

Sports

Late Duke goal nips men's soccer, 2-1

By DAVE GLENN
Assistant Sports Editor

DURHAM — A controversial Duke tally with just six seconds remaining in regulation spoiled a valiant Tar Heel upset bid Tuesday night before 3,500 people at Duke Soccer Stadium.

Midfielder Joey Valenti nailed a perfect shot past Tar Heel goalie Herb Sherry from 30 yards out to give the Blue Devils a 2-1 triumph. The blast went through a maze of players and caromed off the crossbar and into the net behind the diving Sherry. The victory improved the third-ranked Blue Devils' record to 8-0, 2-0 in the ACC. North Carolina dropped to 3-5, 0-2 in conference action.

Valenti, one of the Blue Devils' tri-captains, said he wasn't really sure how much time he had to shoot. "I knew there was under a minute left and I had to hurry," Valenti said. "I just knew the defense had been packing in, and I was waiting for a chance for a good long shot."

The deciding goal capped an

evening that included seven yellow cards. But those cautions paled in comparison to the game-ending referee, which came in an argument over the final Duke score.

An enraged Dorrance stormed onto the field with the clock showing :06 and mass confusion at the scorer's table. Dorrance charged the referee, bumping him Pete Rose-style in the heat of the face-to-face argument. A Duke player, Michael Fellmeth, tried to intervene, and Dorrance shoved him aside. During the ensuing melee, both benches emptied and Dorrance was ejected from the game. Because he was issued a red card, Dorrance had to leave the playing field.

UNC assistant coach Elmar Bolowich, who came from West Germany to join the Carolina staff in 1986, tried to make sense of the confusing final seconds. "After (Derek) Missimo's yellow card (with 1:35 remaining), they didn't start the clock for at least 15 seconds," Bolowich said. "All of the attention was on the side of the

field away from the scoreboard, and the referee was not watching to see whether or not the clock was turned on at the right time."

In ACC competition, unlike international soccer, the official time is kept on the scoreboard — not by the referee on the field. The referee controlled when the clock was stopped, and time was stopped to continue on his signal.

Whether or not time was kept properly depended on who you asked.

After the game, Duke coach John Rennie said he didn't know what Dorrance had to gripe about. "I have no idea what the complaint is about the clock," Rennie said. "Carolina was the one stalling and substituting and trying to run the clock out. The clock did not win or lose this game for anybody."

What almost did win the game for the Tar Heels was the right foot of senior Donald Cogsville. At the 53:27 mark, Cogsville took advantage of a great play by sophomore forward

Missimo. Missimo stepped in front of a pass back to Duke goalie Troy Erickson and knocked it off the keeper to Cogsville, who nailed a 20-foot shot past a defender into the unprotected net. "Luckily, I didn't think long enough to miss it," he said. The goal was Cogsville's team-leading sixth tally of the year.

In the end, Cogsville preferred to look at the game itself instead of the controversy surrounding it. "I thought the game was played fairly even," Cogsville said. "The outcome was more a matter of luck than skill."

The Tar Heels held their 1-0 lead until the 83:48 mark, when Duke's Steve Knoll broke the ice for the Blue Devils. The goal came off of a corner kick feed to Knoll from Duke forward Brian Benedict. Knoll then headed the ball into the lower right corner of the net for his fifth goal of the year.

Just six minutes later, when it looked like the two teams were headed for overtime, Valenti ended it with his blast in the final seconds.

Maybe Bolowich had the best summation of the mass confusion. "We played a lot better than we have in the past few games," he said. "We started out with a lot of intensity and maintained it for most of the contest. It was a solid team effort that put us in a position to win."

"But with a 1-0 lead and six minutes to go, there is no way we should give up two goals."

Swimmer, coach to meet Monday

By MIKE BERARDINO
Sports Editor

UNC swimmer Tod Schroeder's request to be redshirted this season will remain on hold at least until Monday, when Schroeder will meet once again with UNC swimming coach Frank Comfort.

Schroeder, citing ongoing bouts with mononucleosis and recurring knee problems, has asked Comfort to grant him a medical redshirt this year. Comfort, in his 12th year at the helm of UNC swimming, has repeatedly denied Schroeder's request.

On Monday Schroeder, a junior, plans to show Comfort the results of two examinations: one in Dallas in which he tested positive for mononucleosis, and another in Cincinnati which found his left knee to be well below normal strength.

Tests for mononucleosis conducted at UNC, in the spring and again at the end of the summer, have proved negative, Schroeder said.

As a result, Comfort is treating Schroeder's request as an athletic one, rather than medical.

Comfort has never granted an athletic redshirt, in which an athlete sits out for a year in order to gain a competitive advantage

later in his career.

Schroeder, a 6-foot-4, 189-pound native of Cincinnati, holds the ACC record in the 50-yard freestyle. This summer, at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Austin, Tex., from Aug. 8-13, Schroeder placed 30th in the 50 free.

Schroeder has said his primary purpose for the redshirt request was his desire to participate in the 1992 Olympic Games. On Wednesday, Schroeder said that was only part of his reasoning.

"There are a lot of intermediate goals also, including winning the NCAAs," he said. "To do so I definitely need to strengthen my knee."

Schroeder first injured his left knee playing football as a freshman at Cincinnati Country Day School. "Major reconstructive surgery" followed for Schroeder, who added he has had four more operations on the knee since.

"You can feel (the knee) gradually getting to the point where it hurts coming off the (starting) block," Schroeder said. "But the main thing that worries me is I swam in the ACCs, the NCAAs and the Olympic Trials with mono."

The start of the men's swimming season is set for Nov. 17.

Field hockey to host Hawkeyes

By NEIL AMATO
Staff Writer

North Carolina field hockey coach Karen Shelton calls her team's upcoming games "an outstanding weekend of college hockey."

Actually, it's put up or shut up time for UNC, as the Tar Heels take on a trio of consistently tough squads.

North Carolina, ranked first nationally with a record of 4-0, plays host to three field hockey powerhouses this weekend, starting with seventh-ranked Iowa tonight at 7 p.m. on Astroturf Field. After a noon tilt on Saturday with No. 2 Old Dominion, UNC engages in a 3 p.m. battle Sunday with eighth-ranked Maryland.

Three of UNC's four victories came last weekend in Boston, where the Tar Heels posted shutout wins over Maine, New Hampshire and Northeastern. Junior Julie Blaisse carried the Tar Heels in the three games, tallying a goal and four assists.

Shelton, a player on the bronze medal-winning 1984 U.S. Olympic field hockey team, is optimistic about getting through this weekend with a reasonable amount of success.

"If we win all of these weekend games, we're a pretty good team," she said. "The team is in a very good frame of mind. They're relaxed, they're having fun and working hard."

"Even if we don't win all three games, I think this is a team that's going to continue to improve. They've got their sights set high."

Shelton was only negative about two aspects of her squad's play. First, she thought her team might be somewhat tired.

"(We've been) trying to rest up a bit," she said. "We had a very long weekend in Boston. We played three games back-to-back and then had a long bus ride home (14 hours). We arrived here at 6:30 Monday morning, and then the kids had to go to class. I'm a little concerned about the

fatigue factor."

The other minus Shelton mentioned was inexperience at certain positions, namely, a freshman and a sophomore on the forward line. Cathy Osmer, an untested frosh, and Peggy Anthon, a sophomore who saw limited action last season, have handled the pressure so far up front.

But Shelton needn't worry too much — she only has one of the nation's best midfields, anchored by Blaisse. Shelton said the team is held together by three players, co-captains Jennifer Anderson and Tracey Yurgen, and center back Michelle Russell.

Senior leadership will be necessary in order for the Tar Heels to do well this weekend. The Tar Heels first face the 6-1 Hawkeyes, a dominant team over the years. Shelton says Iowa lost key players to graduation, but they're still a strong team, especially goalkeeper Andrea Wayland.

Saturday, the Tar Heels will be tested by always-powerful Old Dominion. The Lady Monarchs ended UNC's 1985 campaign with a 3-2 victory in the second round of the NCAA tournament. Some of the seniors are probably still smarting from that loss.

Sunday's game versus Maryland also has a revenge factor. It was the Terrapins who shattered North Carolina's hopes for a national title in 1987, nipping the Tar Heels 2-1 in the NCAA finals in Chapel Hill. This year's team hopes to avenge that heartbreaker.

Shelton compared this year's squad to last year's, saying, "Last year, we had a 'dream team' almost. This year's team feels a bit of pressure. What we did last year wasn't enough."

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After brush with Bruins, Gray just happy to be a Tar Heel

By MIKE BERARDINO
Sports Editor

Last December, in his own words, Cecil Gray was "gone."

Not "gone" as in what happens to Uncle Earl when he hits the egg nog a bit too hard on Christmas Eve, but "gone" as in what happens when a football player makes up his mind to put two years of frustration behind him and transfer to another school.

"Over Christmas break I had moved everything home (to Norfolk, Va.), and I was going to transfer to UCLA," says Gray, a 6-foot-5, 290-pound defensive tackle. "Things weren't really going well. I just felt I needed a change."

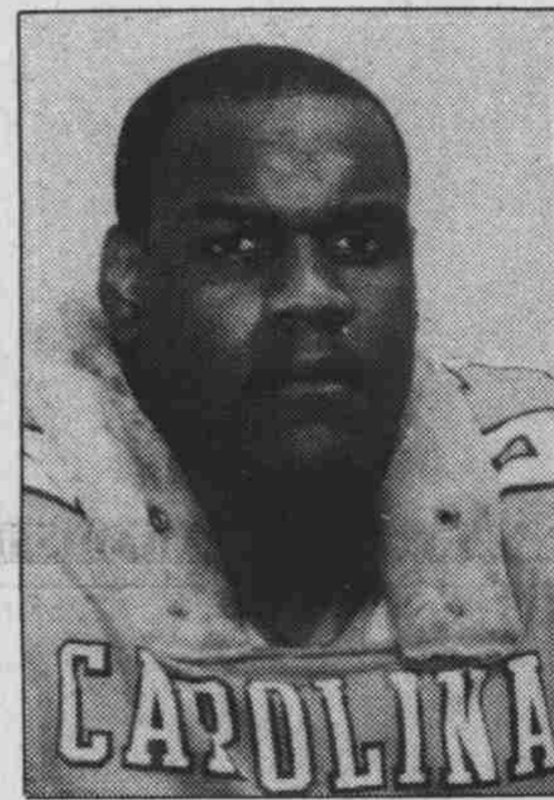
But shortly after the holiday season officially ended (in the Gray household, that's when the last of the turkey leftovers have disappeared), Gray received a visit from the new UNC football coach, Mack Brown. For emphasis, Brown brought a handful of his assistants with him to Virginia.

"They told me, 'You're our first recruit,'" Gray says. "That really made me feel wanted and appreciated. Coach Brown said he was going to put the fun back into playing football at Carolina."

Not surprisingly, Brown's visit made quite an impact on Gray, who during his first two years at UNC had grown disillusioned with then-coach Dick Crum's anything-but-jovial approach.

Gray returned to Chapel Hill for the spring semester and, once April rolled around, starred in the Tar Heels' spring drills. Like most everyone else in the UNC program, Gray was excited about playing for Brown. The big tackle's California dreamin' ended right then and there.

"It's better for me to be back here



Cecil Gray

than anywhere else because I feel it's on the upswing," he says. "I'm having fun, unlike last year when I wasn't having a good time. That's why I was going to leave."

"I'm back in the swing of things now. Hopefully, I can go out there and knock some people around."

So far this season, Gray has made nine tackles, tops among UNC's defensive linemen. Most Tar Heel fans are just starting to hear about Gray, but there's a good reason for that. Three good reasons, actually — Tim Goad, Reuben Davis and Carlton Bailey, UNC's starting defensive line during Gray's first two years in Chapel Hill.

"Everything I know now I learned from them," Gray says. "I knew absolutely nothing. God taught me how to run and how to hit people. But I learned everything football-wise

from them. "Without them, I'd equate it with taking the training wheels off a bicycle. Now it's time to ride."

Brown seems quite content with the early-season peddling of his "first recruit."

"Cecil has been an outstanding player for us," Brown says. "We've been very, very pleased with his play."

Gray, a journalism major, uses a theatrical analogy to explain his progression from understudy to role model.

"It's kind of like when you're standing backstage looking at the star, and all of a sudden the curtain moves one more notch back and you're out there," he says. "It's like, 'What do I do now?' I know what I have to do."

For now, that means stopping the run and pressuring the passer, two tasks which are much easier said than done. If Gray learns to fulfill both obligations with a proficiency rivaling that of his down-line predecessors, perhaps a professional football career will await him as well.

Where would he like to play? "Wherever the money's green and the checks cash," Gray says, exhibiting all the aplomb of Donald Trump. "My favorite team is the Cowboys, but Charles Mann (of the Redskins) is my idol."

After his on-field career is over, Gray says would like to migrate up to the press box. But color commentary isn't what he has in mind.

"I would like to be a sports information director," Gray says. "I want to be a taller, better-looking version of Rick Brewer (the UNC SID). Maybe I'll be able to talk all the media guys into making my team look good."

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