

The Daily Tar Heel

NCAA Women's Basketball Championships, Stanford Regional, Elite 8

1 April 2014

OUCH!

Stanford 74, Carolina 65

Xylina McDaniel made this layup for North Carolina, but Stanford owned the paint in the second half and advances to the NCAA Women's Final Four beginning Sunday in Nashville, Tenn.

OUCH!

Many things enabled Stanford to erase a six-point halftime deficit – Carolina had led by as many as 13 – to win its regional in the NCAA Women’s Basketball Championships and advance to the Final Four.

But the overriding factor was an experienced team that has played in the Final Four in five of the past six seasons confronting a team so young it doesn’t have a single senior on its roster.

That experience/inexperience gap was most vividly played out in the matchup between the teams’ two power forwards, Stanford senior Chiney Ogwumike and Tar Heel freshman Stephanie Mavunga.

“It is the battle of Africa,” Jean Mavunga said from her seat behind me as the game got underway.

– Continued on next page



Lips freshly glossed as she always does during a timeout, Stephanie Mavunga glances back to her mother Jean for support.

OUCH!

– Continued *from* previous page

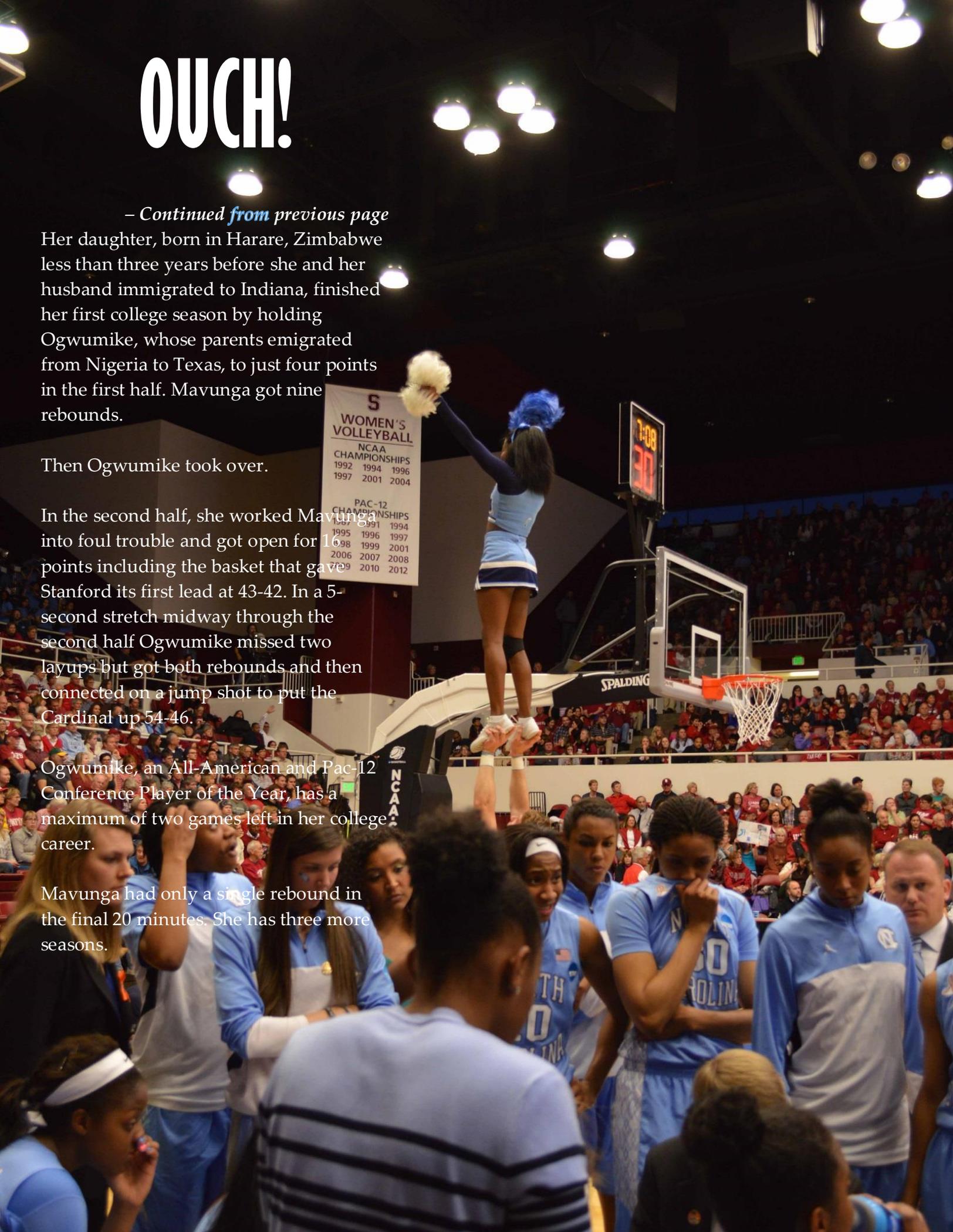
Her daughter, born in Harare, Zimbabwe less than three years before she and her husband immigrated to Indiana, finished her first college season by holding Ogwumike, whose parents emigrated from Nigeria to Texas, to just four points in the first half. Mavunga got nine rebounds.

Then Ogwumike took over.

In the second half, she worked Mavunga into foul trouble and got open for 16 points including the basket that gave Stanford its first lead at 43-42. In a 5-second stretch midway through the second half Ogwumike missed two layups but got both rebounds and then connected on a jump shot to put the Cardinal up 54-46.

Ogwumike, an All-American and Pac-12 Conference Player of the Year, has a maximum of two games left in her college career.

Mavunga had only a single rebound in the final 20 minutes. She has three more seasons.





Andrew Calder, who has been an assistant coach at Carolina for 28 years, was put in charge of the team by his boss, Sylvia Hatchell, just before the start of this season when she was diagnosed with leukemia. Calder played basketball for his father's teams at McBee High School in South Carolina and his first coaching job after finishing college was back at McBee. His girls' basketball team there won the South Carolina state championship in 1981. Hatchell, who has not been able to meet with her team this season because of her treatment, was recently declared in remission by her doctors. She had been cleared to rejoin her team if the Tar Heels had beaten Stanford and advanced to the Final Four.

*The circus packs up
and moves on*



Team, band and cheerleaders took a chartered redeye flight immediately after the game and will be in Chapel Hill in time for classes Wednesday morning, although it's questionable whether everyone will show up. The semester ends April 25, then a week of exams, graduation for some and school's out for the summer.