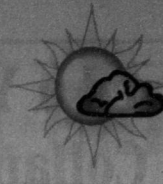


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A Dream Deferred: Tar Heels Fall Short of NCAA Title



DTH/KATE MELLNIK

ODU's Marina DiGiacomo (10), who scored the first goal of the game, tries to help Tiffany Snow (5) take the ball from UNC's Jana Toepel.

By RACHEL CARTER
Assistant Sports Editor

NORFOLK, Va. — For Marina DiGiacomo, it was a storybook ending.

In the last game on her home field, DiGiacomo scored the first goal on a penalty corner to help Old Dominion defeat North Carolina 3-1 in the NCAA title game at Foreman Field.

DiGiacomo also picked up her second national championship at ODU. "You cannot ask for more," DiGiacomo said.

For North Carolina, DiGiacomo's storybook ending was more like a nightmare. The Tar Heels were bolstered by the outstanding play of goalkeeper Amy Tran

and managed to mount a rally with five minutes left in the game to try to upset the top-ranked Lady Monarchs.

But it wasn't enough. UNC drew three penalty corners with less than 2 1/2 minutes to play, but the Tar Heels couldn't find any holes in Old Dominion's corner defense.

Unfortunately for the Tar Heels, ODU found holes in their corner defense and scored off two saves by Tran.

Tran finished with 15 saves. There were several plays when she made multiple saves before the ball got out of the circle.

"Amy Tran was outstanding. I really believe she's one of, if not the best goalie in the country," UNC coach Karen Shelton said. "She's really saved us. Our strength this year has been strong defense and penalty corner execution."

UNC showed strong defense to tie DiGiacomo's hands, although after the game she said she couldn't tell a difference in UNC's strategy.

"I thought we did a nice job on Marina today, so that's some consolation," Shelton said. "But they're an outstanding team, so even if you stop her, they have a lot of weapons that can come back and bite you."

Julie Miracle was the first to bite the Tar Heels. After Tran kicked a DiGiacomo hit away from the net, Miracle took control of the rebound and slapped it in the cage with 33:49 left in the game.

Laura Steadman added ODU's third goal in similar fashion, scoring after a ball deflected off of Tran's chest.

UNC responded by pulling together its biggest threat of the game. UNC charged hard at ODU goalie Marybeth Freeman, but she stopped each shot.

UNC got on the board on its second penalty corner of the afternoon. Sweeper Abby Martin hit a straight shot outside the circle, and Kristen McCann got a stick on it to tip it in for the goal.

The Tar Heels tried the same options

a corner later, but Holly Huff couldn't touch the ball before it hit the cage.

UNC advanced to the title game by taking a 4-1 victory against Maryland in the semifinals Friday.

Although UNC didn't have nearly the opportunities the Tar Heels had, it converted more of its chances. UNC debuted a corner option to exploit the Terrapin defense and dished the ball to Meredith Keller, who had two goals on the night.

"Once you make it to the final four, anything can happen," Shelton said. "I think we proved that against Maryland — some people thought they were the heavy favorite and were going to come in and dominate — and we were able to come out with the win."

"I think if we had been luckier and done some things differently, we could have come out with the win. But we didn't."

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Students Confused Over Seats

The new basketball seating procedure's allotment of upper- and lower-level seats has upset many students.

By KIM MINUGH
University Editor

Some students who rose early Saturday morning expecting highly coveted lower-level basketball seating left with upper-level seating tickets — and a lot of disappointment.

Despite decent numbers on their distribution bracelets, several students expressed confusion that they received upper-level seats when the same number would have given them lower-level seats last year.



CAA President Tee Pruitt says the new seating arrangement is in place for fairness to students.

Senior Andrew Hardison joined the line Saturday morning with a bracelet number about 520 greater than the selected starting number, 35,123, and was frustrated that it wasn't low enough to get lower-level seats.

"In previous years, if you were within 700 or 750 of the number, then you'd be guaranteed lower-level seats," Hardison said. "We feel like we're getting screwed being 500 back and not getting lower level."

But Carolina Athletic Association President Tee Pruitt said students misunderstand the new seating arrangement in the Smith Center, which was presented to the student body in September.

"It makes a lot of sense," he said.

See CAA, Page 4



DTH/JEFF POULAND

Ali Stewart (above), a freshman from Burlington, Vt., adds the final touches to a snowman in the upper quad Sunday afternoon. Freshman Erin Fornoff (below) enjoys the silent beauty of the early snow on North Campus.

Surprise Snow Falls on UNC



DTH/MIKE MESSIER

By STEPHANIE FURR
AND KAREY WUTKOWSKI
Staff Writers

Students and Orange County residents woke up to a surprise Sunday morning — the first snow of the season.

Wet, heavy snow fell over the western two-thirds of the state on Sunday, marking the first time in more than 30 years that so much fell so early.

The last time a similar amount accumulated so early in the Raleigh area was Nov. 12, 1968, when 1.2 inches fell, according to Gail Hartfield, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

The earliest snowfall on record came Nov. 6, 1953, when six-tenths of an inch was measured.

The Raleigh-Durham International Airport first

See SNOW, Page 4

Florida Courts To Decide Fate Of Vote Recounts

In their battle for the presidency, both candidates claim constitutional support for their positions on the Florida vote recounts.

The Associated Press

George W. Bush and Al Gore marshaled their legal forces Sunday for a climactic Florida Supreme Court showdown, with GOP lawyers saying it is unjust "to keep the state and the nation on hold" during interminable recounts. Democrats said the truth can't be rushed, as protests and jangled nerves punctuated another painstaking day of south Florida vote counting.

With the long-count presidential election stretching into a third agonizing week, the court strategy of both camps has reached a critical point: Republicans hope to stop manual recounts that threaten Bush's 930-vote lead out of 6 million cast in make-or-break Florida; Democratic Gore wants the work to grind away, under rules most favorable to him, though his aides fretted Sunday over how little progress they've made in the slow-moving recounts.

Calling these "extraordinary times," Bush's lawyers argued in court papers that Republican Secretary of State Katherine Harris has the authority to certify election results without accepting hand counts. They also said allowing the recounts to continue in scattered Democratic-leaning counties would violate the constitutional rights of voters elsewhere.

"The selective manual recounts authorize county boards to engage in arbitrary and unequal counting of votes, and result in the disparate treatment of Florida voters based solely on where within the state they happen to reside," Bush argued.

In a separate brief, Harris tried to distance herself from both Bush and Gore, even as Democrats pointed to her GOP presidential campaigning as a sign of bias. All seven Supreme Court justices were appointed by Democratic governors.

"It is clear that for the Democrats and the Republicans, the object is to win, and that is understandable," Harris' brief said. "The stakes are very high."

In its paper reply, the Gore team asked the court to set a generous standard for officials to "ascertain the electorate's will" when ballots were punched in the disputed presidential election. They said local election officials in close cases can "determine the voter's intent" by closely examining the ballot.

Twelve days after America voted, the weekend tally of overseas absentee ballots lengthened Bush's tiny 300-vote lead to a still-minuscule 930.

Wake County
Recounts Results
In 4 Races
See Page 4

Demonstrators Rally for Fairness in Presidential Elections

Young Democrats' rally participants insisted their purpose was not to support a particular political party.

By BROOK CORWIN
Staff Writer

Republicans and Democrats marched along Franklin Street and through cam-

pus Saturday afternoon rallying for a single cause — fairness and democracy in the undecided presidential election.

But their definitions of such democracy and their methods of rallying differed greatly.

Coinciding with more than 100 similar rallies nationwide, about 30 students and local residents convened in the Pit to begin what was billed as a "Rally for Democracy" by the Young Democrats, who organized the event.

Most of the participants carried signs advocating a recount or a revote in Florida, but they insisted their cause transcended political party lines.

"It's not a matter of Democrats versus Republicans," said Rhea Worrell, a Chapel Hill resident and rally participant. "It is a matter of whether we can trust our electoral process."

Such a nonpartisan view was echoed by Young Democrats President Chris Brook as he addressed the sign-toting

crowd. "We don't care who wins in Florida," he said. "We just want to know who really won in Florida."

But Justin Johnson, co-vice chairman for the College Republicans, said it was hypocritical on the part of those protesting to call the rally nonpartisan. "They call it a nonpartisan rally, but clearly it is partisan," he said. "Just try and find a (George W.) Bush supporter in that group. At least we're being honest by supporting Bush."

On the opposite side of the Pit, a smaller group composed mostly of the College Republicans quietly gathered with signs supporting Bush.

"We're here as a silent presence," Johnson said. "We want people to know that people still support George Bush."

After giving a short speech, Brook continued the rally by leading a march on Franklin Street. "We're not just going to give our message to campus," he said. "We're going to take our message to the

community as a whole."

Behind them, the Republican group marched silently behind a 10-foot-by-5-foot Bush/Cheney sign.

But when the chant changed to "Count the Votes! All the Votes!" Johnson answered by yelling, "Several times!"

"I just had to say that," he said with a smile.

See RALLY, Page 4

It ain't a fit night out for man or beast.

W.C. Fields