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Luke Winn &gt; INSIDE COLLEGE BASKETBALL

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## Ginyard steps up as UNC stopper

NEW YORK -- About an hour before Thursday's game against No. 15 Ohio State at Madison Square Garden, North Carolina shooting guard **Marcus Ginyard** posted a three-word message on his [Twitter account](#):

*"talk is cheap"*

His sixth-ranked Tar Heels went on to win, 77-73, holding off a late Buckeyes rally, but Ginyard, when asked about his Tweet, grew cagey and looked down at the locker room floor. "You know what?" he said. "I'm going to take this opportunity not to elaborate on that."

Luckily, fellow senior **Deon Thompson** was within earshot, and was less interested in discretion.

"I know *exactly* who was talking," he said, still giddy from a game in which he had 15 points and 12 rebounds. "If you'll run it up, I'll tell you everything."

And so he did: Over the summer, while playing on USA Basketball's World University Games team that won a bronze medal in Serbia, Thompson became friends with **Evan Turner**, Ohio State's 6-foot-7 junior point guard. They kept in touch over text messages, and in September, during the Ohio State-USC football game (Thompson is a SoCal kid who was watching the Trojans), began exchanging good-natured jabs about their impending meeting at Madison Square Garden, in the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic semifinals.

"[Turner] was telling Marcus" -- Ginyard, the Heels' designated defensive stopper, who redshirted their 2008-09 national title season to recover from a stress fracture in his left foot -- "that he should strap up, and be ready to guard," Thompson said. "So Marcus showed up, and I think he played great on Evan."

Thompson's assessment was accurate. Turner had been the nation's best player through two games, posting a triple-double in the Buckeyes' opener against Alcorn State (with 14 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists), and then a double-double against James Madison (24 points, 17 rebounds, 4 assists). Ginyard showed up on Thursday, and made it his personal mission to drive Turner nuts, hounding him into committing a career-high 10 turnovers. "You try," Ginyard said, "to make him uncomfortable as possible."

Turner got his triple-double (23 points, 12 rebounds, and those 10 giveaways against just four assists) but had to claw for every bucket, and seemed too flustered, at times, to establish any kind of offensive flow in his role as floor general. The Buckeyes fell behind 38-24 at halftime, and trailed 55-36 with 10:02 left in the game, before mounting their unsuccessful late charge.

In the locker room following the Tar Heels' previous game, an 88-77 win over Valparaiso on Sunday that was far too close for coach **Roy Williams'** liking, he gave Ginyard a reaming in front of the entire team -- "probably," the coach said, "the hardest I've ever gotten on him." Ginyard had five turnovers and zero rebounds in that game, and Williams told him, "You've got to play better if you're going to be the leader of this team."

North Carolina entered this season in an extremely uncertain state, having lost starting point guard **Ty Lawson**, shooting guard **Wayne**

### Story Highlights

UNC won ugly on Thursday, scoring just four fast break points

The Heels might win more games in the 70s than it will in the 90s

Marcus Ginyard hounded OSU's Evan Turner into 10 turnovers

(6) North Carolina	(15) Ohio State
	
77	73
<a href="#">»Box Score</a> <a href="#">»Recap</a> <a href="#">»Complete Scoreboard</a>	

**Ellington**, small forward **Danny Green** and center **Tyler Hansbrough** from their title squad -- a crew that accounted for 69.9 percent of their offense. The Tar Heels had enough talent and size to warrant a top-10 preseason ranking, so it's difficult to call 2009-10 a "rebuilding" year. It's more of a season in which Williams has been forced to alter his team's identity, from that of a high-speed offensive juggernaut into a long, athletic defensive squad that might win more games in the 70s than it will in the 90s.

UNC won ugly on Thursday, scoring just four fast break points -- an insanely low number for a Williams team -- and turning the ball over 19 times (against 17 assists). But the Heels also held the Buckeyes to 42.6 percent shooting, and just 28.6 percent from beyond the arc. "In the past, the teams that I've been on, our offense always carried our defense," Thompson said. "But this team's identity can be its defense carrying its offense."

Their length -- with the 6-8 **Thompson**, 6-10 **Ed Davis**, 6-10 **John Henson**, 6-10 **David** and **Travis Wear**, and 7-footer **Tyler Zeller** -- will be a big part of their success stifling opposing offenses.

But Ginyard, their 6-5 leader on the perimeter, is the one who set their defensive tone. He finished with 13 points, two assists and just one turnover, and it was fitting that the play he was most pleased with on Thursday wasn't the clutch three he hit with 1:34 left in the game, to put the Heels up 11. It was the charge he'd taken on Turner at the 11:31 mark of the first half, sending an early message to Ohio State's All-America candidate that he wouldn't have free reign to drive to the rim.

After the ref's whistle, Ginyard hopped up and began skipping toward Carolina's bench for a timeout huddle, with a huge grin on his face. But he didn't say a word.

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# Jardine steps up for Orange

## Story Highlights

Scoop Jardine has been hard to find the last two seasons. He also played behind true freshman Brandon Triche through the first three games. North Carolina will give the Orange their toughest test yet Friday.

NEW YORK -- There are two tattoos on the left bicep of Syracuse point guard **Scoop Jardine**. One is a basketball falling through a hoop. The second, inked in cursive letters, reads: "Best Kept Secret". "I still don't think people have seen the real me," Jardine said after scoring a team- and career-high 22 points in the Orange's 95-73 win over No. 12 California in the semifinals of the 2K Sports Classic.

Syracuse	(13) Cal
95	73
<a href="#">Box Score</a>	<a href="#">Recap</a> <a href="#">Complete Scoreboard</a>

Jardine has been hard to find the last two seasons. His initial pain came in the left leg as a freshman two years ago, but he shied from telling coaches in order to serve as the seventh player on a roster already riddled by injuries. He then sat two games due to a suspension for stealing another student's meal card in January. Meanwhile, his leg discomfort continued to grow, and he was finally diagnosed with a stress fracture in his tibia that March. The soreness lingered into last season and forced him to redshirt. "I just had to get right," he said.

He lost 15 pounds, squared against starter **Jonny Flynn** in workouts and prepared to return as his backup. His role would be to spell Flynn, an energizer guard. "I knew he was a top 10 pick all along," Jardine said, "but after the six-overtime game [in the Big East tourney quarterfinals against UConn] I knew he had blossomed and (would) leave."

This season Jardine played the reserve to true freshman **Brandon Triche** through the first three games. Triche, whose Orange roots trace back to his uncle Howard's career in the mid-1980s, is a well-known commodity in western New York as the Empire State's co-Mr. Basketball. Meanwhile, Jardine, a Philadelphia native who came to campus with a high school teammate, forward **Rick Jackson**, has re-introduced himself with a push-first offensive mindset. "He's been a fighter," said Syracuse shooting guard **Andy Rautins**, a savvy senior who scored eight points on 2-of-5 shooting from three.

Jardine had company when the active players went on the road last winter. **Wes Johnson**, a 6-foot-7, 205-pound Texas wingman who earned All-Big 12 rookie honors as an Iowa State freshman three years ago, came to Syracuse with decent defensive skills. Banging with power forward **Paul Harris** provided an opportunity to find comfortable positions in the team's traditional zone defense. "He can shut down one whole side of the court with his athleticism and ability to recover," said assistant coach Rob Murphy.

Cal's perimeter players saw how quickly Johnson -- who has 10 steals in Syracuse's first two games -- can re-route their drives to the basket. The springy junior blocked six shots and constantly looked to trap the Bears from the wings. "I think as a veteran team, they had seen zones before," said Rautins, "but they hadn't seen one as aggressive as ours."

The absence of three-point threat **Theo Robertson** due to a foot injury also limited the Bears, but **Jerome Randle** tried to neutralize the void with his quickness. Syracuse's scouting report all but ceded his drives to the right, which he capitalized on, going for 25 points on an array of tear-drop layups. "You could see they were surprised though when Wes would come jumping," Murphy said.

Before regular-season play began, Syracuse dealt with questions about who would fill in for Harris, Flynn and the departed **Eric Devendorf**. A wave of cynicism then crashed over the Orange with the loss to Division II Le Moyne in the Carrier Dome.

Since then, **Jim Boeheim** gained win No. 800, Johnson has emerged as a two-way star and familiarity returned with another win at their

home away from dome. "We've moved on," Rautins said. "We've got an identity as a tough defensive team." North Carolina will give the Orange their toughest test yet Friday. If they pass, there will be no more secrets.

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