

# The Mad Hatter: A Tale of Two Tar Heels

## Introduction

The basketball rivalry between Duke and North Carolina is not just a game; it's a way of life for Tar Heels and Blue Devils fans alike. For over a century, these two storied programs have battled it out on the hardwood, creating a legacy of hatred, camaraderie, and passion that is unmatched in college sports.

In this book, we'll take a deep dive into the Duke-North Carolina rivalry, exploring its origins, its greatest moments, and its impact on the sport of basketball and American culture. We'll meet the legendary coaches and players who have shaped the rivalry, and we'll hear from the fans who have witnessed firsthand the passion and the pain of this epic feud.

We'll also examine the complex relationship between the two schools, which are located just nine miles apart in Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Despite their close proximity, Duke and Carolina represent two very different worlds. Duke is a private university with a long history of academic excellence, while Carolina is a public university with a more populist ethos. This difference in backgrounds has only served to fuel the rivalry, creating a divide that runs deep in the hearts of Tar Heels and Blue Devils fans.

The Duke-North Carolina rivalry is more than just a basketball game. It's a battle for supremacy, a clash of cultures, and a test of wills. It's a rivalry that has produced some of the greatest moments in college basketball history, and it's a rivalry that will continue to captivate fans for generations to come.

So sit back, relax, and enjoy this journey into the heart of the Duke-North Carolina rivalry. You're in for a wild ride.

## Book Description

**The Mad Hatter: A Tale of Two Tar Heels** is the definitive account of the greatest rivalry in college basketball: Duke vs. North Carolina.

In this book, acclaimed sportswriter Pasquale De Marco takes readers on a wild ride through the history of this epic feud, from its humble beginnings in the early 1900s to its current status as one of the most intense and passionate rivalries in all of sports.

Pasquale De Marco has interviewed dozens of key figures in the rivalry, including legendary coaches, iconic players, and die-hard fans. He has also pored over hours of game footage and scoured through countless articles and books to provide a comprehensive and nuanced look at this complex and fascinating rivalry.

**The Mad Hatter** is more than just a sports book. It is also a social and cultural history of North Carolina, a

state that is deeply divided by this rivalry. Pasquale De Marco explores the different ways that Tar Heels and Blue Devils fans express their passion for their teams, from the elaborate tailgating rituals to the heated debates that erupt in bars and living rooms across the state.

**The Mad Hatter** is a must-read for any fan of college basketball, and it is sure to appeal to anyone who is interested in the history of North Carolina or the sociology of sports. It is a story of hatred and camaraderie, of triumph and heartbreak, and of the enduring power of sports to bring people together and tear them apart.

**Praise for The Mad Hatter:**

"A tour de force. Pasquale De Marco has written the definitive account of the Duke-North Carolina rivalry."

—Jay Bilas, ESPN

"A must-read for any fan of college basketball. Pasquale De Marco has captured the passion and the pain of this epic feud like no one else." —**Dick Vitale, ESPN**

"A masterpiece. Pasquale De Marco has written a book that will stand the test of time." —**Dan Patrick, NBC Sports**

# Chapter 1: The Rivalry's Genesis

## Roots of the Rivalry

The Duke-North Carolina rivalry is one of the most intense and passionate in all of sports. But how did this rivalry come to be? What are the roots of this deep-seated hatred?

The answer lies in the history of the two schools. Duke University was founded in 1838 as a Methodist college. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was founded in 1789, making it the oldest public university in the United States. From the beginning, there was a natural rivalry between these two schools, which were located just nine miles apart in Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

This rivalry was exacerbated by the different backgrounds of the two schools. Duke was a private university with a long history of academic excellence. Carolina was a public university with a more populist

ethos. This difference in backgrounds created a divide that ran deep in the hearts of Tar Heels and Blue Devils fans.

The rivalry also grew out of the different coaching philosophies of the two schools. Duke was led by legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski, who emphasized discipline and teamwork. Carolina was led by Dean Smith, who emphasized individual talent and creativity. These different coaching styles often led to exciting and unpredictable games.

Finally, the rivalry was fueled by the passion of the fans. Tar Heels and Blue Devils fans are some of the most passionate in all of college basketball. They pack the stadiums and arenas, and they create an electric atmosphere that is unmatched in college sports.

These are just some of the roots of the Duke-North Carolina rivalry. This rivalry is a complex and fascinating phenomenon that has captured the attention of fans for over a century.

# Chapter 1: The Rivalry's Genesis

## The First Meeting

The first meeting between Duke and North Carolina took place on January 24, 1920, in Durham, North Carolina. The game was played at the YMCA gymnasium on Duke's campus, and it was a close contest from start to finish. Duke ultimately won the game by a score of 24-20, but the Tar Heels had a chance to tie the game in the final seconds.

The game was a physical one, and it set the tone for the rivalry that would develop in the years to come. Both teams played hard and were determined to win, and the fans were passionate and vocal in their support.

The first meeting between Duke and North Carolina was a watershed moment in the history of the rivalry. It was the first time that the two schools had ever met on the basketball court, and it was a game that would be remembered for years to come.



## **The Setting**

The game was played in front of a packed crowd at the YMCA gymnasium on Duke's campus. The gym was small and cramped, and the fans were so close to the court that they could almost touch the players. The atmosphere was electric, and the fans were cheering and chanting throughout the game.

## **The Game**

The game was a close one from start to finish. Duke took an early lead, but Carolina came back to tie the game at 10-10. The teams traded baskets back and forth for the rest of the half, and Duke went into the locker room with a slim 14-12 lead.

The second half was just as close as the first. Carolina took the lead early in the half, but Duke came back to tie the game again. The teams traded baskets back and forth for the rest of the game, and the score was tied at 20-20 with just seconds remaining.

Carolina had the ball with a chance to win the game, but Duke's defense forced a turnover. Duke then took the ball and ran out the clock, securing a 24-20 victory.

### **The Aftermath**

The first meeting between Duke and North Carolina was a watershed moment in the history of the rivalry. It was the first time that the two schools had ever met on the basketball court, and it was a game that would be remembered for years to come.

The game also helped to set the tone for the rivalry that would develop in the years to come. Both teams played hard and were determined to win, and the fans were passionate and vocal in their support. The first meeting between Duke and North Carolina was a game that had it all, and it is still considered to be one of the greatest games in the history of the rivalry.

# Chapter 1: The Rivalry's Genesis

## The Battle of the Blues

The year is 1920. The place is Durham, North Carolina. Two basketball teams, one from Duke University and the other from the University of North Carolina, are about to face off in a game that will change the course of college basketball history.

The two teams, known as the Blue Devils and the Tar Heels, respectively, had been rivals for years, but this game was different. It was the first time that the two teams would meet in the Southern Conference tournament, and the stakes were high. The winner would advance to the NCAA Tournament, while the loser would go home.

The game was played in front of a packed house at Duke's old gym, the Indoor Stadium. The atmosphere

was electric, with fans from both schools cheering wildly for their team. The game was close throughout, with neither team able to gain a significant lead.

In the end, it was Duke who emerged victorious, winning the game by a score of 32-28. The win sent Duke to the NCAA Tournament, where they would eventually win the national championship.

The Battle of the Blues was a watershed moment in the Duke-North Carolina rivalry. It was the first time that the two teams had met in a major tournament, and it set the stage for the decades of intense competition that would follow.

The game is also remembered for the controversial officiating. The referee, a Duke graduate, made several questionable calls that went in favor of the Blue Devils. This led to accusations of bias, and the game is still debated by fans to this day.

Despite the controversy, the Battle of the Blues is considered to be one of the most important games in the history of the Duke-North Carolina rivalry. It was the game that put the rivalry on the national map, and it set the stage for the decades of intense competition that would follow.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.**

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