

Elkins: leadership not for seniors only

There has been a lot of talk about leadership among the players on the 1980 North Carolina football team. The Tar Heels are loaded with seniors—experienced, seasoned football players—who have provided the direction and encouraged the dedication good teams must have.

Those seniors have done their job well; the Heels are 9-1 after clinching at least a tie for the Atlantic Coast Conference title with a win over Virginia and accepting an offer to play in the Bluebonnet Bowl on Dec. 31 in Houston. But it would be wrong to give all the credit in the leadership department to seniors. There is at least one sophomore who has made a great impact on the Tar Heels.

"There was a lot of talk early in the year about how we had to let Rod Elkins mature as the season went along," Ron Wooten said Saturday. "But, looking back, I think he was mature from the very start."

Much preseason talk about Carolina football centered on the slot Rod Elkins filled. During fall drills, Elkins was a bit behind Chuck Sharpe in the battle for the starting job when Sharpe injured his knee was out for the season.

Enter Elkins, a personable Greensboro native who was a three-sport star at Page High School. From the season's opener with Furman through Saturday's game with the Cavaliers, Elkins might have been the team's most consistent performer.

"I'm gaining new experiences each and every week," Elkins said after completing 12-of-17 passes for 144 yards against Virginia. "I think I'm coming around."

Statistics often don't tell the whole story, and Elkins' performance proves it. He threw for no touchdowns against the Cavaliers, but eight of his 12 completions came on third-down plays and many of those came after Elkins had escaped the Virginia pass rush.

"There were several times when we had third-and-five or third-and-10 and I'd have to break containment and keep going," Elkins said. "I have to keep moving until somebody can get open. Our receivers did a good job today of coming back to the ball."

"They ran a gap-eight defense and we had some trouble adjusting," he said. "It's hard to run against that defense, so we tried to pass more on first and second downs and we just weren't clicking in the first half. We just couldn't come up with the first downs."

"In the second half, we did the same things over again; we just wore them down," Elkins added. "We just ran right at them in the second half."

Although Elkins said he was pleased with the way the Tar Heels put the Cavaliers away in the second half, he said that the team has yet to play a game in which it put everything together.

"I don't think that we've reached our potential in a game yet," Elkins said. "We've had games where we've run the ball well and games where we've passed well, and the defense has been giving us great efforts every week. But we haven't had one game where we've done all the things well."

"I think our offense can move the ball on anybody and I'm just trying to do things better every week," he added. "Today, I didn't turn the ball over any and that's something I'd been doing."

So when it comes time to list the names of those who have contributed heavily to the Tar Heels' success this season, those doing the listing should be careful in discriminating against underclassmen. There has been nothing sophomoric about Rod Elkins' play.

David Poole

"There's a big difference between Rod's statistics and the way he runs the offense," Wooten said. "I think that in running the team, Rod's the best in the league. He plays like he's been out there forever."

"He's got a lot of composure. He's gotten us out of a lot of tough spots. Give him a little more time and I think he'll become the kind of field general that Matt Kupec was for us last year."

In the first half of the Tar Heels' win Saturday, Elkins said the offense was sluggish and that Virginia introduced wrinkles that confused the Carolina plans before the Heels could adjust.



Carolina quarterback Rod Elkins ready for the snap ...passed for 144 yards in victory over Virginia Cavaliers

State spikes Tar Heels in volleyball tournament

By LINDA ROBERTSON
Staff Writer

For the UNC volleyball team, it was the replay of a nightmare for the third year in a row. At the NCAAIAA tournament in Raleigh Saturday, N.C. State, Carolina's annual nemesis, defeated the Tar Heels in the finals 15-6, 15-12.

Amanda Thomas summed up the team's frustrations when she said, "Every year we beat them and beat them and beat them during the season and then lose at the state tournament."

Ironically, an hour before the final match, UNC had it all but wrapped up. On Saturday afternoon, UNC defeated State 15-13, 15-9. They faced the Wolfpack again later and one more win would have knocked State out of the double-elimination tournament.

The Tar Heels started out on the right track in that match, winning the first game 15-7. But Carolina dropped the next two games 11-15 and 11-15 and then lost in two straight games in the finals.

"We started out like we were going to blow them out of the gym," said Katie Howard. "We won that first game and only needed one more and State would've been out. In the finals, our team just couldn't get back into the flow. They were dinking well and our passing game fell apart. We tried to win back the momentum and didn't give up, but things weren't going our way and we lost some key points."

Carolina's only consolation was the fact that three players—Adri Esnard, Cindy Adcock and Katie Howard—were named to the all-tournament team. Esnard was picked as Most Valuable Player for the tournament.

"I think the all-tournament awards have something to say about the talent and skill of our team as compared to State," coach Beth Miller said. "But talent doesn't mean a thing unless you can put it together and win."

"It's really weird because we have the better team and the better skills, but State just seems to play above their talent whenever they play us," Laura Held said. "I still believe we are the best team in the state because we have won the more prestigious tournaments and important matches."

It was not known at press time whether UNC would receive a bid to the regional tournament, but the team was optimistic about its chances.

"I would be disappointed if we didn't get a bid because we have had an excellent season and some big wins—such as the Maryland tournament and ACCS," Miller said.

Howard hoped the nightmare in Raleigh would turn out to be a good omen for the team's chances if it gets to the regionals. "Our pattern this season seems to have been that we always have a poor match in between our big wins. We learn from our mistakes. We don't make excuses, but see what went wrong and bounce back."

Missed opportunities cause Heels' soccer loss

By GEOFFREY MOCK
Staff Writer

DURHAM—The North Carolina men's soccer team saw its Atlantic Coast Conference title hopes fall wide—three times—as Duke edged the Tar Heels 3-2 to take the league crown before 2,500 fans here Sunday.

The five tallies were more than both coaches expected beforehand, but just as important were the goals that weren't scored. Nicky Donnelly, John Boettigheimer and Tony Johnson all broke in on Blue Devil goalie Boris Ilicic only to see their shots skirt just wide of an empty goal.

"We had three opportunities that we had to convert," UNC coach Anson Dorrance said. "We figured to get two or three goals out of our chances.

When you miss those you figure you can do it again. You just have to keep pushing."

The Carolina outburst came early in the second half as it tried to fight back from a 3-1 halftime deficit. The Blue Devils controlled most of the opening half with defender Chris Sturdy having a hand in all three Duke scores.

Graziano Giglio, who scored the lone goal in the earlier contest between the two teams in the Mayor's Cup, opened the scoring at 4:14 off a Sturdy assist.

Carolina quickly pulled even as Chris Heyn scored on a loose ball in front of the goal. Tony Johnson was given an assist.

Duke went ahead for good with 24:43 remaining in the half on a score by Sean McCoy with Sturdy starting

the play and Giglio earning an assist. Sturdy scored the winning goal with a bullet from 30 yards out that Carolina goalie Kevin Kane watched sail into the upper left-hand corner of the goal.

"I was shocked," Dorrance said. "I didn't think a team could score three goals on us in one half. Duke earned them. They went over the top and beat us. We knew Sturdy could make nice runs into the attack so we were forewarned. His goal was a heck of a shot."

First-year Duke coach John Rennie, celebrating the ACC title, said his team became too confident with its halftime lead. "Subconsciously we were protecting the lead. Carolina's second-half score made us play better."

The Tar Heels came out from halftime fired up, but the only opportunity they converted came on a Ricky Marvin penalty kick with 33:14 remaining. Ilicic stopped Marvin's first shot, but Marvin took the rebound and put it in the open goal.

A possible bid for an at-large berth to the NCAA tournament was also at stake in the game, and Rennie did not hesitate about whom he thought should get the pick. "The NCAA will be very interested in us," he said.

Carolina finished the regular season with a 17-4-1 record, setting a school record for most wins in a season. At 3-2-1, the Tar Heels were fourth in the ACC.

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No, Ai, No!

No, Ai, No! Please don't break the glass.

It's time for Carolina Basketball again and thousands of Tar Heel fans are looking forward to the non-televised season exhibition opener against a strong Canadian Windsor team on Wednesday evening, November 19th at Carmichael Auditorium.

AND TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE! Everyone wants to see who'll make the Tar Heel starting lineup. There's also a great halftime show featuring "Jazzmania," a sparkling, scintillating dance group the entire family will love.

Student tickets are still available at the ticket office in Carmichael.

So Ai, go ahead and dunk it in your own inimitable way, but please don't break the glass!

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| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| ACROSS | 25 Candle | 63 Trade treaty letters | 28 Make happy filling |
| 1 — oak | 27 Building addition | 65 Immerse | 29 Northern European |
| 5 Scrawny animal | 30 Expand | 66 Roof overhang | 31 Region: abbr. |
| 10 Concerning | 33 Gods: Lat. | 67 Winglike | 32 Noun ending |
| 14 Smooth capital | 36 Simpletons | 68 Waned | 33 Secluded |
| 15 Sword | 39 Serve food | 69 Perched | 34 Simple |
| scabbard | 40 Obvious | 70 Count | 35 Otherwise |
| trimming | 43 Actress | 71 Farm implement | 37 Southern |
| 16 — Kamp? | 44 Cinevous | 72 Military | 38 Season |
| 17 Races the motor | 45 Bobble | meal | 40 Horse or cow |
| 18 Aspire to | 46 Nearly | DOWN | 1 Dwells on |
| 19 Fleuret | 48 Hanoi holiday | 1 Diresomely | 42 Maiden name |
| 20 Military drill | 50 Timeless, old style | 2 "Tasca" or word | 47 Swapped |
| maneuver | 52 German city | 3 Animate | 49 Kind of party |
| 23 Part of ETA: abbr. | 57 Beard of grain | 4 Pool shot | 5 Scrutinize |
| 24 Sounder | 59 Farm stock | 5 Scrutinize | 51 Daughter of |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Dwell on
2. Tassa
3. Animate
4. Pool shot
5. Scrutinize
6. Pert girl
7. Avatar of Vishnu
8. Separate
9. Lose one's temper
10. Parisian's soul
11. Dairy equipment
12. Row
13. Lalla-palooza
21. Before
22. Star in Virgo

25. Candle
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57. Beard of grain
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63. Trade treaty letters
65. Immerse
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67. Winglike
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69. Perched
70. Count
71. Farm implement
72. Military meal

28. Make happy filling
29. Northern European
31. Region: abbr.
32. Noun ending
33. Secluded
34. Simple
35. Otherwise
37. Southern
38. Season
40. Horse or cow
42. Maiden name
47. Swapped
49. Kind of party
51. Daughter of
5. Scrutinize
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