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Women's soccer team advances to Final Four

By SCOTT GOLD
Staff Writer

The UNC women's soccer team has established its motto for the year: speak softly and carry a lot of experience.

Using that baggage, the Tar Heels propelled themselves into the NCAA Final Four for the seventh consecutive year, squeaking by Central Florida, 2-1, Sunday afternoon on Fetzer Field.

The victory improved UNC's record to 16-0-2 and marked the Tar Heels' 68th straight game without a loss. North Carolina is now 18-1 in post-season play.

Chris Huston's goal with 14:25 left snapped a 1-1 tie and put the Tar Heels in front for good. Wendy Gebauer had given UNC a 1-0 lead early in the second half before the Knights came back to tie.

Of all the teams UNC has faced this year, Central Florida has provided the most resistance. On Oct. 9 in Orlando, the Knights dominated much of the game but ended up playing UNC to a scoreless tie.

Sunday's match was another story, though. North Carolina dominated most of the first half, consistently keeping the ball in Central Florida's half of the field. UNC often moved into the Knights' penalty box but couldn't seem to capitalize on any of numerous opportunities.

"It was another typical UCF-UNC game," Knights coach Bill Barker said. "We got started slow, and that's what really hurt us to begin with. They put a lot of pressure on us, but we withstood that. We have a tough

defense.

"Shoot, look who they are. They've been in the playoffs forever, so I think that experience and the fact that they had five or six seniors in there really helped them out a lot."

UNC's biggest opportunity came with under two minutes left in the first half. Gebauer served a soft cross to Shannon Higgins, who was waiting right in front of the goal. Knights goalie Karen Richter was in hot pursuit of Gebauer, so Higgins had an open net in front of her, yet headed the ball wide to the left.

"Scoring is really difficult in this game," UNC coach Anson Dorrance said. "There are so few natural finishers. Most people, when you get the ball in the box, are under pressure, and the odds are you're going to kick it over the top. Or panic. In that environment that's what happens."

UNC's first goal finally came 53:45 into the game. Forward Julie Guarnotta streaked down the right side of the field, accompanied by two defenders, but somehow managed to center the ball beautifully to Gebauer. The 5-foot-7 senior then headed a shot past Richter's outstretched fingers for her ninth goal of the year, matching Higgins for the team lead.

UCF was quick to tie the game, however. At the 62:20 mark, freshman Jennifer Blackwell managed to work her way behind the defense and chipped a high bouncer over charging goalie Meridee Proost.

"The decision she had to make was either to come or stay, and when you come you have to get it," Dorrance said. "In that situation I think she

came late. I thought it was a really good attack. We were obviously flat in the back."

One of the highlights in the game for North Carolina was the phenomenal play of back Carla Werden. Werden was impressively cool under attack and mixed power with precision in clearing numerous threats from UCF.

"She's brilliant," Dorrance beamed. "She organizes our defense. She's one of the top central defenders in the world. Her technical ability and concentration made a big difference for us."

The game-winning goal, at the 75:35 mark, provided a boost that was even bigger than was obvious at the time. Following yet another clear by Werden, the ball found its way to freshman forward Huston, who passed to Gebauer. As usual, she was immediately surrounded by a flock of defenders, so she crossed the ball back to Huston, who put in the first goal of her collegiate career.

"We were teasing Chris that she was going to be the first forward in UNC history to go an entire season without scoring," Dorrance said. "But she's lifted that monkey off her back. She came right over to the sidelines and said that she scored that for us. It was a great goal and certainly timely. If the players want to wait until the NCAA's to score all their goals, it's fine with me."

The national semifinals will match North Carolina against Wisconsin, a 2-1 winner over Massachusetts earlier Sunday. The other bracket will match N.C. State against California.



DTH/David Surowiecki

UNC's Julie Guarnotta tries to outrace a Central Florida defender during Sunday's NCAA action

ODU wins rubber match, ends UNC field hockey year

By NEIL AMATO
Staff Writer

NORFOLK, Va. — For the UNC field hockey team, Sunday was a sad ending to an otherwise fantastic season.

Host Old Dominion dropped the ACC champion Tar Heels to 18-2 with a 2-1 win in the NCAA regional final Sunday afternoon. The Lady Monarchs, 24-1 and ranked first in the country, advance to the NCAA Final Four next weekend at the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field.

Second-ranked North Carolina had several injured starters, but all of them toughed it out for the final, which was played at Foreman Field.

Sunday's game marked the third meeting of the year between the two powerhouses, with the teams splitting the first two games.

Old Dominion's winning goal came with 17:59 left in the game on a penalty stroke from Marije Jurriens. Jurriens, a freshman from Utrecht, Holland, flipped the

ball to the right of Tar Heel goalie Evelien Spee and into the net. The penalty stroke was a result of a courageous yet illegal play by senior co-captain Tracey Yurgin. With her leg, Yurgin deflected a bullet from ODU's Maaik Hilbrand.

Old Dominion's first score came with 14:26 remaining in the first half when Spee was forced to confront ODU's Lynn Hoinsky. Hoinsky took the ball nearly to the endline and then crossed it back into the center of the goal area. Senior Jill Fisher was there to collect the ball and slam it into the net to tally just the 12th goal all year on the staunch UNC defense.

Sophomore Laurel Hershey gave UNC a 1-0 lead just 26 seconds into the contest when she picked up the ball in front of the ODU goal and slapped it past goalkeeper Kathy Fosina. One would have thought an early Tar

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Buffin, Tinkham keep soccer alive

By JAY REED
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — Anyone familiar with the N.C. State basketball program's regular-season philosophy will clearly identify with the 1988 UNC men's soccer team.

At one point during the regular season, the Tar Heels were a disappointing 4-6-1. Entering the first round of the NCAA Tournament, they were 13-8-1, having won seven of their final nine games, including two wins in the ACC tournament against Clemson and Duke.

Saturday at Wake Forest's Polo Field, UNC handily defeated the Demon Deacons, 2-0, to advance to the NCAA's Sweet 16.

UNC needed to play well against Wake to ward off the Doubting Thomases who felt the Tar Heels didn't deserve a bid to this prestigious postseason party. Skeptics came from such locations as Duke, Clemson and N.C. State, where it is tradition to compete in the NCAA tournament.

This year, however, these schools will be watching basketball, while only three ACC schools — Virginia, Wake and UNC — received tournament invitations.

The first 40 minutes of the game was all UNC needed to prove its worth.

"They played very well for the first 40 minutes of the game," Deacons

head coach Walt Chyzowich said. "In the first half, we were very disorganized on defense. We were lethargic."

The Tar Heels pressured Wake early, but many of the shots were wide of the goal so Wake goalkeeper Scott Wehmer, who had eight shutouts during the season, was not tested.

On UNC's first effective shot of the afternoon, forward Adam Tinkham scored what would prove to be the game winner.

At midfield, freshman defender Tom O'Connor stole an errant pass from the foot of one of Wake Forest's many foreigners, Mark Brereton, a senior defender from Dublin, Ireland. O'Connor then sent a needle-threading pass to a breaking Tinkham.

Tinkham, in rugged fashion, beat two Deacon defenders and, facing a one-on-one with Wehmer, calmly slipped the ball into the lower right corner of the net at 17:12.

For the next 20 minutes, it was nothing but blue.

The final tally of the game came from the foot of junior defender Marc Buffin.

Following a flurry of passes and miskicks, Dino Megaloudis controlled the ball in the penalty box. The mighty 5-foot-6 senior then sent a bending, waist-high pass to a charging Buffin. He volleyed the pass into the upper-right corner of the

Deacon net by a diving Wehmer, who had suffered a hip pointer at 18-minute mark.

For Megaloudis, the assist gave him 34 for his career and made him the career assist leader in UNC men's soccer history. The record was previously held by former North Carolina star Billy Hartman.

The second half was played much differently than the first. UNC seemed content with a two-goal lead and proceeded to play the final 45 minutes between the penalty boxes.

Up front for the Tar Heels were two newcomers. Although a senior, Donald Cogsville has been thrust to the front line for the first time in two years for UNC. He's been having some trouble adjusting to the quick-decision type of play the striker position requires.

Cogsville was held scoreless on the afternoon but did set up many plays for his partner, Tinkham, who also is a new forward after having played most of the season at midfield.

As the second half progressed, Cogsville became more and more desperate to beat Deacon sweeper Todd Renner, who held the 6-foot-3 Cogsville in check with his own 6-4 height and aggressive play.

"He was playing like a man possessed," Cogsville said of Renner's verbal and physical attack.

But UNC's inability to score in the second half did not affect the play of the Tar Heels' young backfield.

"Rich (Wachman) and the rest of the backs were leading the game really well," Dorrance said. "We really gave them only one scoring opportunity the whole afternoon."

"In terms of team shape, we had a good team discipline. We didn't get spread out too far."

With the victory, UNC heads into the second round of the tournament next weekend at a time to be determined against the University of South Carolina.

The game, to be played in Columbia, will be a rematch of last year's round of 16 tournament game in which North Carolina brought down the mighty Gamecocks in The Graveyard, 2-1, in a shootout.

"Earlier in the season we tied (South Carolina, 0-0) at home in one of the worst games we played all year," Dorrance said. "I hope this time it will be a lot better quality game. We have improved a lot since we played them last time."

The victory was UNC's eighth in its last 10 games and it proved a very important aspect of sports in general — the only part of the season that really counts is the end, when the championship is on the line. Just ask Jim Valvano.



DTH/David Surowiecki

UNC tailback Kennard Martin gallops for part of his 98 rushing yards during Saturday's 27-24 loss

Moore too much for Tar Heels as Cavs hold on for 27-24 win

By CHRIS SPENCER
Assistant Sports Editor

The Virginia Cavaliers did what the UNC basketball team could not Saturday — namely, fastbreak their way to a victory over a slower opponent. But the Wahoo's win came on grass, not hardwood.

Behind the golden touch of Shawn Moore, the Cavs ran out to a 21-point bulge in the first 10 minutes of the game at Kenan Stadium, withstood a persistent second-half Tar Heel comeback and got a 28-yard Mark Inderlie field goal with 6:11 to go to win 27-24 in the Tar Heels' last home game of the year.

UNC fell to 1-9 with the loss, 1-4 in the ACC. Virginia, which could play for a bowl bid next week against Maryland, improved to 6-4, 4-2.

"There are very few teams in America who can spot somebody 21 points in the first quarter and have a chance to come back and win the ball game," UNC coach Mack Brown said. "You take that quarter out, we win the ballgame 24-6. It's unbelievable how hard we played the last three quarters."

The Cavaliers' version of King Midas took advantage of the late-starting Tar Heels by leading his squad to paydirt on its first three possessions.

The first score came after the Tar Heels stalled on their first drive at their own 44. Moore got things going when he stepped up to the line of scrimmage facing a third-and-6 at his own 32. Seconds later, the ball rested on the UNC 44, thanks to a 24-yard rollout pass to tight end Bruce McGonnigal.

After another rollout pass, this one to speedster John Ford, gulped in 21 more yards of UNC turf, Moore called his own number two plays later, optioned right and dashed through the sleepy UNC defense for an 18-yard touchdown and a 7-0 lead.

But Moore hardly had time to get a cup of water before racking up some more points. That's because UNC fullback James Thompson fumbled the ensuing kickoff and Winston-Salem native Tony Covington recovered at the UNC 38.

Tailback Nikki Fisher ran twice for a gain of just three yards, and the

referees marched the Cavs back 15 yards on two penalties. Big deal. On third-and-22 from the 50, Moore eluded Antonio Goss and Roy Barker in the backfield before stepping up and firing to Ford in the end zone behind cornerback Clarence Carter. With 8:18 to go in the quarter, the Wahoo's led 14-0.

After the Tar Heels went three and out on their next possession and Scott McAlister hit just a 26-yard punt, Moore hit tight end Joel Dempsey across the middle on a second-and-10 from the UNC 12. Dempsey caught the ball at the UNC 2, was hit hard and fumbled into the end zone.

No matter. Wideout Tim Finkleston pounced on the ball in the back of the light blue area for a 21-0 lead with 4:50 left in the quarter.

"I didn't think they were going to be flat, because this is an emotional game; this is UNC-Virginia," Moore said. "We knew they were having problems on defense. We wanted to take advantage of every opportunity

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