciences of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. He is Science Advisor to former Vice President Al Gore's Climate Project and, together with colleagues of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore in 2007.

This talk is third in the series of annual seminars on climate change hosted by UNC's Department of Geological Sciences and co-sponsored by the Department of Marine Sciences and the Institute for the Environment.

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