

Washpun, Bohannon shine as UNI stuns No.1 Heels

Written by Mike Condon

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CEDAR FALLS - A North Carolina tradition continued here Saturday afternoon.

The Tar Heels have made it a point to schedule road games close to the homes of their senior players.

Coach Roy Williams' tribute to Marcus Paige was a game against the University of Northern Iowa, a school about 60 miles away from Linn-Mar.

The storyline extended to the match-up where Paige would be going up against former teammates from high school and AAU days in UNI's Matt Bohannon and Wes Washpun.

Paige's broken right hand, suffered earlier this month, kept him from playing, but his former teammates not only played, they shined.

Washpun, Paige's AAU teammate, had 21 points and eight assists while Bohannon, who played three seasons with Paige at Linn-Mar, had 18 as the Panthers upset No. 1 North Carolina, 71-67, at the McLeod Center.

"Needless to say, I wish Marcus would have been able to play because that is why we came," Williams said. "If you had told me he was going to break his hand and not be able to play, I wouldn't have scheduled the game."

Washpun and Bohannon had a lot to do with Williams' team leaving with a loss.

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With the final 17 minutes left to play, UNI had taken a 10-0 lead from the 10-point game, and the Heels were looking for a way to get back into the game. UNI's defense was playing well, and the Heels were unable to get any scoring plays in the second half.