

Fun and game mix at Gator Bowl

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Several days leading up to the Gator Bowl had seen temperatures in the 50s and 60s, too cool beach weather for all but a few surfers who splashed into the surf, wetsuits carefully in place.

But by early Saturday morning on Dec. 29, after the Tar Heels and a mass of UNC supporters had traveled from the Gator Bowl eastward to the team's hotel location on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, things had warmed up—inside the hotel, at least.

The Carolina staff had planned a post-game gathering for team members and their girl friends, coaches and their families. Somehow or other, though, that kind of function never happened.

What happened instead was one of the grandest victory celebrations Jacksonville Beach has ever had the pleasure of hosting in 35 years of Gator Bowl games.

There must have been 500 to 1,000 Carolina fans on hand at the party, but it seemed like all of Chapel Hill had found out where the team was stationed and that there might be a little celebration in the works when the Tar Heels had returned from their night's work.

More such celebrations ought to take place in the future. The Gator Bowl victory over Michigan, 17-15, the second year in a row an Atlantic Coast Conference team defeated a Big Ten school in the game (by the same score), was worth it, deserving of some savoring.

The Tar Heels spent more than a week in Florida prior to the game, taking in some sites while they were in Daytona Beach before moving to Jacksonville to begin final preparations.

UNC players got to cruise around Daytona International Speedway, mingle with Mickey Mouse at Disneyworld, visit the USS Saratoga and wager a dollar or two at a greyhound race track.

Carolina's quarterback, Matt Kupec, who commanded a stellar performance against the Wolverines, had a hot streak going all week, as he led winners at the track with \$160.

The Tar Heels had fun but got ready for the game as well. While UNC's off-field activities made the local papers during the week, Michigan, which was camped a few miles north of Carolina on the beach, was more restricted to slants, off-tackles and kick returns. No doubt the management of the Sea Turtle Inn, the Wolverines' Gator Bowl home, had a quieter morning on the 29th.

Of course, the length of the Tar Heel's stay in Florida resulted in Christmas away from homes in places like Syosset, N.Y., Danville, Va., Norfolk, Va., and Elkin for the complete Tar Heel roster.

The Tar Heels found a replacement for St. Nick in senior offensive guard Steve Junkmann (6-foot-4, 250). Complete in Carolina blue Santa outfit, Mr. Claus' replacement dolled out gifts and quips to his teammates.

According to those in attendance, Junkmann did an outstanding job. But then that seemed to be the norm for Carolina that week, as the Tar Heels accomplished what few objective onlookers gave them a chance to do.

A surfing contest on Lake Michigan in January, anyone?

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DTH/Andy James



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DTH/Scott Sharpe



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Top wrestler quits; title defense now shaky

By GEOFFREY MOCK
Staff Writer

The North Carolina wrestling team's bid to regain its Atlantic Coast Conference title suffered a severe blow this week when nationally ranked co-captain Carter Mario quit the team.

The reason Mario gave was an injured thumb, but UNC coach Bill Lam said he suspected it might be for another reason.

"He's always been a leader and he's mentally tough," Lam said. "It's the same injury he had last year when he won the ACC title, so it must be something else."

Mario could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Although Mario had not wrestled in any dual meets he is not eligible to be red-shirted, Lam said.

"To be a red-shirt the wrestler must have an injury that would prevent him from participating," Lam said. Carter wrestled with an injured thumb last year."

Lam said Mario's departure will make every tough meet a struggle.

"The wrestler replacing him never wrestled varsity before. We're losing the three to six points we get from Carter's victory plus the points the other team gets if they win. That's a nine to 12 point turnover. That means we have to start turning wins into superior decisions and get more pins. We also can't give up any pins," he said.

"Carter is hurting himself, and he'll find that out," Lam said. "He's also hurting the team. They all looked up to him as a leader and they are mad that he let them down. They could have folded, but they are going to pick up the slack. The last couple of practices have been great. I love their attitude."

Mario had been off to a good start with a second-place finish in the Lehigh Invitational, to help his national ranking. His second place led UNC to a fourth

place finish in this prestigious tournament. Bob Monaghan and Jan Michaels also took second places while C.D. Mock finished third after losing a close semi-final match.

National power Lehigh ran away with its own tourney, but the Tar Heels' 84½ points put them fourth behind Bloomsburg State and Oregon State, both nationally ranked. UNC finished in front of Tennessee, nationally ranked Cleveland State and ACC rival Clemson.

After Christmas, six team members went to Chicago for the Midlands Open. The size of the squad ruled out any impressive team showing but Lam said he was pleased with individual showings. "It's always a tough tournament, and this one was the toughest tournament there I've ever seen," Lam said.

Indoor track opens with good showings

UNC's men and women indoor track teams garnered four first-place finishes Saturday in the East Coast Invitational in Richmond, Va., as both teams opened their 1980 seasons.

Carolina was led by Sam Brown, Lee Shuler, Kevin Lockerbie and Lisa Staton. Brown captured the 600-yard run with a time of 1:12.2, Shuler won the high jump at 7¼" and Lockerbie won the 1,000-yard run at 2:15.

Staton set a new school record and qualified for the nationals in winning the women's long jump at 18' 9½".

The men were boosted by Jimmy

Cooper, second in the mile at 9:01.2; Wayne Miller, fourth in the 600-yard run at 1:12.2; and Chris Mand, fourth in the pole vault at 15' 6".

Other top finishers for the women included Maria Daniel, third in the two-mile run at 11:13.8; Nancy Radford, third in the two-mile run at 5:04.2 (a new school record); and Staton, fifth in the 60-yard dash at 7.3.

Head track coach Joe Hilton said he was pleased with his teams' performances. "Those (performances) were good for this early in the season," he said.

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