

Women at East Carolina

# Matthews leads attack, defense

By DAVID McNEILL  
Staff Writer

Carolina basketball, women's style, is a mixture of pressure defense and running offense and senior guard Linda Matthews is the floor general for both when the Tar Heels hit the court.

The veteran in the Heel's backcourt, Matthews got off to a slow start this year as her intense, aggressive style of play found her in foul trouble in the early-season contests. She has improved as the season has progressed and now leads UNC's offensive attack with a 15.6-point scoring average and the Heels' defense with 54 steals.

"I fouled out of four of our first five games," Matthews said. "The reason I was having trouble was because we play a lot of pressure defense. Now I am still playing with intensity on defense, but I am concentrating more on not getting caught for cheap fouls. I am pleased with the way I have been playing recently. Offensively, I am going inside more, not handling the ball as much and moving more without the ball."

A consistent double-figure scorer, Matthews has been hot in the Heels' most recent outings. In four of UNC's last five games, she has scored 18 or more points with a number of them coming on fast breaks. She popped in 20 points against Maryland, had 21 at William & Mary, bucketed 24 against Virginia and recorded 18 points in UNC's 84-72 win over Appalachian State last Sunday.

"Linda has improved her offense and her ability to read the defense," said UNC coach Jennifer Alley. "She has matured a



## Sports

• Men's basketball at N.C. State, 9 p.m. in Reynolds Coliseum.  
• Women's basketball at East Carolina, 7 p.m. in Minges Coliseum.

great deal and I have been pleased with her leadership and her ability to run the team. She certainly has developed offensive quickness and now we are concentrating on a running, and yet patient, offense.

"Linda plays excellent defense when she is intense; she is one of the most naturally talented players we have and she has improved her team play. If she can maintain her level of play of the last couple of games, she may prove to be one of the best guards in the state," Alley said.

Matthews plays with such intensity that she is sometimes near exhaustion before giving the tired sign and taking a break while one of the Heels' subs fills in. Alley stresses playing defense with intensity and the Heels take pride in their defensive play.

"We concentrate on pressure defense a lot," Matthews said, "and that has been important in our improved play. I think we have one of the best defenses in the country. We are not as good a shooting team as some of our opponents but our defense is very good."

Carolina is 9-6, with three of those losses coming in close games with nationally ranked teams. The squad was disappointed with its inconsistent early-season play, but impressive wins over Virginia and Appalachian State have restored the Heels' confidence.

East Carolina is 8-5 and boasts one of the state's best players in forward Rosie Thompson.

"East Carolina gets up for us like we get up for State," Matthews said. "It is a divisional game so it's an important one for us and they beat us in the regionals so we will be ready for them. They have a good team and it will be a tough game."

Matthews will lead the Tar Heels when they tangle with East Carolina at 7 tonight in Greenville's Minges Coliseum.

# Tar Heels rise to 2nd

By The Associated Press

The Top Twenty teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, season records and total points. Points based on 20-19-18-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1.

1. Notre Dame (46)	8-1	1,106
2. North Carolina (3)	12-2	1,010
3. UCLA	11-2	978
4. Illinois (5)	15-1	949
5. Indiana St. (2)	14-0	857
6. Michigan St.	9-3	783
7. Louisville	12-3	689
8. Duke	10-3	688
9. Louisiana St.	12-2	569
10. Georgetown	12-2	453
11. Arkansas	10-2	411
12. Syracuse	12-2	402
13. Marquette	11-2	398
14. N. Carolina St.	11-4	353
15. Texas A&M	13-3	335
16. Ohio St.	9-4	272
17. Temple	12-1	191
18. Alabama	10-4	189
19. Maryland	11-4	90
20. Kansas	9-4	86

The Tar Heels are ranked third behind Notre Dame and Illinois in the United Press International poll.

# State

From page 1

"I was so tired after the Arkansas game I just came back and hit the bed and slept for 1-don't-know-how-many-hours," Wood said. "But we're definitely loose and relaxed now and expect a good, close, hard-fought game."

Meanwhile in Raleigh the boys and coach Norm Sloan are chewing past the pink in their finger nails. Three conference losses slapped the Wolfpack down to the ACC cellar and Sloan isn't about to make any comments that might get the Heels angry.

"North Carolina has great firepower and depth," Sloan says. "They can all shoot. Al Wood is as fine a shooter as there is in the country. Mike O'Koren is one of the finest forwards in the country. They're strong on the boards." Etcetera, etcetera—it sounds like a Carolina press release. But Sloan knows that if he loses tonight, he might as well begin gearing his team for the ACC Tournament in March.

Smith, meanwhile, is seeking his ninth regular season title in the last 13 years and has the Tar Heels at 3-1 in the ACC and No. 2 in the nation.

Ged Doughton will start in place of injured Dave Colescott, despite a painful knob on his head he received when he tried to draw a charge on Arkansas'

Sidney Moncrief. Doughton didn't commit a single turnover in 61 minutes of playing time against Duke and the Razorbacks.

Whitney, who's received a lot of publicity about losing weight during the off-season, has come through for Sloan. He's State's leading scorer at 18.2, leading rebounder at 6.3 and is hitting 57 percent from the field. Clyde Austin is averaging 15.3 points a game and "Tiney" Pinder 12.9.

Wood twisted his right ankle against Arkansas but is ok now and will draw either Whitney or Warren as a defensive assignment. Wood leads Carolina scoring with a 16.8 average, hitting on 57 percent of his shots.

"I expected to have a good year," he says. "Last year I got lost a few times and got caught up in the excitement too much."

And everybody—especially the rival fans—know what that's like when State and Carolina play.

## ACC honors Black

Freshman guard Jimmy Black has been named Atlantic Coast Conference Rookie of the Week for his play in the Wake Forest, Duke and Arkansas games last week.

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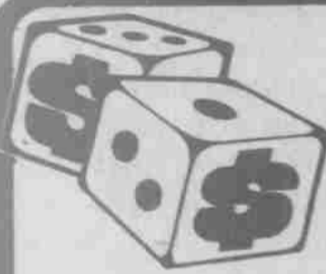
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