

ACC Hoops

Duke protects home court in league play against Florida State.
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SPORTS

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UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT

BY ZACH KEPLEY
Sports Editor

Matt Ridge is, and forever will be, a part of the University of North Carolina basketball family. But after Wednesday's 101-69 demolition by Davidson County Community College over his alma mater's junior varsity team, he might be considered more of a stepchild.

Having played in the Carolina blue for two seasons on the UNC JV team, coach Ridge has experienced the feeling of donning a uniform with North Carolina written across the front. On Wednesday, he also realized how special it feels to beat the program in which he once competed.

It was a memorable night for everyone in the Storm community and Ridge intends on enjoying it for a little while, but there are bigger prizes ahead for him and his team to claim.

"We hope when we look back on the season it is not the highlight," he said in a phone interview on Friday. "We are trying to keep things in perspective and use it as a confidence builder."

As coach of the Storm, Ridge entered the game 0-3 against the Tar Heels — the most recent loss at the Dean E. Smith Center where UNC won 81-69. North Carolina came in undefeated, but left with a thumping that made the bus ride back to Chapel Hill quite long.

Shockingly, DCCC was up 22 at halftime, playing one of its finest halves of basketball to date. Everyone in the building was aware of what the scoreboard read during play, except for the Storm coaching staff.

"I honestly try not to look at the score in the first half," Ridge said. "It is funny, because at halftime we came in and coach (Brandon) Mullis said, 'I didn't know we were up 22 until I walked in here.'" I told him that is a sign of a great coach, because you are focused on what we are doing and not the scoreboard."

Now aware of his

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— Matt Ridge
Storm head coach



team's status, Ridge proceeded to give a halftime speech he has heard several times before.

"I told them the same message I heard for four years at Carolina — No basketball game is won or lost in the first half," said Ridge.

The team was slow in response to the message to start the second half, allowing two UNC baskets in the first minute. The Storm burned a timeout to get refocused, and it was all DCCC after that. A 15-1 run doubled-up the Tar Heels, making the hyped up event quite

uneventful for the last 14 minutes.

Still not all that worried about the score, Ridge finally looked up at the scoreboard at the time DCCC held its largest lead of the night and was stunned at what it read.

"We were up 80-42 and I looked up at the scoreboard and was a little taken back," he said. "I think it was the most complete game we have played this year."

Defense set the tone for Davidson. The guard

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OFF THE PORCH



DICK JONES
Outdoor Columnist

The Alpen Apex Riflescope

It's been almost 10 years since I've been active in competitive long range shooting. One of the things about being involved in something and dropping out is how fast things change.

My last years at Camp Perry, the standard scope was a BR24x Leopold. These scopes cost about \$800 then and, while there were more expensive scopes available, the Leopold BR24 worked about as well as anything.

For a scope to work well for a competitive long range shooter, it must not only hold its zero and be durable, it must be able to be constantly adjusted in repeatable movements and always return back to that zero. This is because long range shooters have to make big adjustments to compensate for bullet drop and wind conditions and the scope has to go right back to the same spot when the match is over.

I recently did an interview with Charles Ballard, the 2008 and 2009 F Class National Champion. These matches are shot at 800, 900, and 1,000 yards. When I asked Charles if they were still using the BR24, he looked at me like I was describing something from the civil war. The scope of choice now sells for about \$1,800 in the standard version and can go over \$3,000 if you add a lot of options.

Normal shooters and hunters don't need as much precision as the guys who shoot the length of ten football fields and put 20 bullets in a circle about the size of a grapefruit. Normal shooting situations call for clarity, durability and the ability to make repeatable adjustments. Except for the initial sight in, it's very unusual to make a 10 minute of angle adjustment in normal situations.

This week, I tested the Alpen Apex series 6 to 24 scope. This is a 32 MM tube scope with 1/8 minute of angle external click adjustments for windage and elevation. The Apex series scopes also have the parallax adjustment on the left side of the scope for convenience.

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CALENDAR

TODAY

BASKETBALL
Carolina Prep
@ DCCC
3 p.m.

MONDAY

BASKETBALL
DCCC
@ Guilford JV
7 p.m.

BASKETBALL
Lexington
@ E. Davidson
6 p.m.

BASKETBALL
So. Guilford
@ Ledford
6 p.m.

TUESDAY

BASKETBALL
E. Davidson
@ Thomasville
6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

WRESTLING
Lexington
@ E. Davidson
7 p.m.

BASKETBALL
NE Guilford
@ Ledford
6 p.m.

THURSDAY

BASKETBALL
DCCC
@ Belmont Abbey JV
7 p.m.

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ACC BASKETBALL

Seminoles drop ACC game at Duke

BY BRYAN STRICKLAND
Durham Herald Sun

DURHAM — At what proved to be the end of a spirited comeback bid by Florida State on Wednesday night, the Seminoles somehow fought for offensive rebounds on three consecutive missed free throws.

None of those rebounds yielded points for FSU, and Duke senior Jon Scheyer calmly drained a jumper at the other end after the last of those failed put-back attempts.

Florida State brought energetic effort and defensive pressure that have become trademarks in recent seasons, but the Blue Devils

brought the same and then some to come away with a 70-56 victory at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Scheyer scored 22 points, Kyle Singler added 20 despite deep foul trouble, and Duke's defense forced the Seminoles into 22 turnovers and held them to 34.5-percent shooting in the second half.

The Noles hurt their own cause with a 4-of-11 effort from the free throw line after halftime.

Florida State had been on a 12-0 run to pull within 51-47 with nine minutes left before the flurry of failed follows off missed free throws, but the Seminoles mustered just one field goal over the next seven-and-a-half minutes as Duke answered FSU's push with a

methodical 15-2 run to lead 66-50.

"After that little stretch, I looked around at the guys and said, 'That can't happen,'" said Duke senior Lance Thomas, who added six points and six rebounds. "Our guys took that personal, and from there we took off. We were in control of the game."

"We didn't let their 12-0 run stop us at all. We just played really poised and closed out the game."

Six different Duke players scored in the decisive push that followed FSU's run, helping the No. 8 Blue Devils (17-3, 5-2 ACC) win their 39th consecutive home game against unranked oppo-

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