

# The Daily Tar Heel

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CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1965

## Tar Heels Cram Ratings Down Blue Devil Throats

### Cunningham Stars In 71-66 Thriller

By LARRY TARLETON  
DTH Sports Editor

UNC's Tar Heels rose to the occasion yesterday and shocked Duke's fifth-ranked Blue Devils for the second time this year, 71-66.

The victory, certainly one of the greatest in Carolina history, assured the Tar Heels of at least a tie for second place in the ACC. The seventh straight win for the Tar Heels gave them a 10-4 conference mark and a 15-8 overall record.

Going into last night's games, Maryland and NC State stand at 9-4 in the conference. If a tie occurs, drawings will be held today to determine seeding in the tournament. Duke closed its season with an 18-4 mark and 11-3 in the conference.

In a fitting climax to ancient Woollen Gymnasium, All-American Billy Cunningham scored the last Carolina points in the old gym. With 41 seconds left, Cunningham followed his own shot and laid it in to close out a brilliant career for himself and for Woollen.

Although he wasn't hitting well from outside, the Kid played one of the finest games of his three year career. He led all scorers with 25 points and all rebounders with 16.

When he was inside, he scored and when he moved outside, has passed to teammates for easy baskets. The Kid closed out the regular season in All-American style.

But the win was far from a one-man effort. All five men on the floor gave an all-out performance for Coach Dean Smith.

There was Ray Respass, also closing out his career before the home folks, stopping Duke's high scoring Jack Marin without a point the first 19 minutes and allowing Marin to score only two field goals off him all day. When Ray was sitting on the bench with foul trouble, Marin scored six points for a total of ten, far below his 20-point average.

Then there was super sophomore Bob Lewis, who hit only one of his first seven shots, but when the pressure was on he hit seven of eight and wound up with 20 points.

Leaping Lewis also pulled down nine rebounds and took up the rebounding slack when Cunningham went to the bench the last five minutes of the first half.

And there was John Yokley, whose tenacious defense held Bob Verga to 13 points, but more important whose fine ball-handling broke Duke's pressing defense. And Tom Gauntlett, a sophomore who played like a veteran, who had the hard task of guarding Steve Vacendak and who did a great job although Vacendak got 21 points, many of them came late in the game.

But then there was also, substitutes Bob Bennett, Bill Brown and Ray Hassell who came off the bench to perform admirably.

After Hack Tison hit a layup to start the scoring the Tar Heels took a 3-2 lead on a Cunningham free throw and layup, and never trailed again. After a Vacendak free throw tied the score, the closest the Dookies could get was 22-21 with 7:14 left in the first half.

UNC had a 26-21 lead when Cunningham went to the bench with three fouls with 5:28 left in the half, and held on for a 32-28 lead at intermission.

The Tar Heels came from the dressing rooms rooms with blazing shooting eyes, and quickly built up a 14-point lead at 50-36 with 13:03 remaining. At 9:01 the Tar Heels still had that 14-point margin at 58-44 but the Dookies began catching up and UNC started playing "slow-down."

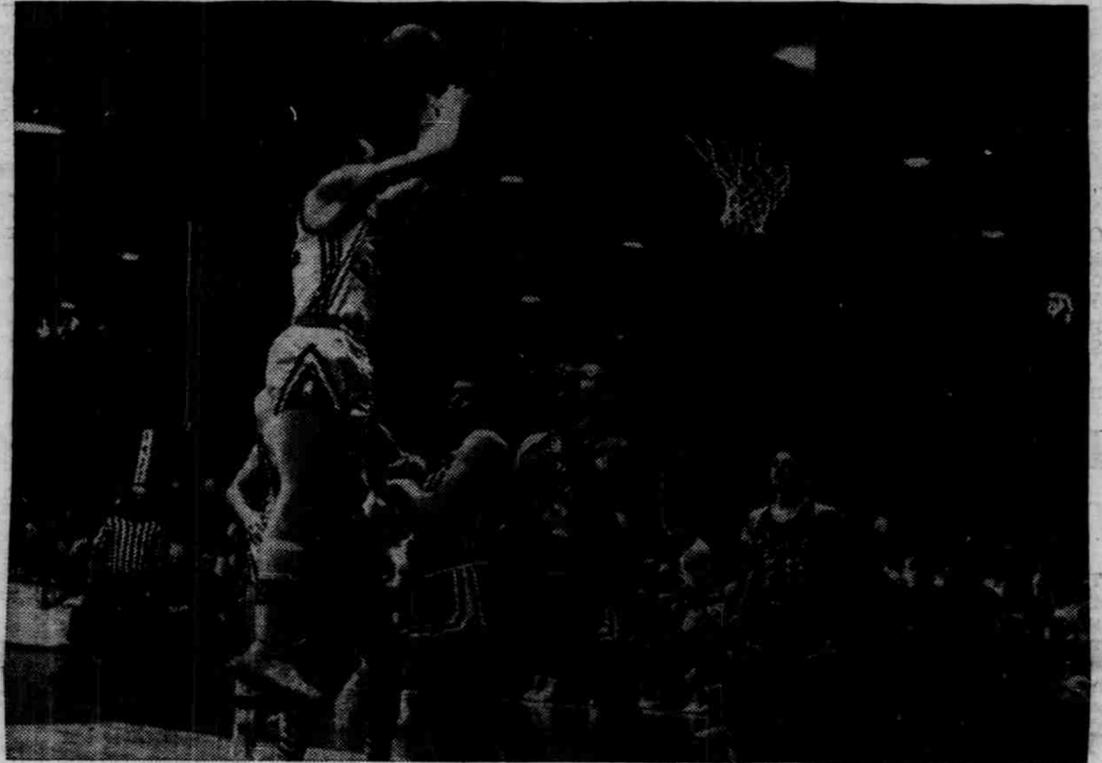
The Blue Dukes cut the lead to 62-57, but with 3:49 left, Cunningham sank two free tosses, and the Tar Heels capitalized on Duke fouls to pad their margin to 71-62 when Cunningham hit his final basket. Two Duke field goals at the end were wasted.

In that torrid second half, the Tar Heels attempted only 19 field goals, but made good on 13 of them for a fantastic 68.4 percentage. For the game, Carolina hit 55.1 per cent while Vic Bubas's Blue Devils were having their second consecutive poor shooting game and managed only 39.3 per cent.

Trailing Cunningham and Lewis in the Tar Heel scoring column were Respass with 12 and Yokley with nine.

Duke placed four men in double figures. Following Vacendak were Hack Tison with 18, Verga 13 and Marin 10.

Near the end of the game, Bubas became so desperate he used a lineup of Vacendak, Verga, Denny Ferguson, Ron Herbster and Stuart McKaig—all under 6-1.



Billy The Kid Jumps Over Three Dookies For Two Points

—Photo by Jock Lauterer

## "Only Seven More To Go," Says Jubilant Cunningham

By PETE GAMMONS  
Asst. Sports Editor

"Well, we closed out the place in style, and now we have seven more games to go."

Almost nonchalantly, as if there had been no doubt in his mind who was going to win, Billy Cunningham looked back on the game.

"I was a little disappointed in my own shooting, but I was hot against Virginia and I guess it didn't carry over. We played well but I know we can play better."

UNC	FG	FT	R	TP
Lewis	8-15	4-5	9	20
Yokley	3-3	3-5	3	9
Cunningham	8-19	9-11	16	25
Gauntlett	2-2	0-1	1	4
Respass	6-9	0-0	5	12
Morrison	0-0	1-2	5	1
Bennett	0-0	1-2	5	1
Brown	0-0	0-1	0	0
Hassell	0-1	0-0	1	0
Totals	27-49	17-25	40	71

DUKE	FG	FT	R	TP
Marin	5-15	0-2	4	10
Vacendak	7-14	7-11	9	21
Tison	6-9	6-8	5	18
Verga	5-14	3-5	2	13
Ferguson	0-3	0-0	2	0
Herbster	0-4	2-3	1	2
Reidy	0-0	0-0	1	0
McKaig	1-2	0-0	2	2
Totals	24-61	18-29	26	66

"I thought we had them right from the gun, but I was sure when there were only four minutes left."

Billy now must look forward to playing in the tournament. "If we can win the tournament it will complete my college career."

Duke Coach Vic Bubas was somewhat solemn after his team's defeat. "You have to give North Carolina credit. They earned the victory by jumping right out and taking command. They got superlative performances from Cunningham and Lewis, and we just didn't start playing ball until there were 15 minutes left."

"Carolina moved well without the ball. They knew where to be against the press and got into position all the time and made the job of the player with the ball much easier."

"The ball just wouldn't drop for us in the first half, despite the fact that we had some good shots. It just wasn't Jack Marin's day."

"That completes stage one of the season. The second stage will be in Raleigh and we'll be ready. It ought to be a great tournament."

"It was a great team effort," said UNC Coach Dean Smith. "Cunningham played great ball in every way... Lewis was tremendous, especially under the defensive boards... Gauntlett

and Yokley were great... Bennett's performance encourages me for the tournament and for next year... and I was so proud of Respass.

"We switched Lewis to Ferguson to give us better rebounding, and thought Verga would be looking for Gauntlett and put Yokley on him with Tom guarding Vacendak. Respass really put the wraps on Marin and I think he got only two baskets when Ray was on him. I figured Gauntlett's size would hurt Vacendak under the boards."

"Looking ahead to the tournament I don't care who we play, because anyone can win."

Despite the "team" performance, Smith couldn't stop talking about Cunningham, who in his final home appearance scored the last UNC basket in Woollen Gym. "He killed them in so many ways—under the boards, shooting, bringing the ball up... he just does everything."

After the excitement had died down around the dressing room and both the players and the autograph-seekers had left, there remained a very noticeable sign up on the wall:

- Saturday—
1. Duke
  2. Second Place
  3. Last Game in Woollen Gym
  4. Last Home Game
  5. Carolina Pride