

Reserve squad doesn't 'suit' varsity

by Kevin Barris
Staff Writer

A rule instituted last summer by the NCAA limiting teams to 10 players for away games has put a strain on those teams accustomed to using larger squads.

UNC Head Coach Dean Smith has done his best to work around this rule by making a varsity reserve team. This team, composed of varsity players Woody Coley, Ged Doughton, Eric Harry, Loren Lutz, Keith Valentine and Randy Wiel, plays only road games, thus allowing the players to make the trip with the rest of the team.

The players agreed that the main purpose of the team is so that all the varsity players get to make the trips. "Getting to make the trips and play in a game keeps your spirits up," freshman Doughton said. "It's hard to work real hard in practice and know you're not

going to dress out at a game. This way at least you get to play and make the trips."

For most of the players, the varsity reserve team is just a substitute for what they'd rather be doing—playing varsity ball.

"It's probably better that we have that (varsity reserve team) than nothing," Coley, a junior, said, "although I'm sure everybody would rather be playing varsity. After working hard for two years, it does sting a bit to not be able to dress out for varsity games, or not make trips, but with this we can still feel a part of the team."

Smith said the varsity reserve team does not supersede the junior varsity team, pointing out that only the junior varsity team plays games at home. "We could have scheduled it such that the varsity reserve team did play more, but that would have been taking away from the JV team," Smith said.

"Also, we could have had these six players playing on the JV team, but that would have sent six players presently on the JV team back to playing intramurals."

"This way," freshman Valentine said, "it gives us a chance to learn the system. It gives us the experience of knowing what it is to play for North Carolina."

The varsity reserve team has played three games (Hillsborough College in Florida, Steed College in Tennessee, and St. John's JV in New York), but does not play at every away varsity game. At Clemson Wednesday, for example, Smith was unable to schedule a game for the varsity reserve team, so the players watched the game on television in Chapel Hill.

The players and Smith agree that it is the rule which is at fault. "I'd like to be there cheering for my teammates," Wiel said. "You work so hard and then they

come up with this rule. You just have to live with it, I guess, but I know none of us will quit."

Smith has been opposed to the rule since its inception and he said he's sure it will be changed. "Here you have a group of young men who participate in practice every day with the varsity, but under this ruling they don't get any playing time.

"I think in college athletics you should put the value on participation. The more we can give the opportunity to participate, the better we at the University are doing our job."

The rule was voted on by the faculty chairmen of the member institutions of the NCAA, something Smith said was a mistake.

"I don't question their (the faculty chairmen) intelligence," Smith said. "I just question their knowledge of the workings of collegiate athletics."

Defensive player label no worry to Kuester

Susan Shackelford
Sports Editor

Unless a basketball player dramatically blocks a shot or steals the ball, he seldom gets the attention from fans or even sports writers, two groups that will likely quote scoring totals in conversation or print.

A man silently battling this preoccupation with total points is Carolina's backcourt starter, John Kuester. The 6-2 junior guard wants a total game and this means equal attention to his defense. His scoring is usually around the 10-point mark, but he and Head Coach Dean Smith would like to see the charges, the weak shots and the bad passes he forces properly written in his list of accomplishments.

After not scoring in two successive games (East Tennessee State and South Florida), Kuester said he was not down on himself, though most would expect it in viewing his 0-4 and 0-5 field goal columns for those nights on the pre-Christmas road trip.

"I felt I played really well those two games. I was still effective—defensively and passing. If we win the ACC and the national championship and I do not score, it'd be all right. I just want another crack at the Eastern Regionals. God, you don't know how much we want it."

Last March in the regionals, Carolina, which was favored to win the tournament, fell to Syracuse University 78-76 in the first round.

Offensively, Kuester said he has been concerned about his turnovers, which he thinks must be reduced because of his role in relation to fellow guard, Phil Ford.

Ford is known for his quickness and slick twists as a penetrator of opponent zones. "I'm trying to help complement Phil. If Phil penetrates and makes more passes, he'll have a higher percentage of turnovers.

"I'm trying not to turn the ball over; yet, I'm penetrating more," Kuester explained. "I am trying to make the easy pass."

Kuester said he is striving not to pass off when he has the "good open shot."

"Coach Smith talked to me about it. If I have the shot, I'll take it. I was in a bad habit."

"I'm not worried about John scoring at all," said Smith. "You can't have all players score 20 points a night. I never want any player to feel he has to score 20. He was 0-4 and 0-5, but he is likely to hit all of his next shots."

Has Kuester been an ample offensive replacement for Brad Hoffman, who often spurred the Tar Heels with his outside shooting last year against zoned defenses? Smith said Ford and Davis are taking the shots that were Hoffman's, though he considers Kuester "an excellent shooter... and maybe one of the best on the team."

Last year Kuester played on the Blue Team, the second unit that is known for its ability to preserve the team's well-being, while giving the starters a rest.

"I didn't think twice about it (the adjustment to starting). I had a lot of confidence. A starter just gets to play more."

Kuester pointed out that "Coach Smith's exact style" is the blue team. Kuester was talking about Smith's emphasis on moving the ball, for which the blues are known.

As a freshman and sophomore, Kuester said he and Hoffman used to sit on the bench as blue team players and note that more ball movement was needed.

"I know the starters had to move the ball quicker. Now I'm just trying to reiterate that."

To prepare for his starting role this past summer, Kuester said he paid special attention to his shooting game. Last season he finished with a three-point average.

"I worked hard on shooting. Phil and I talked about it. I would shoot every day.

"Coach Gutheridge (UNC assistant coach) gave me a shooting glove," Kuester said. The glove is like bowling. It has a knot in the palm of the hand, so you control the ball with your fingertips, he said. If the ball's in your palm, you lose control."



UNC guard John Kuester

Kuester has also lost a few pounds since last year and explains, "You want to be as quick as you can. I also strengthened my stomach muscles with situps and did pushups. I played every day. I used to play tennis a lot and racquetball.

"This summer all I touched was a basketball," he said.

In high school Kuester led Benedictine in Richmond to two state titles while on the varsity. His emphasis on defense is an outgrowth of those years, when it was stressed by his coach, Warren Rutledge.

Kuester said today primarily being regarded as a defensive player doesn't bother him. He added spontaneously, "Anybody can be a great defensive player. You got to have it in your heart. It takes a little more instinct."

Specifically, Kuester looks to limit his opponent to under 50 per cent field goal shooting. But, he said, his biggest concern is "wanting to help the team. The key is to have individual pride and yet see everything from the standpoint of team defense.

"For example, if Phil's man got 20 points and my man got five, it's like my man scoring 20 because we work so much together.

Now as the Tar Heels are playing eight straight conference games, starting with Clemson, Kuester said he isn't worried about the ACC tests. "Tougher competition is the name of the game. Going into a game and not knowing who's going to win, that's the fun of it."

Jayvees fall to Durham; record now 1-1

by Grant Vosburgh
Staff Writer

After pulling within two points (69-67) with 5:02 left, the UNC Junior Varsity basketball team made some costly turnovers and went cold offensively, losing a 90-80 decision to Durham College Monday night at Carmichael Auditorium. The loss evened the Jayvees' record at 1-1.

"We didn't protect the ball well," said Mickey Bell, who, along with John O'Donnell, coaches the Tar Babies. "And making 34 turnovers didn't help any. We couldn't call a time out during the last few

minutes because the game was running late and the varsity game had to start. But that's no excuse. We just didn't play well."

The Tar Babies fell behind early in the game but fought back to salvage a 41-41 tie at the half. Durham came out shooting in the second half, hitting 60 per cent, and stretched its lead to 12 points with two minutes left.

"We took bad shots toward the end of the game," Bell said. "Durham took bad shots that went in."

The Tar Babies were led by center Archie Shaw, who had 20 points and 20 rebounds. "Archie has been our main rebounder and

scorer," said Bell. "But we have to have somebody to help him out." In UNC's 69-63 win Dec. 6 over Louisburg College, Shaw had 22 points and 18 rebounds.

Against Durham, Shaw was followed in scoring by sophomore point guard Mike Fox with 15 points and freshman scholarship player Randy Wiel, who had 14. For Wiel and guard Ged Doughton, it was their first performance before Carolina fans. Wiel got in foul trouble, finishing the game with four fouls, while Doughton had a cold shooting night, hitting only two of 10 field goal attempts.

Bell said that he didn't know Wiel and

Doughton would be playing in the game until about two hours before tip-off. "I imagine they were pretty nervous since it was their first time playing in Carmichael."

He complimented the consistent play of Clay Richardson, who is averaging eight points and four rebounds a game. He also singled out the play of reserves Bill Tryon and Randy Jones.

The Tar Babies' next game is Jan. 14 in Carmichael Auditorium against Wingate College. In preparation, Bell said the jayvees will just "go over everything, especially protecting the ball."