

UNC frosh hosting Blue Imps tonight

by David Zucchino
Staff Writer

Carolina's Tar Babies seek atonement for their only loss tonight as they tackle the Duke Blue Imps at 8 in Carmichael Auditorium.

The Blue Imps tagged a 68-65 loss on the Tar Babies December 9 in Durham, but Carolina has reeled off three successive, convincing wins since then, rolling over Brevard, Virginia and Gaston College.

Duke employed a pressing defense against the Tar Babies in posting the win, and freshman coach Bill Guthridge expects more of the same tonight.

"Duke will probably use some sort of press again," said Guthridge, "since most freshman teams play the same way from game to game."

"Judging from past experience with Duke, we should have another close, exciting game."

Two important changes have occurred since the first Carolina-Duke clash. Duke's Sam May, a 6-5 forward who scored seven of the last nine Blue Imp points, has since quit the team, while 6-3 forward Darrell Elston of Carolina, who did not see action against Duke because of mononucleosis, will start tonight. Elston, from Tipton, Ind., hit for 10 points Monday night against Gaston College in his first start of the season.

"We're very happy to finally have Darrell playing," Guthridge stated. "He worked out over the Christmas holidays and was in good shape Monday night, especially considering that he missed so much playing time."

Joining Elston in tonight's probable starting lineup will be 6-6 John O'Donnell at the other forward, 6-9 Bobby Jones at center, and 5-11 Ray Hite and 6-0 Bill Crouch at the guard positions.

Jones is the current team leader in both scoring and rebounding, hitting at a 27.6 clip and hauling down an average of 17 rebounds per game. O'Donnell is second in both categories with averages of 25.4 and six.

Hite and Crouch are both averaging six points per outing, and Guthridge feels Jones and O'Donnell are possibly carrying too much of the scoring burden.

"Our scoring needs to be more balanced," Guthridge claimed. "The

addition of Elston helps us quite a bit, and I think that Hite will start scoring a little more."

"Our main concern, however," continued Guthridge, "is to prepare top players for the varsity. We also want to win, and I feel that we're making good progress. The boys work extremely hard in practice."

The Tar Babies carry a 4-1 slate in tonight's clash and are currently outscoring their opponents by an 80-75 average, hitting 51.3% of their shots from the field.

The Blue Imps suffered their first loss in 21 games Wednesday night, a 61-58 setback at the hands of Wake Forest. The Wake frosh were billed as the "worst freshman team in Big Four history."

Chris Redding, at 6-8, scored 28 and had 12 rebounds for Duke. He has a good corner shot and teams up with 6-9 center Dave Elmer on the backboards.

Elmer, only 17 years old, fouled out of the first Carolina game, but has apparently improved since then.

Probably the most polished Blue Imp is guard Jeff Burdette. He handles most of the ballhandling duties and rarely makes a turnover. Although May is gone, Coach Jack Schalow will have 6-7 forward Ron Righter coming back after an injury.

Elmer leads Duke scoring with 21 points a game, while Redding averages better than 13.



Charlie Davis

Hot shooting O'Donnell got away from McGuire

by David Zucchino
Sports Writer

Several Tar Heel fans sitting behind the South Carolina bench at the UNC-USC showdown held up a banner proclaiming "Tar Heels Whip NYU at Columbia," referring of course to the fact that Gamecock Coach Frank McGuire seems to spend the better part of every spring sniffing out New York basketball talent.

Any fans who came early enough to catch the freshman game would have noticed that Tar Heel Coach Dean Smith and his recruiting staff of John Lotz and Bill Guthridge must have pounded a few New York City sidewalks last spring.

Although Smith did stick around North Carolina long enough to sign Charlotte's highly-recruited Bobby Jones, a 6-9 center, he also managed to lure 6-6 forward John O'Donnell, who is second to Jones in current freshman scoring and rebounding, away from the clutches of McGuire.

O'Donnell, who attended Fordham Prep School in New York, was chased by several colleges and eventually narrowed his choice down to either UNC or South Carolina. Fortunately for the Tar Heels, he elected to go no farther south than Chapel Hill.

"North Carolina is a top school academically," explains O'Donnell, "and it has a solid basketball record and program. It's a big change from high school, but I haven't encountered any problems so far."

O'Donnell, who always gives a smooth, consistent performance, came up with 25 points and 13 rebounds Monday night against Gaston College to raise his current scoring average to 25.4, second only to Jones' 27.6.

John's 13 takedowns represented his best board effort of the season and upped his rebound average to six per game.

Jones leads the squad with an eye-opening 17 rebounds per outing, which takes a great deal of rebounding



pressure off O'Donnell, who feels that board play is the area of his game that could stand the most improvement.

"I need to try for a lot more rebounds," he says. "I was pleased with the 13 I got Monday night, but I still need to grab more loose balls and offensive rebounds."

"It seems like every time I go up for a rebound, I look up and see Bobby flying above me, grabbing the ball."

"Bobby is extremely quick for a big man," continues O'Donnell, "and he has very good moves. I never hesitate to pass him the ball, because he'll get it to somehow. When he does get it, he puts the ball in almost every time."

O'Donnell is no shooting slouch himself. He has hit from anywhere within 25 feet this season and who almost never seems to miss on his gliding layups, is currently connecting on 57.9% of his shots from the field and leads Tar Baby starters at the foul line with an 81.0% completion mark.

O'Donnell credits his fine shooting touch to the help that he received from assistant coach Lotz, who corrected a couple of flaws in his shooting form early

in the season. He has scored consistently ever since.

O'Donnell's attitude may have something to do with his shooting performances thus far this year. He always appears cool and relaxed, and it is a well-documented fact that sweaty palms and knocking knees are not conducive to high-scoring basketball players, who, as everyone knows, must have a firm hand and a steady grip.

Pi Kapp Blue ekes out win

Pi Kappa Phi Blue, led by Chris Cole's 15 points, topped DKE Blue in fraternity basketball Tuesday night 39-38.

In other games, ZBT Blue 60, DU 52; Chi Psi 40, Sig Ep 36; KA 33, Zeta Psi 32; and Chi Phi 62, PiKa 54.

Beta Blue 46, Delta Tau 33; Phi Gam Blue 42, AK Psi 21; Pi Lamb Blue 29, Lambda Chi 26; ATO Blue 32, Phi Sig 21; and O.D. 48, D.O.A. 34.

Enoch Wei won the all-campus ping-pong tournament and will represent UNC in the Region 5 tournament in Charlotte February 11-13. Wei beat Brad Banta in the finals, and the two will go to Charlotte as a doubles team.

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Latest win over Terps gives Pack 6 in a row

by Mark Whicker
Sports Writer

For those who thought State's period of basketball fortune in the ACC would be a one-year fling, another look at the Wolfpack might be wise.

The plowboys have recovered from a mid-December slump to win six straight, including victories over Carolina, Wake Forest, and Wednesday night's 83-81 squeaker over Maryland at College Park.

In other conference action, Duke nipped Wake Forest 68-67 and South Carolina topped Temple 84-71.

UNC Coach Dean Smith, right before the Tar Heels lost to State 82-70 in the Big Four tournament, rated the Wolfpack of '70-'71 as at least equal to last year's ACC tournament champions, even though Vann Williford and Rick Anheuser had departed.

But Bill Benson, a sophomore guard with a gift for the outside shot, has replaced Anheuser, and forward Dan Wells is getting credit for something besides his fighting ability.

Add another frontcourt sophomore, Rick Holdt, and junior holdovers Paul Coder and Ed Leftwich, and the Pack has another formidable team.

Leftwich won the Maryland game with a 25-footer at the final buzzer after fouling Bob Bodell twice in the last minute.

Coder and Wells put the Wolfpack back into the lead after Maryland had erased a 10-point deficit late in the second half.

Leftwich led State with 23 points. Jim O'Brien got 21 for Maryland.

State is continuing to win the close ones (an overtime victory over Virginia Tech, a three-point win over Wake Forest), and that is an invaluable quality in an ACC race.

Duke finally showed that quality in their first conference victory. Wake Forest, which controlled its nerves in the one-point win over Jacksonville, missed two one-and-one opportunities in the last minute, and Randy Denton layed in the winning points with three seconds left.

Denton got 28 points and 17 rebounds against the same zone that limited Artis Gilmore to 13 points.

However, Wake's Charlie Davis continued his artistry with 26 points (nine of 16 shots). Gil McGregor tried manfully to keep up with Denton, picking up 11 rebounds and 12 points.

Strong Southern Illinois visits Tar Heel gymnasts

by Howie Carr
Sports Writer

Gymnasts from the University of Southern Illinois invade Carmichael Auditorium today at 3:00 p.m. to meet Carolina in a meet that Coach Fred Sanders says will feature "by far the best competition this state has ever seen."

The powerful Salukis are currently ranked second nationally behind Iowa State. Their coach, Bill Meade, was Carolina's mentor until 1956.

Despite a December 12 auto accident that killed one member of the squad and injured five others, SIU still boasts exceptional depth.

Jack Lindner is the Salukis' top all-around man. He competed for the U.S. World Games team that went to Yugoslavia in October and Sanders predicts that "he will definitely be on the Olympic team in 1972." Saluki Pierre Ropiquet is "the best ring man in the world as far as I'm concerned," says Sanders.

The upset-minded Tar Heels are led by

all-around men John Hesser, Murray Kravitz, and Ben Edkins. Richard Fox, slowed by an arm injury which caused him to miss the Illinois meet, could be the third all-around man.

"We're a little bit out of our league in playing these teams," explains Saunders of his rugged schedule, "but we're improving because of it. By the time we start our schedule against the other teams in our own region, we'll really be ready."

The Tar Heels opened the season by winning a triangular meet against Virginia and William & Mary. They outdistanced their opponents with 109 points, as the Cavaliers collected 76 and the Indians 70.7.


Carolina then lost a dual meet to the University of Illinois-Chicago Circle by a 161.25-124.5 margin.

During the Christmas break Sanders took his team to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., to compete in the National Gymnastics Clinic. At the conclusion of the clinic Sanders was named national Coach of the Year.

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