

Basketball looks to move past injuries

By Brandon Moree
Sports Editor

With the departure of four of the five starters on the 2011-12 North Carolina basketball team, there are two major questions Roy Williams' squad must answer this summer.

Number one, how do you replace the Cousy Award winner and ACC record holder for assists in a single season, Kendall Marshall?

"Number two would be, guys up front, somebody's got to give us an inside threat," Williams said last Thursday in his annual summer press conference.

Potentially, Williams has a handful of options at the point guard position, and all of them are dealing with off-season injuries at the moment.

Of course, McDonald's All-American and incoming freshman Marcus Paige is a viable option, as he comes ranked by both Scout.com and Rivals.com as the fourth best point guard in the nation.

Paige broke a bone in his foot in the McDonald's game March 28 but is well on the way to recovery, having

already gone through surgery. "I think he'll be able to go in our workouts and be able to play the pickup games," Williams said. "There's no question that we're going to ask him to do a lot but I really do think he's really going to be a good player."

Additionally, Dexter Strickland gained some valuable experience at the point in relief of Marshall last season. But Strickland is still recovering from an ACL injury he suffered at Virginia Tech. He has been cleared by doctors for shooting and light running but no sharp cuts.

Leslie McDonald, who plans to play in the same N.C. Pro-Am that he injured himself in last season, will also be a key figure in the backcourt. McDonald has been cleared to play for several months but Williams said he has been dealing with a minor hamstring injury recently.

But Williams said there was no reason to believe that each of the three wouldn't be ready to go by the start of official practice in the fall.

Regardless of who brings the ball up the floor, the Tar Heels are going to have plenty of perimeter options, which could lead to an even faster tempo.

"I think we'll be a quick team," Reggie Bullock said. "A guard oriented team. We're still going to go back to our basics and get the ball inside, but we know that the guards are going to have to step up for us a lot this season."

Bullock, given his size, is in an interesting position. At 6 feet 7 inches, even though he has exhibited solid range, Bullock could be a useful tool on the inside — especially on a team that will need all the help it can get in the paint.

"Part of my game I've been working on this summer, being able to score the ball in the post against some wing guards that are going to be smaller than me," Bullock said. "I'm just willing to play any position to help my team."

As for the rest of the front court, it will be anchored by sophomore James Michael McAdoo. McAdoo decided against going to the NBA despite a very strong fin-

ish to his freshman campaign. And Williams said that was the right decision, as he spoke to 21 of the 30 NBA teams on McAdoo's behalf and each one said that it would be best for him to stay at UNC.

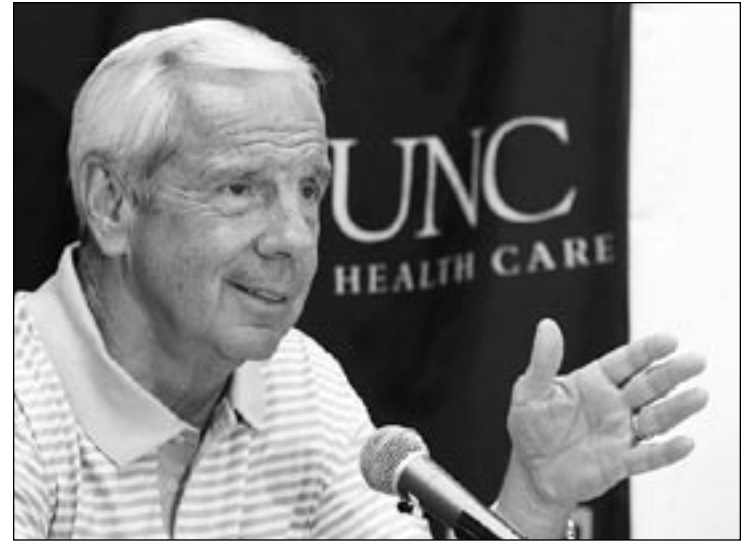
So McAdoo is taking this summer to really focus on his game.

"I'm taking this summer and looking at it as a time that I need to grind, to prepare," McAdoo said. "I know how important this time for when the season does roll around and I don't want to have any regrets or say, 'Man, I wish I would have put some more hours in during the summer.'"

"The offseason is when you start hitting those shots you're going to hit during games."

Williams also spoke about Joel James, an incoming big man, and how crucial his size is to the 2012-13 team.

"We have a tremendous need for size," Williams said. "And I think he can do some good things for us, and maybe it's all dreams and hopes, but we'll have to see when he gets here."



DTH/MELISSA KEY
Roy Williams addressed the media last week in his annual summer press conference and spoke about the challenges for this year's team.

Regardless of the drastic changes to the roster, the Tar Heels are optimistic about the way Williams is shaping the team. "The best players left, but Carolina basketball never stops," Bullock said. "Coach Williams

does a great job of recruiting and replacing players. I mean he recruited me, so I know he does a great job."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@dailytarheel.com.

The Stilman White Theory

We all remember the feeling we had when news broke of Kendall Marshall's wrist injury in the NCAA Tournament in March. Damn, we thought, does that mean Stilman White will be playing the point?

Yes, but the Stormin' Mormon performed valiantly, dishing out 13 assists without a single turnover in those two games. Soon after, we became enamored with him, praising his tough-mindedness and resolve in the two biggest games of his career.

That's not solely why we loved Stilman, though.

No, our infatuation with the young point guard began much earlier, when no one knew who Deividus Dulkys was and UNC was hailed as the best team in the land.



Robbie Harms
In Harm's Way

Our preseason cluelessness about the mopy-haired freshman was palpable. I remember (and I'm sure you do, too) someone near me at Late Night with Roy asking, 'Who's the skinny white kid?' when Stilman took the court during the scrimmage. Just another Blue Steeler, we thought.

But we took a liking to him when the games began. We liked his scrappiness, his knack for hitting shots over guys with 8 inches

on him. Some of us saw ourselves in Stilman White. If he can do that, we thought, then so can I.

It didn't take long to mature into a full-blown crush. It was almost mythic. Soon Stilman could do no wrong. (I had a running joke that Stilman could punt a baby and still draw cheers from the Smith Center crowd.)

I dubbed it the Stilman White Theory — no matter what he did, Stilman would remain in the good graces of UNC fans.

The regular-season zenith of our obsession occurred on Jan. 29 in a UNC home game against Georgia Tech. We all remember it. Stilman gave a Yellow Jackets guard Pierre Jordan a little shoulder fake near halfcourt, making Jordan fall, passed to Reggie Bullock, got the ball back and drained an open three.

The crowd's ensuing roar registered as a small earthquake on the Richter Scale. The only louder cry I can remember in my lifetime is the state of Texas' collective cheer when McDonald's announced it was bringing back the McRib.

The craze only intensified — the 6-footer's end-of-practice dunk several days before that fateful Creighton game was one of the biggest catalysts — and it didn't abate until long after Kansas sent

the Tar Heels home. But now Stilman's gone, off to do God's work in his oft-discussed Mormon mission.

And in his place steps J.P. Tokoto.

I'm predicting the four-star recruit from Wisconsin will become the next embodiment of the Stilman White Theory. I'm not comparing their skill sets — Tokoto has a much bigger upside than Stilman ever had — rather their personas.

Tokoto will be raw, yes, but that won't stop him from endearing himself to the Tar Heel faithful.

He's likely the best dunker UNC's had since Vince Carter. He's fun to watch. He's flashy and confident. He plays with swagger.

And, of course, there's this: after Miles Plumlee took his turn at a college dunk contest, instead of giving him a 10, Tokoto tore off the one from his sign and gave Plumlee a zero.

Duke fans will hate him. So yes, Stilman replaced a basketball with a Bible and is gone for now.

But that doesn't mean there won't be any more mini-earthquakes in Chapel Hill this season.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

WOMEN'S GOLF

2 Tar Heels qualified for the U.S. Open tournament

North Carolina women's golfer Katherine Perry, a junior, tied for first place at a regional qualifier at Carolina Country Club in Sanford, N.C., May 31.

Perry was two over par in the 36-hole event and tied with Cheyenne Woods, niece of Tiger Woods, as the medalist in the event.

Samantha Marks, who is committed to join the UNC women's golf team in the fall of 2012 also qualified for the U.S. Open by tying for fourth at a qualifier in Rockville, Md.

The Women's U.S. Open will be held July 5-8 at Blackwolf Run Championship Course in Kohler, Wis.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

UNC inks top recruits; has hired a new diving coach

The North Carolina women's swimming and diving team has the third best recruiting class in the country, according to CollegeSwimming.com.

After losing seven seniors, head

coach Rich DeSelm brought in 11 new athletes, including five who are ranked in the top 78 recruits as listed by CollegeSwimming.com.

Last month, DeSelm announced that Jenny Keim Johansen would be the new diving coach, as Kevin Lawrence retired from the position.

Johansen, a two-time Olympian, had been the diving coach at N.C. State since 2008.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

6 UNC teams honored for Academic Progress Rates

The NCAA recognized six North Carolina sports teams June 15 for ranking in the top 10 percent nationally in Academic Progress Rates for the student athletes.

The women's cross country team, women's fencing team, women's golf team, gymnastics team, men's swimming and diving team and volleyball team were each recognized as being in the top 10 percent in the country.

The APR is a multi-year score that measures the team's academic progress by tracking each athlete. This year's recognition is based on the 2010-11 academic year.

Putting six teams in the top 10 percent nationally ranks UNC fourth in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

UNC COMMUNICATIONS

Athletic website to be redesigned for relaunch

Beginning on July 1, the University of North Carolina's official athletic website will no longer be www.tarheelblue.com.

Instead, www.goheels.com will be the new home of Tar Heel athletics on the Internet.

The switch is being pegged as a redesign and relaunch of Tar Heel Blue that will present their traditional UNC media, in addition to some new features.

Carolina All-Access will be replaced by GoHeels TV, which will broadcast select UNC athletic events in high definition.

Also, a mobile application for the iPad is scheduled to be released and would allow users to view GoHeels TV on the tablet.

—From staff and wire reports

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If interested, please contact: **Tiffany V. Hambricht, RDH**
Clinical Research Coordinator • Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
919-966-8376 or Tiffany_Hambricht@dentistry.unc.edu
you will be contacted within 24 hours.

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30 SA DIRTY SOUTH FEST! w/... [all those bands...]

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19 TH THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM w/ Dave Hause** (\$20)
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21 TU THE BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE w/ Magic Castles** (\$17/\$20)
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