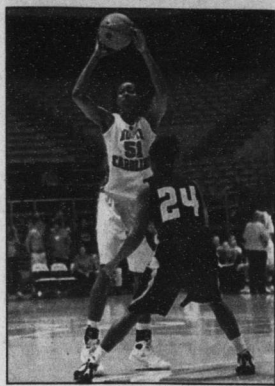


**SPORTSBRIEFS**

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**



DTH FILE/CHESSA RICH

**NORMAN, Okla.** — Jessica Breland poured in a career-best 31 points Sunday, helping the No. 3 North Carolina women's basketball team topple the fourth-ranked Oklahoma Sooners 80-79 in the finals of the Preseason WNIT.

Breland, who played 30 minutes for the Tar Heels (5-0) off the bench, missed only four of her 18 shot attempts.

The game was in limbo until the final buzzer, when Oklahoma's Danielle Robinson missed a potentially game-winning layup as time expired.

UNC freshman Chay Shegog and senior Rashanda McCants joined

Breland in double figures, netting 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Oklahoma went without an offensive rebound for the game's first 12 minutes.

"I knew rebounding was going to be big," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell told the Associated Press. "They out-rebounded us, but only by two. I think we got some big ones when we needed, too."

Oklahoma coach Sherri Coale said her team's poor outside shooting — 2-of-17 from 3-point range — proved to be its undoing. North Carolina went 5-of-17 from behind the arc.

"We need to make open shots," Coale said to the AP. "When it's a one-point game, it can be one rebound, it can be one free throw, it can be one 3. It can be a million different things."

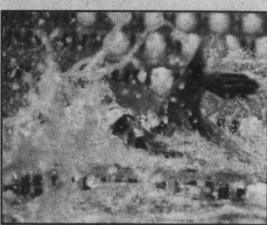
Besides Breland, only two Tar Heels scored in double figures — Chay Shegog, with 12 points, and McCants, with 10.

The Sooners sprinted to a 6-0 with three layups, but North Carolina soon took control of the lane thanks to a seemingly unending supply of 6-foot inside players.

The Tar Heels led 27-19 after a put-back by Shegog with 6:09 left in the half. Oklahoma rallied within one, but two baskets by Breland — short jumpers over Paris, who was playing with two fouls — restored North Carolina's lead to five at 32-27. Oklahoma answered by scoring the next nine points and led 37-34 at halftime.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

**SWIMMING**



DTH/ERIC VELARDE

**Columbia, S.C.** — Sophomore Chip Peterson added to the record-breaking weekend for the Tar Heels by demolishing the school record in the 1,650-yard freestyle while helping lead the North Carolina men's and women's swimming and diving teams to decisive victories at Carolina Natatorium in the 2008 Gamecock Invitational.

Peterswon finished in 14:48.86, shattering the record previously held by sophomore teammate Joe Kinderwater.

After the third and final day of competition, the Tar Heel men and women finished the meet with commanding first-place finishes.

On the men's side, North Carolina scored 1,337.5 points, followed by South Carolina with 842.5, Duke with 697, East Carolina with 404.5, Syracuse with 368.5 and College of Charleston with 143 points. UNC earned an automatic bid to the 2008 NCAA Championships.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

**THANKSGIVING**

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Players who live locally can go home to eat, but those who eat with the team will be sure to chow down on a plentiful table before the team visits Duke on Saturday.

The volleyball team, which will wrap up its regular season against N.C. State on Friday in the Smith Center, will have a meal at coach Joe Sagula's house on Thanksgiving Day.

"Some of them have their family with them. We have about a third of the team that are eating together," Sagula said.

"Sometimes it's all of them, but if their family is in town, it's a time to be with family."

Dorrance, now in his 30th year at UNC, said he doesn't cook anything himself at the annual celebration, preferring to "just sit back and enjoy life."

And while the players will get a chance to work off the calories in their match against Texas A&M on Friday, Dorrance and his coaching staff have another post-Thanksgiving tradition.

"Then (assistant coach Bill Palladino) and (goalkeeper coach) Chris Ducar and I go and play roller hockey after to try to burn it all off," Dorrance said.

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**FOOTBALL**

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telling stat from Saturday's stunner: six Tar Heel turnovers.

"You can almost totally disregard all of the other stats," he said.

In North Carolina's three prior defeats this season, it lost the turnover battle by a combined six giveaways. But the Tar Heels (7-4, 3-4 ACC) coughed it up early and often Saturday with three interceptions and three lost fumbles — UNC's most total turnovers since 2002.

"There will never be a football game ever played that you can lose the turnover ratio as dramatically poorly as we did today and give yourself any chance to win," Davis said.

The turnover problems started right away, with two Shaun Draughn fumbles on the first two Tar Heel possessions.

"I have no clue what it was," Draughn said. "We try to hold onto it. It wasn't that I was careless with it; they just stripped the ball."

On the other end, the defense was unable to force any turnovers from the Wolfpack, led by redshirt freshman quarterback Russell Wilson.

Wilson was efficient with a career-high 279 passing yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for 50 yards.

N.C. State's compiled season highs in total yards (466), passing yards (279) and rushing yards (187).

"We knew he had a cannon and

that he's an intelligent kid," defensive tackle Marvin Austin said of Wilson. "So we knew he can be a nightmare, and he definitely became it — he was the grim reaper today."

North Carolina's offensive output of 203 total yards was the worst this season and the second-worst in Davis' time as head coach.

"Nothing was in rhythm, nobody was in sync," said quarterback T.J. Yates, who was ineffective in his first start since fracturing his ankle in the third game of the season.

For the first time this season, North Carolina lost back-to-back games. Just as troubling are the back-to-back defeats in the rivalry.

"If you play poorly, you're going to get beat," Davis said. "And if you turn it over six times, you're going to get beat badly."

And UNC got beat very badly. The margin of victory was N.C. State's largest against the Tar Heels since a 40-6 blowout in 1989.

The Tar Heels will have to regroup quickly, though, as another rivalry contest is on the horizon.

"We can't throw away everything we've done this season and end the season with three losses in a row; we just can't do that," E.J. Wilson said.

"We've got to dig down deep inside, and we need to take this next 10 to 12 hours and do some real soul-searching."

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**NCAA**

FROM PAGE 10

box and fed her the ball.

Nogueira's low shot was saved by the Illini keeper, but it rolled out to the left where Illinois defender Emily Zurrer inadvertently tapped it straight back into Illinois' goal.

Nogueira, the ACC's Offensive Player of the Year, gave the credit to her teammate.

"It was all basically Tobin. She was running across the midfield, and I knew she was looking for someone to get in or someone to get wide," Nogueira said. "So I just ran across the defense and she found a seam, and luckily I was onside."

Nogueira had 10 of the Tar Heels' 17 shots and was responsible for two of the three goals.

But even as the centerpiece of UNC's offense, Nogueira wanted to point to teamwork as the reason for the team's success. And while team chemistry won't put anything on the scoreboard, all the Tar Heels (22-1-2) spoke about how well the squad worked together against the Illini.

"Really, when our back line is stepping up and our forwards are doubling back we have it easy," midfielder Yael Averbuch said.

"I mean, yeah, it's hard work for us closing people down but we're surrounded basically by our teammates who are working hard, so our job was not as hard today as it could have been."

Averbuch broke a school record for starts with her 102nd consecutive game. But the senior was happy for

freshman teammate Rachel Wood, who scored the second goal of her career to put the Tar Heels up 2-0.

Wood hit a long shot from 20 yards out on the left side all the way across the box, where it hit the right post and rolled in.

"Rachel's been working on it every day, with all of us, and when she hit it I knew it was a good shot and it had a good chance of going in," Averbuch said.

That goal all but sealed the win as the Tar Heels had dominated ball control since the early minutes.

UNC led 12-1 in shots at the time of that score and played all of its reserves down the stretch.

Coach Anson Dorrance's only regret in the game was that it had to come at the expense of a friend. Janet Rayfield, the Illinois women's soccer coach, was Dorrance's first recruit at UNC and was a captain on the team that won the Tar Heels' first NCAA title in 1982.

The only Tar Heels to play the full 90 minutes during the chilly evening were the three members of the back line, who were able to lock down the Illini strikers for UNC's seventh straight shutout.

But center back Whitney Engen placed the credit on the reserves.

"They play defense, and they win all the balls up front, and they tackle hard," Engen said.

"When they do that, it makes our job so easy. A shutout isn't just the defense's win. It's a team effort."

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**HANSBROUGH**

FROM PAGE 10

told Hansbrough he would start 15 minutes into warm-ups.

"He's felt great about it (in practice)," Williams said after the game. "Tonight I couldn't keep him out — every time I took him out, he'd tell me he was ready to go back in."

But Hansbrough had plenty of help Friday. Fellow forward Deon Thompson finished with 12 points and 10 boards.

Thompson's six-point run in the second half helped UNC keep at bay UCSB's upset bid.

Midway through the first half, a UCSB 11-0 run put the Gauchos up five, the largest deficit UNC has faced this season.

"I mean, we expect every team to come out and give us our best shot, but we didn't expect them to shoot that high a percentage," Danny Green said of the Gauchos' 52 percent in the first half. "But we knew they were going to come out gunning."

So, the Tar Heels quickly answered with 13 points of their own.

Green, Ty Lawson and Wayne Ellington finished a combined 6-for-

12 on 3-pointers, highlighted by Lawson's two in less than a minute to claim the lead back for UNC.

"We just tried to move the ball a little bit," Green said. "Once we started getting into a little rhythm, they started getting some shots down — Ty did and Wayne did — and I hit one."

But it was a nice one. Green knocked down the three after rebounding his own miss to put the Tar Heels ahead 38-29.

Williams said he couldn't say whether he will play Hansbrough in the Maui Invitational — which starts today with UNC's opening-round matchup against Chaminade.

Williams doesn't know that (he) can think about playing him three days in a row.

Even if he doesn't play or, as was the case Friday, doesn't make an effort he's happy with, having Hansbrough back is worth more than numbers on a box score, Williams said.

"He brings a lot to our team, not just points and rebounds. I mean, he is a very intense young man."

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