

UNC women's basketball takes down No. 1 Notre Dame



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NORTH CAROLINA 78
NOTRE DAME 73

By Brennan Doherty
Senior Writer

In a moment “preceded by fear but followed by joy,” North Carolina shocked the college basketball world by defeating No. 1 Notre Dame, 78-73, Sunday

PARIS KEA'S STATS

30
POINTS

10
ASSISTS

3
STEALS

afternoon, a feat the Tar Heels believed they could achieve even if there was little reason for outsiders to think otherwise.

With close calls against teams like now-ranked No. 4 Louisville and No. 22 Florida State in the rearview mirror, North Carolina head coach Sylvia Hatchell challenged her team to have a “wow moment” on Sunday with the nation's top team in town.

What's a “wow moment?” To give an example, before the game in the locker room, Hatchell shared with her players a copy of an ultrasound of her soon-to-be grandson.

While it wasn't as big of a miracle as human life, Hatchell's players reciprocated by giving their coach a “wow moment” of their own: UNC's first win against a No. 1 team since February 2006, one that came with numerous twists and turns.

Down just two at halftime, the Tar Heels outscored the Fighting Irish 28-17 in the third quarter on the strength of a hot stretch from redshirt senior guard Paris Kea. Early in the fourth quarter, UNC's lead ballooned to 10 points but a scoreless stretch that spanned 5:04 allowed Notre Dame to regain the lead. With the program's biggest win on the line, UNC closed out the game with a 15-8 run.

“I'm just really happy for these guys because they without a doubt had a ‘wow moment’ today,” Hatchell said.

It was an accomplishment made possible by contributions from everyone who saw the court for the Tar Heels, but it's impossible to start anywhere other than the play of Kea, whose creativity and willingness to put the game on her shoulders highlighted the Tar Heels' best performance in recent years.

Thirty points, 10 assists and three steals later, Kea contemplated in a postgame news conference why she's always at her best against the best. Just over a year ago, she dropped 36 points in an unlikely come-from-behind victory against Duke, a performance previously unrivaled as her personal best. Her showing against Notre Dame now provides some competition.

“I love a challenge,” said Kea, a Greensboro native. “That's all I can say

about it.”

In December, a frustrating foot injury kept Kea out for three games. She's been steadily recovering but against Notre Dame, she said she felt she was “getting back to the old Paris.”

And yet, Hatchell was proud of “how the whole team played.” There was sophomore center Janelle Bailey, who remained focused after her first few shots of the day rimmed out and managed to play smart basketball with four fouls during the home stretch of a 16-point, eight-rebound performance. There was junior guard Taylor Koenen, who scored just four points but made her impact on defense, recording three steals and slowing down Notre Dame's Brianna Turner.

And there was also sophomore guard Leah Church, a known threat from the 3-point line. With 1:25 remaining, Church, who had taken only one shot all afternoon, drilled a 3-pointer to put UNC ahead, 74-71, a lead the Tar Heels didn't relinquish.

“If she's open and she misses a shot, that's rare,” Hatchell said.

Immediately following Church's make, Notre Dame committed one of its 20 turnovers on the day, a moment that encapsulated its struggles against UNC's defense. From there, North Carolina saw out the result, one that raised eyebrows across the sport, even if the players making it happen weren't as shocked.

“One thing I want to say is that we are a better team than our record shows,” said UNC redshirt junior guard Stephanie Watts, who scored 19 points.

Watts' sentiments can explain how UNC managed to keep its composure even when its double-digit lead turned into a two-point deficit in quick succession. They also align with a message Hatchell has preached on occasion: UNC, despite its close losses to quality opponents, is deserving of respect.

“When you have a ‘wow moment,’ it's usually preceded by fear but followed by joy,” Hatchell said.

Against Notre Dame, whatever fear UNC might have had quickly vanished. The joy from Sunday afternoon, however, will stick around for a while.

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Raleigh Women's March highlights power of youth and of unity

By Georgia Wieland-Stanford
Senior Writer

Unity was the major theme of the 2019 Raleigh Women's March that took place this weekend.

Roads in downtown Raleigh were not closed for the march, but a large crowd soon overtook the crosswalks and sidewalks in front of the North Carolina Legislative Building. As volunteers and organizers directed the crowd on the march path around the building, they chanted “Believe women!” and “Equality now!”

Police presence increased as the march progressed, and one interaction between a police officer and Takiyah Thompson turned hostile when the officer asked her to lower her sign. Thompson said fellow marchers did not come to her aid and later addressed the crowd to talk about what happened.

“I wake up every day, and I'm a woman and I'm Black. When we talk about the violence that Black women face, we have to talk about police violence. When we talk about

protecting women, we also have to talk about not only the legislature, but the police,” Thompson said. “If we're not going to protect Black women, how are we supposed to protect everyone else?”

The march in Raleigh was just one of many across the state this weekend, which occurred a week after the national march in Washington, D.C. Many of the events, including those in Charlotte and Raleigh, were organized by local nonprofits to show unity in the face of anti-Semitism allegations in the national Women's March organization.

Women Mobilize NC, one organization that helped plan the Raleigh Women's March, released a statement ahead of the event saying it organized the event in Raleigh independently from the national organization and is appalled by the rise of anti-Semitism and “the pain and suffering it causes.”

“Women Mobilize NC stands with all women and members of the

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DTH/EMILY CAROLINE SARTIN

Scarlett Wilson, 70, of Durham, N.C., says, “I can remember when women did not have the rights that we fought for and we must continue that fight, and I'm here because of all the young women and men that are here today.”

“Or so be it, I'm your crowbar, if that's what I am so far, until you get out of this mess”

FIONA APPLE, KING PRINCESS