

VAN NAME SCORES 1,000

Carrboro High School basketball player Keenan Van Name scored his 1,000th point in a hard-fought game against Durham School of the Arts on Jan. 20. Van Name was honored during a rematch against DSA on Tuesday, which the Jaguars won, 76-69, with a team-high 17 points scored by Van Name. Van Name is the first male basketball player at CHS to reach 1,000 points. The Jaguars will take on Cedar Ridge on Friday.

PHOTOS BY TED SPAULDING



Gaining confidence through positive action

BY EDDY LANDRETH
Staff Writer

The Carolina-Duke men's basketball game is the premier product in the Atlantic Coast Conference's television inventory. The bi-annual regular-season game is recognized universally as one of the top rivalries in all of sports. Whether the game is played in the Smith Center or Cameron Indoor Stadium, the arena is packed with eager fans and a media hoard. These games draw some of the best television ratings across the country for a regular-season game.

On Wednesday night, the two renewed the contest that has become a brand unto itself. Both sides benefit from the spotlight in recruiting, memorabilia sales and attention from would-be students who want to be a part of such a collegiate atmosphere. "I just know that it's North Carolina against Duke," UNC coach Roy Williams said before the game, "and we've got to play our best game of the year, regardless of where we're playing or what time the game is." Yet having said all of this, the most important game the fifth-ranked Tar Heels may have played to date could well be last



Eddy Landreth

Saturday's 83-74 victory at Maryland. The Terrapins always give Carolina fits at College Park. Maryland had won four of the previous six games between the two entering Saturday's contest. This one proved no different in terms of competition. The Terps led 40-37 at halftime. What makes this game so important in the overall spectrum of the season, which includes the Tar Heels' hopes for a run at the national championship, is that UNC underwent genuine progress on the road. The crowd fits every description of fanatical at the Comcast Center, and the Terrapins always play with peak emotion there. This year's Carolina team has not played particularly well on the road. To come from behind and play its best basketball in the second half, with Kendall Marshall and Tyler Zeller carrying four fouls, can only boost the team's spirits and fertilize its confidence. "It's a great win for our team," Marshall said. "It was big for us to get a win on the road. That is what we have struggled with this year. When we have had road games, we haven't played 40 minutes. Tonight we didn't play 40 minutes; we played 20 minutes. But we still found a way to win it." One of the critical developments for Carolina is the way Reggie Bullock continues to play since taking Dexter Strickland's starting spot after he suffered a

season-ending knee injury. Bullock guards one of the top scorers from the opposition in each game, and so far he has done nothing but produce. He works hard to move his feet, and he utilizes a far more lengthy reach than Strickland had at his disposal. Maryland guard Terrell Stoglin leads the ACC in scoring at more than 21 points per game. Stoglin scored 20 against UNC, but he went 8-of-21 from the floor to get those points. He only took four free throws as well, making three. "You have to give Reggie a lot of credit for being able to hold Stoglin to 8-of-21," Marshall said. This kind of win is an ideal memory to lodge and draw upon in future tight games. One thing Carolina and Duke have always done is execute with the game on the line, and each often finds a way to win when it appears it should not. That is one of the qualities that make them Carolina and Duke. The victory at Maryland could be the one that finally jump-starts Carolina to become just such a team. "I think it will help us a lot," Zeller said. "Last year we had a lot of games like this, but it shows that we can be tough enough in the end to make the plays and get the stops we need. "There are a few things we want to fix down the stretch, but it's nice to fix that now instead of in the NCAA Tournament when it's life or death."

TRANSIT
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east of Duke University, is the commissioners' preference for one of two proposed rail routes. Durham, Chapel Hill and Carrboro have all endorsed looking into both the C1 and C2 routes; however, they have expressed their preference for C2, and the commissioners followed suit. Commissioners Earl McKee and Steve Yuhasz cast the two dissenting votes against recommending light rail, expressing serious reservations about the plan. Yuhasz said in looking at the benefits for Orange County and all of its residents, he did not believe light rail was the best option. Instead, he said he preferred looking into increased regional bus transit. "Bus regional transit meets the same criteria for light-rail transit," Yuhasz said, in terms of ridership and transit time. "Looking at the locality I represent, I cannot prefer light-rail transit." McKee voiced his concerns not only about the preferred method of transit but also how it would be funded, specifically with a possible half-cent transit tax. "Our vote tonight will set us on a path for endorsing light rail without proper consideration," he said. "I am at an impasse."

At a previous commissioner meeting on Jan. 24, the board asked McDonough and Wib Gulley, the general counsel for TTA, to look into the possibility of siting a light-rail route near U.S. 15-501. Gulley and McDonough said the idea of building a route along 15-501 is not out of the question for the future, and that a separate study could be done for that corridor, but that doing so now would push the whole process back. "I don't want to just throw out 15-501, but I want to study it separately," Commissioner Pam Hemminger said. In the approved motion, the commissioners stated that they would like their representative on the DCHC MPO board, Commissioner Alice Gordon, to express their desire to explore a route along 15-501. "Tonight we are just making a motion to ask Commissioner Gordon to vote on our behalf," Hemminger reminded the board. "This motion is not committing us to putting this on the ballot or spending millions of dollars at this point."



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