

No. 5 UNC dominates Seminoles

*Hungry for a victory
after dropping two of the
past three, the Tar
Heels devoured the
Seminoles, 92-47.*

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The Atlantic Coast Conference's worst offense stumbled into the league's best defense Friday with predictable results.

No. 5 North Carolina's 92-47 victory against Florida State was more dominating than the margin indicated.

Whipped into a near frenzy after a brutal practice Wednesday, following their loss to league-leading Virginia, the Tar Heels overwhelmed Florida State with 31-for-60 shooting, a smothering defense that forced 26 turnovers and a big dose of senior Charlotte Smith.

Smith compiled her 11th double-double of the season, with 26 points and 14 rebounds. She hit eight of 10 shots from the field, 10 of 11 from the line. She also helped North Carolina hold Florida State to a miserable 18-of-58 shooting from the field.

"It was just very basic," North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "We just wanted to play tough defense, be aggressive and take good shots."

"Aggressive" might be an understatement. Following two losses in their three previous outings, including an 80-64 debacle at Virginia, the Tar Heels practiced so hard Wednesday that starter Stephanie Lawrence was sidelined with a bruised shoulder and Smith ended up with an ice bag on her head.

They continued that intensity Friday, swarming over the Seminoles on defense and hitting the boards for a 51-31 margin in rebounds.

"They out-rebounded us by 20,

and it seemed like three times that many," ninth-year Florida State coach Marynell Meadors said. "That was one of the best defensive performances I've ever seen North Carolina play."

North Carolina leads the ACC in scoring defense and scoring margin.

"They were very prepared for us," Meadors said. "They were angry after losing two out of three. And they were tuning up for Virginia."

The Tar Heels took sole position of second place in the ACC, one-half game ahead of Duke, to set up their televised rematch Sunday with Virginia.

"I expect we'll be out for vengeance against Virginia," Smith said. "I hope so. This will be my last chance to beat them here."

Prodded by reporters on the issue of vengeance, Hatchell reminded them "we beat them by 17 when it counted (in the 1994 ACC tournament). And we'll probably meet again this year."

Marion Jones added 17 points added five assists and Tracy Reid had 11 points against FSU to help North Carolina improve to 20-2 overall and 8-2 in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Ranked last in the league in scoring, Florida State fell to 6-16, 2-

9 with its third straight loss.

Point guard Allison Peercy led Florida State's scoring with 13 points. Latrice McLin scored 10 points, all in the second half.

Smith went four for five from the field and five for six from the line to score 13 points in the first half to pace North Carolina at 44-21 at the break.

"North Carolina played a great basketball game," Meadors said. "I thought we should have played much better than we did. We missed a lot of layups and I'd like to attribute that to their defense."

But North Carolina wasn't without its problems. The Tar Heels fumbled away their first two possessions of the second half, prompting a timeout by Hatchell.

"We made some mistakes, so I just wanted a timeout to get us refocused," Hatchell said.

Intensity refocused, The Tar Heels hit 10 of their next 11 shots and pulled away steadily the rest of the way.

FLORIDA STATE (6-16) — Williams 1-10 2-2 4, McLin 5-12 0-0 10, Moorefield 3-11 0-1 6, Pederson 1-2 0-0 3, Peercy 4-6 5-12 13, Taylor 0-3 0-0 0, Hampton 2-6 1-2 6, Rickman 1-4 0-0 2, Cobbins 1-2 1-2 3, Penn 0-1 0-1 0. Totals 18-57 9-20 47.

NORTH CAROLINA (20-2) — Reid 4-9 3-5 11, Smith 8-10 10-11 26, Jackson 3-7 1-2 7, Cooper 2-7 1-2 5, Jones 7-9 3-6 17, Gear 3-9 2-2 9, N. Walker 0-0 2-2 2, Suddreth 1-1 2-3 5, McKee 2-3 0-0 4, Gillingham 1-1 4-5 6, S. Walker 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 31-60 28-38 92.

Halftime—North Carolina 44, Florida St. 21. 3-Point goals—Florida St. 2-8 (Hampton 1-1, Pederson 1-2, Peercy 0-1, McLin 0-2, Rickman 0-2), North Carolina 2-8 (Suddreth 1-1, Gear 1-6, Jones 0-1). Fouled out—Williams, Taylor. Rebounds—Florida St. 31 (McLin 7), North Carolina 51 (Smith 14). Assists—Florida St. 9 (Penn 3), North Carolina 14 (Jones 5). Total fouls—Florida St. 26, North Carolina 17. A—1,794.