



Stahl, Jones and Davis battle Burleson

Staff photo by Bill Wren

Stahl is not haunted by memories of games past

by Kevin Barris
Sports Writer

With seven seconds left in the last Carolina-State conflict, Ed Stahl found himself with the ball. His subsequent shot fell off the rim and the Tar Heels were losers, 78-77.

"When I got the ball, Stahl, the 6-10 junior forward, said, 'I can't say I was thinking, well, if I make this shot I'll be the hero and if I miss I'll be the goat,' so I definitely don't feel that I lost the game."

"We didn't have any special play," he continued. I just got the ball and I was open. There were seven seconds left and I felt we

could get a better shot than the one I had, so I took a dribble and looked around. There still wasn't anyone open so I took the shot.

"It would have been better if I had known beforehand that I was going to have to take the shot," he said. "This way it was kind of a surprise."

"I don't think it should have come down to a last second shot," he concluded.

It probably shouldn't have. With 1:03 remaining, the Tar Heels had the ball and a 77-76 lead. State stole the ball before Carolina could get its patented four-corner offense in gear.

"When we threw it in bounds," Stahl said, "State double-teamed O'Donnell and no one

got open for a pass. It definitely wasn't O'Donnell's fault at all. We just didn't get open for a pass."

Carolina hasn't beaten the Wolfpack in two seasons and Stahl is definitely looking forward to tonight's game.

"I'm not looking forward to it so much for revenge," Stahl said. "It's just the thought of the competitive feeling there is whenever you play State. It's just knowing that you're going to have a good game with them no matter what they're ranked. They always play well against us, just like Duke."

"But I guess everyone plays well against Carolina," he added.

Stahl doesn't have to worry about the competitiveness being there tonight. State, like Carolina, has lost only one game and is currently ranked third in the nation.

"I would say this year's State team is even better than last year's," Stahl said. Last year they went to Thompson too much and just counted on him too much. This year they're going to Burleson more and exploiting their talents. They were certainly a good team last year, but this year they seem to be a little more together."

State may not be going to David Thompson as much, but he's just as destructive as ever to Wolfpack opposition.

"We probably won't be able to keep Thompson from scoring 20 or 25 points," Stahl said. "I think it's not so much how many points someone scores, but what kind of shooting night he has percentage-wise. If we can make Thompson go 10 for 30, then we've done a good job."

"I don't think it's going to be any one person we have to stop," he said. "We just have to play good overall defense and we've got to rebound with them."

Stahl emphasized the need for the Tar Heels to rebound, and with good reason. Carolina has only out-rebounded two ACC opponents this year, and in the last State game, they were beaten on the boards by a 40-22 margin.

"We're going to just have to concentrate on our rebounding more," Stahl said. Other teams realize our capabilities and work twice as hard on the boards. So far they've been successful."

The Tar Heels have been working extra hard on rebounding in practice, and Stahl feels the team is ready to take on State.

"I'm not overconfident by thinking, 'Well, State's time has come.' I am confident in the fact that I know if we do what we're capable of doing, we're going to beat them."

"Let me put it this way," he concluded. "I'm definitely not afraid of playing them."

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Soph ready for State

Kupchak gives lift

by Jim Thomas
Sports Writer

Carolina down by nine in the finals of the Big Four tournament, the Tar Heels desperately need to score a basket. Mitch Kupchak replaces Ed Stahl. The 6-9, 230-pound freshman has come in several times this year to give the offense a lift.

The ball goes to Elston at the key, down to Kupchak on the baseline. Mitch fakes left, drives right, muscles his way past Burleson for two and draws the foul. The free throw is good.

State leads by six, the ball into Burleson, he turns, shoots, blocked by Kupchak. He recovers the loose ball, the Tar Heels break quickly downcourt, pass underneath to Kupchak, he scores—basket counts as he draws the foul. Free throw is up and good. Mitch Kupchak has made two three-point plays within 20 seconds to chop State's lead from nine to three.

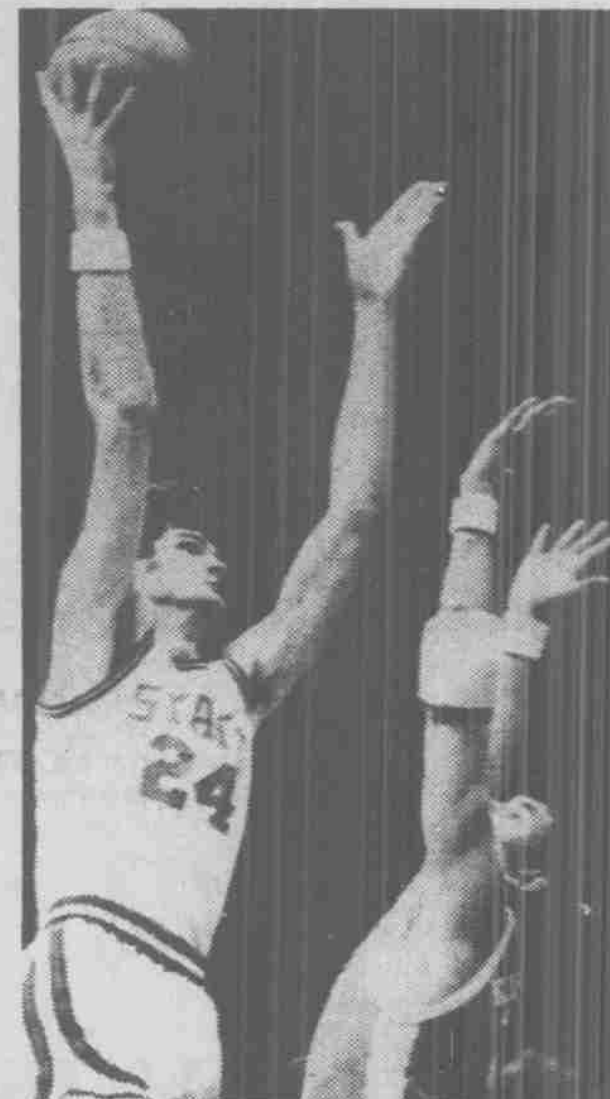
"I was really excited last year," recalls Kupchak. "I had read articles about how great Thompson was and I had never seen anyone as tall as Burleson."

"I was not afraid of getting my shot blocked because I did not know better. After that, however, Burleson blocked my shot a few times when I did not fake. Now I know what he can do."

Kupchak will get another chance to test his knowledge tonight, provided he guards Burleson.

In the Big Four tournament Burleson out-rebounded Kupchak 14 to 5 as State dominated the boards 40-22.

Rebounding has been a problem all year long. Despite having a 6-9, 6-9, 6-10 frontline, Carolina has out-rebounded only Wake Forest and Clemson this season. "We have not been concentrating on



Staff photo by Bill Wren

Kupchak soars

boxing out like we should," concluded Kupchak. "Boxing out has nothing to do with natural ability. It is a matter of getting position. We have improved our rebounding lately. Coach Smith has been talking about concentration, stressing boxing out in

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Elston is peaking as senior at UNC

by Brant T. Bills
Sports Writer

They call him "Mr. Clutch." With methodical precision, he rips open opponents' man-to-man defenses with confident drives to the basket, or bewilders the zone with a deadly outside shot.

But it has not been an easy climb for Carolina's senior guard Darrell Elston, who has been called upon to guard N.C. State's All-American David Thompson.

The important 6-4 "big" guard for the fifth-ranked Tar Heels has not always been an effective offensive player. Hampered by injuries and sickness his first two years, Darrell was the 13th man on the squad as a sophomore, shooting a mere 20 per cent in 13 games. People were beginning to wonder about "that boy" that Coach John Lotz had signed without having seen him play.

Darrell had been a heavily recruited All-State football player from Tipton, Indiana who also just happened to play basketball. But in his own mind, the roundball was his favorite. His high school coach, a close friend of John Lotz, knew this and convinced Lotz to sign him at Carolina.

Things started looking disastrous for Darrell at the start. The sickness and the injuries began to take a toll on him. Soon he began to learn the Dean Smith defense, and along with his natural defensive

talent, he moved up from that last spot on the bench. Darrell got his chance his junior year at the expense of Ray Harrison who fell ill for two-thirds of the season.

Darrell Elston was forced to have his confidence return.

And return it did. He came through with a 51 per cent shooting average from the floor, 77 per cent from the line and recorded 100 assists and 93 rebounds for last year's 25-8 NIT team.

That confidence has stayed with him through this year.

Darrell has shown that in these first 13 games as he is second on the squad in scoring with a 14.8 average, hitting a hot 55 per cent from the floor, 87 per cent from the line and he leads the team with 70 assists—nearly 30 more than his nearest teammate.

How will he play Thompson? "Lots has been said about David. He is undoubtedly one of the best; he does everything well."

"You've got to use a little more strength on him. If he does have a weakness that could be it. Someone who overplays him real close when he gets the ball will be most effective. He's not as offensive as he is when left out in the open where he will make the 30-foot shot or he will drive around you."

"If we are to go ahead and have a championship season, it would mean a lot to beat them right now, during the season."

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STUDENT STORES



"on campus"

Season does not hinge on one game—O'Donnell

by Carolin Bakewell
Sports Writer

Sunday night John O'Donnell sat in his room watching the late news and trying to keep the mustard from leaking out of his sandwich.

O'Donnell is a senior, a veteran of NIT, ACC and Big Four championship teams; he has played State six times in the past two years—beating them twice. Tonight will be the last time that O'Donnell plays State in Carmichael Auditorium. The thought didn't seem to make him nervous, though, as he sat contemplating his game between calm bites of his sandwich.

"It does mean something to beat State, because we're in a race, we'd sure like to get the bye, but we've still got a long time to go yet and it doesn't all hinge on this one game."

Mostly, it's a matter of confidence and concentration, he explained. "State's ranked

ahead of us and I'm sure that they're confident that they can win; that's the attitude that both teams have to have."

"Really, when you're talking about confidence, then you're talking about all the mental aspects of the game."

Still, the tension of the big rivalry, the antagonism that has built up between the two perennial foes, does affect O'Donnell.

"This is the most important game in the conference. State realizes that, we know it and its going to affect the ACC tournament."

Nobody will know until tonight exactly how State will play or what it will take to beat them, but besides the team confidence and concentration, each player will have to be prepared to play his best.

"I know there are things that I can do better; I could box out more underneath," he said.

"Other than that, I just want to play my regular game," he said, and went back to his sandwich.

Crossword Puzzler

Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

BEST	WASP	TRY	ROSE	OTIS	ROSE
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PULL	DIES	DEIN	ASIAN	NETS	DE
SITTER	RETIRE	SA	EXIT	PETER	ESP
STOA	TEAM	MT	OLD	BRIM	IT
ALL	OILS	UPON	LAS	GLEE	DENT

ACROSS

- 1 Devoured
- 4 Musical drama
- 8 Cushion
- 12 Sailor (colloq.)
- 13 Measuring device
- 14 Compass point
- 15 Soup dish
- 17 Period of time
- 19 Grasp
- 21 Exclamation
- 22 In addition
- 25 Label
- 27 The sawtooth
- 31 Content
- 32 Agent who promotes violence
- 34 Printer's measure
- 35 Fish lino
- 36 Shade tree
- 37 Symbol for tellurium
- 38 Diverted
- 41 Pronoun
- 42 Woolly plant
- 43 Dine
- 44 Simple
- 45 Symbol for erbium
- 47 Underground excavation
- 49 Lingered
- 53 Announcement
- 57 Grain
- 58 Instrument for taking hold of something
- 60 Click beetle
- 61 Bitter vetch
- 62 Entertain
- 63 Unlock (poet.)

DOWN

- 1 Unit of Stamess currency
- 2 Greek letter
- 3 Be mistaken
- 4 Hebrew

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