

Clamdiggers fall to Tennessee

by MATTHEW WOODRUFF

Staff Writer

The Clamdigger rugby spring season concluded on Saturday with a loss to the University of Tennessee.

Undefeated before Saturday's regional playoff match, hopes for a victory were high, but the team's stamina was running low.

Tennessee jumped out to an early 17-0 lead, but two consecutive tries by UNCW narrowed the score to 17-14 at the half.

Several minutes into the second half, a Clamdigger stripped Tennessee of the ball and sprinted into the try zone to tie the score, but the play was called back for an offside penalty.

Tennessee stretched their lead to twelve with three field goals before the match ended with a final score of 26-14.

"We were well prepared and stuck to our game plan," said Clamdigger coach Todd Musick. "Both teams

played superb defense, but the better team won."

The Clamdiggers played with intensity, but Tennessee's 42 man roster proved too deep for UNCW's smaller club.

"I thought we could pull it out," said senior Matt Cook. "We're disappointed, but we played hard, and that's all you can ask for."

"It was a tough game. We made some mistakes, and there were a few calls that could've gone either way," said captain Jim Wiseman.

"We had some unlucky breaks, but they were more experienced."

"Both teams fought hard and played well," said Tennessee player Michael Merschat. "We came in expecting a tough game, and we sure got it."

The Clamdiggers finish the season at the top of the conference, and Tennessee will go to Alabama for the Southeastern championship, where they will face either Middle Tennessee State or UNC-Chapel Hill.



Despite playing an aggressive game, the UNCW Clamdiggers club rugby team ended the season with a loss to the University of Tennessee last Saturday

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Club Sports Roundup

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Women's Ultimate - The Seaweed frisbee team traveled to Atlanta on the weekend of March 18-19, where they beat Yale, Georgia Tech, and Carleton to win the Terminus Tournament. UNCW hosted the College Easterns tournament this weekend, where the Seaweed entered as a number one seed against eleven other women's teams, including last year's national final four.

The Seaweed are currently ranked fourth in the nation by the Ultimate Player's Association.

Sailing - The UNCW sailing team traveled to Hampton this weekend to compete in the Hampton Invitational.

"We've been improving each time we compete, so we should do pretty well," said captain Andy Whitaker.

This was the last competition that featured the larger 420 boats. The team will next host the Laser Open on April 1 and 2, followed by the Atlantic Coast Championship on May 12-14.

Women's Soccer - Injuries and inclement weather have put a damper on the women's soccer club this season. The team traveled to Raleigh to

play NC State this weekend after their match against UNCG was cancelled. Also, goalie Liz White was injured when an unstable goal fell on her head.

The team must now prepare for a 15 team tournament at Clemson this weekend.

"We should do well," said captain Meg Holland. "We've got some guest players, and we're looking forward to it."

Rugby - An undefeated season came to an end on Saturday, when the Clamdiggers fell to Tennessee in the first match of the South regional playoffs.

"I thought we could pull it out," said senior Matt Cook. "We're disappointed, but we played hard, and that's all you can ask for."

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