

Field hockey hopes to prove worth vs. JMU, Terps

With the ACC tourney looming, UNC faces two top-10 weekend opponents.

BY FORREST EBER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Before this season, senior forward Cindy Werley readily admitted that North Carolina's bid for a third consecutive field hockey championship would be more difficult than the previous two.

Fourteen games into the current season, Werley's words are ringing true.

North Carolina has lost three games this season — the most since 1992 — and this weekend the Tar Heels won't be able to take a break, playing two games in three days against two top-10 opponents.

"This weekend is especially big to prove to ourselves that we can handle the tougher teams," UNC sweeper Jana Toepel said. "And that we can compete."

The No. 4 Tar Heels start the weekend today, playing No. 6 James Madison at 2 p.m. at Navy Field. The Tar Heels resume action Sunday against No. 3 Maryland at 1.

With UNC dropping its second game of the year to UVa. last weekend, Shelton says her team might have turned

the corner.

If that's the case, it could not come at a better time. After this difficult homestand, a game at top-ranked Old Dominion and the ACC tournament both loom on the horizon.

But today, none of that matters.

"We are not thinking about the ACCs or Maryland," UNC back Jen DiCuollo said. "Right now we are thinking about James Madison. It is going to be a huge game for our confidence."

JMU has only defeated UNC once in Karen Shelton's 16-year stint as North Carolina's head coach. That loss took place in the 1994 NCAA Finals, a 2-1 decision that came in penalty strokes.

Last season, the Tar Heels dropped James Madison 6-0 in Chapel Hill. In the last five games between the two teams, JMU has only managed to score one goal in regulation time.

But this year's JMU team is much improved and relies on teamwork and scrappiness to make up for shortcomings of talent.

"They play beyond their individual talent," Shelton said. "As a team, they are so much better than they are as individuals."



UNC back JEN DICUOLLO said Thursday that the James Madison game would be "a huge game for UNC's confidence."

While JMU may be a team of over-achievers, Maryland is a team full of talent.

The Terrapins are the only team to leave a blemish on Old Dominion's record this season, handing ODU a 3-2 loss in penalty strokes.

Three days later, Maryland dropped a 3-2 decision to Virginia. That loss remains the Terps' only of the year.

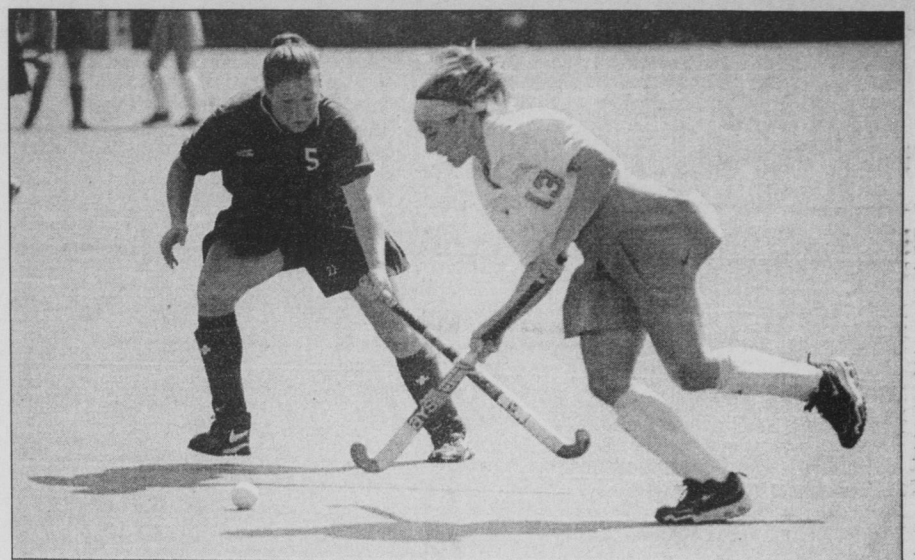
Since that loss, Maryland has outscored their opponents 28-4. Nadine Bennett leads the scoring attack with 22 goals, including two hat tricks in her last three games.

Maryland is one of the few programs that has troubled the Tar Heels in recent years. They have handed the Tar Heels five losses in the '90s — only Old Dominion has bettered UNC more times this decade.

But the Tar Heels have won the last nine meetings, including a 4-0 win in last year's ACC final.

The Terps play at Duke on Friday night, giving Shelton an opportunity to see Maryland for the first time this year.

But this weekend, North Carolina is less worried about the opponents and more concerned about which UNC



DTH/MICHAEL KANAREK

UNC forward Cindy Werley, shown here tangling with a UMass defender, scored two goals against Wake Forest on Wednesday night and tied the UNC single-season goal mark of 27 set by Bashi Buba in 1978.

team will show up to play. The team that romped to a 5-1 win vs. Wake Forest is a vastly different group than the UNC

squad that struggled to string two passes together in the first half against the Cavs.

"We are not worried about their game," DiCuollo said. "We need to put our game together."

DTH Picks of the Week

The DTH sports staff and one celebrity/personality pick the winners of the biggest college football games this weekend. We are joined today by Dave Lohse, UNC's media relations director for Olympic sports. Lohse's a Purdue grad, but out of a long-standing tradition, we let him pick along with us.

It's that time of week again, and no one is more excited than Alec "Cyst No" Morrison, who gained a game on John Sweeney "Beenies." Apparently all that time Motown hangs out at Sera-Tec finally paid off.

DJ Joe "Bunn" Rolison took time away from mixing his dope rhymes and Dave "Woah..." Alexander finally got a clue, as both joined Queen Sween and Phalec at the 60-victory-plateau.

But there are a host of self-indulgents still waiting to get out of the 50s, and we're not talking about vanilla cokes and hop-dances here. Forrest "Iglesias" Eber and Aaron "Guantanamo" Beard hope their Latin rhythms will propel them skyward; Kurt "Let Me Live" Tondorf doesn't want to play anymore.

Again, no one on the sports desk was able to out-pick the guest picker last week, as Cindy Parlow "Vois Français" romped to a 10-2 record. She probably thinks she's pretty cool. In any other context, that would be fine. But none of us think we're cool. We just pick. And love it.

	Aaron Beard	Alec Morrison	Forrest Eber	Joseph Rolison	Kurt Tondorf	Dave Alexander	John Sweeney	Dave Lohse
Last Week	8-4	9-3	9-3	9-3	4-8	9-3	7-5	10-2
1997 Record	(58-26).690	(63-21).750	(59-25).702	(60-24).714	(29-55).345	(60-24).714	(61-23).726	(62-22).738
Wake at Duke	Wake	Wake	Wake	Wake	Duke	Wake	Wake	Wake
Clemson at Md.	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Maryland	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
FSU at Virginia	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Virginia	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.
Michigan at Mich. St.	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Mich. State	Mich. State	Mich State	Michigan	Mich State
Kentucky at Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Kentucky	Georgia
Va. Tech. at West Va.	Va. Tech	West Va.	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	West Va.	Va. Tech	West Va.	West Va.
Tex. A&M at T. Tech	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas Tech	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
Purdue at Illinois	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Illinois	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue
Kansas St. at Okla.	Kansas State	Kansas State	Kansas State	Kansas State	Oklahoma	Kansas State	Kansas St.	Kansas State
Auburn at Arkansas	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Arkansas	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
Alabama at Ole Miss	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Ole Miss	Alabama	Alabama	Ole Miss
California at UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	California	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA

Rodman returns to Bulls, signs 1-year deal with defending champions

The rebounding maven had been dissatisfied with the Bulls' previous offer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEERFIELD, Ill. — Dennis Rodman made it official today — he'll return to the Chicago Bulls.

Rodman, the NBA rebounds leader for the past six seasons, signed a one-year contract, the Bulls said.

Rodman initially said he was dissatisfied with the contract, which he declined to sign two weeks ago. But Bulls coach Phil Jackson and Rodman's agent, Dwight Manley, said the 36-year-old forward simply had considered retirement.

"The big thing is that Dennis has got

to want to have to play," Jackson said. "He's going to have to feel that this is his business and it's what he wants to do more than anything else, for us to be successful."

Rodman was at the Bulls' practice center when the contract announcement was made, but a team spokesman said the player would not comment.

The Bulls will play the Philadelphia 76ers tonight at the Smith Center. As Rodman is under contract, he at least should be in uniform.

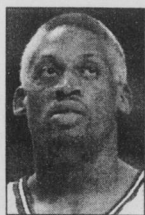
Known as much for his outbursts, dyed hair, tattoos, body piercings and erratic behavior as for his rebounding, Rodman reportedly was offered a contract worth \$4.5 million plus incentives.

Jackson told management during the offseason that the Bulls needed to keep either Rodman or Brian Williams,

another power forward from last year's championship team.

Williams signed with Detroit, so "we had to have Dennis," Jackson said Wednesday.

"We need Dennis' fire. We need that player who can instill some fear," the coach said. "We need the desire, intensity, full-out play ... all the capabilities Dennis brings to the floor. That goes some distance when the team is trying to defend, rebound, get after the



Bulls forward DENNIS RODMAN could play tonight in Chicago's preseason game vs. Philadelphia at the Smith Center.

ball. Just that energy level, that's a fueling source to the rest of the players. ... I don't know if we can or can't win without him. All I know is it would be a lot easier with him."

Wednesday's game was a good illustration. Led by Clarence Weatherspoon and Terry Cummings, Philadelphia out-rebounded the Bulls 49-35, winning 95-87.

"The way we got beat on the boards, we'd sure like to see Dennis back in uniform," Jackson said. "It's obvious that's one of our weaknesses without him. We need someone to react to the ball."

Chicago also was without All-Stars Michael Jordan, sidelined for ingrown toenail surgery, and Scottie Pippen, who had foot surgery and is out at least until January.

"If he wants to play, he can come

play for us," Jordan said Wednesday. "If he don't want to play ..."

Jordan finished his statement with a profanity, much like Rodman might have.

One of Rodman's three suspensions last season was for swearing on live television; the others were for kicking a cameraman and hitting an opponent in the groin.

"He's not going to get \$5 million from anybody else, and we're not going to get 15 rebounds from anybody else," teammate Steve Kerr said.

Gretzky's wife treated for freak rink-side accident

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Janet Jones, wife of hockey great Wayne Gretzky, sustained a mild concussion and a cut lip Wednesday night when a 6-by-6 foot pane of rink-side glass was knocked from its moorings onto her head while watching her husband play.

Jones, 36, spent the night in Roosevelt Hospital and left the next morning accompanied by her husband. X-rays and CAT scans showed no problems, said hospital spokesman Brice Peyre.

As Gretzky watched from the Rangers bench, medical workers attend-

ed to Jones after the protective plastic glass fell upon her during the third period. After ten minutes, Jones was taken out on a stretcher.

Gretzky played the last six minutes of the 1-0 Rangers loss to the Chicago Blackhawks at Madison Square Garden before rushing to the hospital.

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