

Heels work to heighten focus

BY EDDY LANDRETH
Staff Writer

If North Carolina finishes with any part of first place in the final regular-season Atlantic Coast Conference standings, the Tar Heels will surely have earned it.

The seventh-ranked Tar Heels entered this week 23-4, 10-2 in the ACC. They had to travel to N.C. State on Tuesday night.

Saturday they will travel to Virginia, which is never an easy place for UNC to play. Then they finish the season against Maryland at home and at Cameron Indoor Stadium against Duke.

Coach Roy Williams said one of the keys to success in such a difficult stretch is not to consider the standings or what is happening with anyone else.

"I told our guys, 'Let's take care of our own business,'" Williams said, "and not worry or be concerned about what everybody else is doing."

"I don't want our guys looking ahead and then all of a sudden you skip somebody and it comes back to bite you."

This means "do not think ahead to the tournaments that lay just ahead."

"All we can do is take care of the teams in front of us," point guard Kendall Marshall said. "If we take care of those, we're going to be in pretty good seeding."

Marshall was talking about seeding for the ACC Tournament, which will be held in Atlanta this year. The more important seeding will be where Carolina starts in the NCAA Tournament. Given the number of good teams this season as compared to the recent past, Carolina needs every win it can get.

To get there, the Tar Heels will need to shoot the ball a little better and continue to improve in the two areas that have carried this team.

"We've been a good defensive team and a good rebounding team, and I'd like for us to become a very good defensive team and a very good rebounding team," Williams said.

The Tar Heels have gotten better and better at grabbing rebounds. They led the nation coming into this week with a rebounding margin against opponents of 11.6 per game.

They have been especially effective at grabbing offensive rebounds, which has been vital because this team has not shot the ball particularly well. The fact that they are second in the nation in scoring at 82.8 points per game and first in the ACC shows how well they have hit the offensive boards.

In a recent victory at Miami, the Tar Heels outrebounded the Hurricanes 46-40, but 24 of UNC's rebounds came on the offensive end.

Carolina shot the ball better in a 74-52 victory against Clemson, so there were not as many rebounds to get. Nonetheless, they still grabbed 11 offensive boards, and 16 of their points came off those rebounds.

Williams would not mind seeing that become a pattern – having his team shoot a better percentage so it will not have to put back so many shots to score.

"There is no question I would like for us to shoot it better from the outside and get better balance," Williams said. "But the biggest thing is we have to get healthier and stay healthy."

"You never make a good run at the end of the year unless you're healthy. For us, we're shortening our practices to give the guys fresh legs and maybe do it for them mentally as well."



Eddy Landreth

Community Briefs

Human relations awards Sunday

The Orange County Human Relations Commission will host the annual Pauli Murray Human Relations Awards Ceremony on Sunday at the Central Orange Senior Center Ballroom in Hillsborough from 3 to 5 p.m.

The Pauli Murray Award is presented to an Orange County youth, adult and business that have served the community with distinction in the pursuit of equality, justice and human rights for all residents.

The ceremony will include musical entertainment and poetic recitals by the Sacrificial Poets. A reception will follow the ceremony.

Monthly gardening classes

Monthly gardening classes will be taught by Maria Hitt at the Martin Luther King Jr. Park community garden, 1120 Hillsborough Road, beginning Sunday from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

The class will cover soil preparation, bed-building tips and planting peas, onions and other early spring crops. A donation of \$10 per class is requested and all proceeds will go to the Growing Healthy Kids Community Garden.

Register by today (Thursday) at 967-9091 or email cbrooks@orang-smartstart.org.

Spay Neuter Day set for Tuesday

Orange County Animal Services will celebrate "Spay Neuter Day" on Tuesday as part of its effort to combat pet overpopulation in Orange County.

The department has partnered with Pet Overpopulation Patrols of N.C. to offer no-cost spay and neuter surgeries to up to 30 pets of residents that receive services from the Orange County Department of Social Services.

In addition the department has partnered with programs such as "The \$20 Fix" to offer low-cost and no-cost spay and neuter surgeries to pets of qualifying households in Orange County.

For more information contact Sarah Fallin at 942-7387.

Black History Month film screening

ChathamArts' Sustainable Cinema Series will honor Black History Month on Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Fearington Barn with a special screening of two films – *The Loving Story* and *Wolf Call*.

Director Nancy Buirski's *The Loving Story*, short-listed for this year's Academy Awards, is a short film that examines Loving v. Virginia, a watershed civil rights case in which the U.S. Supreme Court declared Virginia's anti-miscegenation statute unconstitutional in 1967.

Director Rob Underhill's *Wolf Call* is a 12-minute short taking viewers back to 1956, a year after 14-year old Emmett Till had been brutally murdered. The film examines an interview with the men charged with the boy's murder.

Admission is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Proceeds benefit ChathamArts and its arts and education programs.

Youth baseball coaches needed

The Carrboro Recreation & Parks Department is accepting volunteer coach's applications for the 2012 Youth Baseball Program, which runs from mid-April into mid-June.

Coaches must exhibit the ability to organize practices and communicate with 13- to 14-year-old players, parents and recreation staff. They are required to teach proper playing skills and sportsmanship and provide an enjoyable atmosphere at practices and games.

For an application or more information, contact the Recreation & Parks Department at 942-8541.

CH police dept. honors employees

The Chapel Hill Police Department held its annual award ceremony for 2011 on Jan. 31.

The following employees were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the police department and community: Robert Reynolds and Officer Stephen Slagle, Employee and Officer of the Year; Officer Preston Oppegard, Meritorious Conduct Award; Officer Erin Dallin, Life Saving Award; Officer Terrence Fearington, Medal of Valor; Officer Preston Oppegard, Medal of Honor; and John French and Officer Kenny Lennon, The Herman Stone award.

OBITUARY

John Huntley Sheer

John (Jack) Huntley Sheer, 99, died Feb. 16, 2012, with his family by his side in Southern Pines, N.C. A memorial service was held Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 3 p.m. at the St Thomas Episcopal Church, 312 N. Steele St., Sanford, N.C., followed by a reception at the same location.

He was born Oct. 27, 1912, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Louis and Ann Sheer. His mother, Ann, passed away when he was 2, and he was raised mostly by his Aunt (Betty). Jack graduated from Erasmus High School in New York. He went to work on Wall Street as an office boy and began playing the guitar and banjo. He escaped the 1929 economic crash by moving and enrolling in the University of Alabama to study dentistry. He supported himself by playing guitar in a restaurant near

campus. He returned to New York and began his music career playing various jobs in New York and Pittsburgh, Pa. He later formed a 10-piece big band and began playing at the Maryland Club Gardens outside Washington, D.C. At 30 he was drafted into the military, transferred to officer's school and ended up studying electronics at Yale University, where he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant. He served primarily in Africa and India during World War II. After the war Jack met Josephine (Jo) Sheer. They were married three months later and remained married for 63 years. Jack then joined the military reserves, was drafted into the Korean conflict, became a captain and served in Seoul, Korea.

After the wars he went to work in Washington, D.C., and then moved to Sanford, N.C., to become sales manager for the San-

ford Furniture Company. He later started Lee Crafts Furniture in Sanford and became a Board Member for the Southern Furniture Manufactures Association. Later he became a sales and marketing consultant for numerous furniture manufacturers while playing guitar at the Country Club of North Carolina.

Mr. Sheer is survived by wife, Jo Sheer; son Jeff and his wife, Linda; son Joel Sheer; granddaughter, Catherine Sheer; sister, Kitty Tepper; and half-sister, Marion Hurwitz. He was preceded in death by his brother, Albert Sheer. In lieu of flowers please make any donations to the church's St. Thomas Memorial Fund.

Powell Funeral Home & Crematory in Southern Pines is serving the Sheer family. Online condolences may be offered at www.PinesFunerals.com

Orange County Animal Services

says

Beat the Heat!

Get your cat or dog fixed for \$20 – or FREE!

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To qualify, contact Sarah F. at 919-942-7387 ext 224 or sfallin@co.orange.nc.us

Weaver Street is OPEN to vehicle, bike & pedestrian traffic!

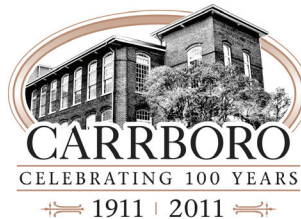
Weaver Street

OPEN!

CARS PEDS BIKES

The Town of Carrboro would like the thank the Downtown business community for your patience and understanding during the Weaver Street Reconstruction project. We invite everyone to come out and see our beautiful new street and support local businesses!

This message brought to you by The Town of Carrboro and *The Carrboro Citizen*

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