

Sports

Women's soccer rallies to avoid big upset

By BROCK PAGE
Staff Writer

The UNC women's soccer team had a scare for a little while, but fended off a second-half rally by Duke to hold on to a 4-2 win Wednesday afternoon at Finley Field.

Duke's chances for an upset would have been a lot greater had it not been for Tar Heel sophomore back Emily Rice, who scored two goals within one minute of each other near the end of the first half.

After Rice's damage had been done, senior forward Julie Guarnotta added another goal to give the Tar Heels a comfortable 3-0 lead at the half. Or at least it seemed like a comfortable lead.

Then, the unthinkable happened in the second half. Midfielder Nicole Canzoneri and forward Dena Paris both

scored for the Blue Devils to narrow the lead to only one goal, at 3-2. Very rarely does a team score two goals against the UNC in a game. For a team to outscore the Tar Heels in one half is unheard of. What makes all this more amazing is that Duke is in only its second year of varsity-level competition and has no seniors on its team.

"I thought we played well during the first part of the second half, we kept pushing hard," said UNC head coach Anson Dorrance. "We made a couple of mistakes, and that hurt us."

Fortunately, freshman midfielder Sarina Wiegman scored for the Tar Heels in the second half to secure the 4-2 victory.

North Carolina scored first, 43:37 into the game on a head-in by Rice off of a corner kick. Senior midfielder

Shannon Higgins, who was credited with the assist, started it off by sending a high-sailing kick in front of the goal from the corner. Rice soared over the rest of the players to head the ball past Duke goalie Dade Fletcher.

Rice struck again 56 seconds later off another corner kick. Higgins started it again from the corner but this time the ball bounced off the back of Duke forward Caitlin Connolly. Rice took the rebound and fired a shot from 12 yards out into the left side of the goal to make it 2-0, UNC.

As if Duke had not been through enough anguish for the last two minutes, Guarnotta, a senior forward, dove down the left side and sent a screaming shot to the right side of the goal from 16 yards out with only two seconds remaining to give the Heels the 3-0 lead.

Duke mounted a comeback in the second half as Canzoneri scored off of a free kick, 57:41 into the game. After a UNC foul, Canzoneri set up for the kick from the right side of the field. She sent a wafting kick towards the goal and Tar Heel keeper Merrilee Proost caught the ball in the air; but when she came down, the referee declared that Proost was in the goal.

Now that the Blue Devils had actually scored against UNC, they began to have thoughts of actually winning the game. This time it was Paris, who scored off of what else but a free kick. After the ball was sent to the goal, Duke's Connolly gathered in the loose ball and sent a pass to Paris, who dribbled the ball into an empty goal to make the game interesting at 3-2.

Dorrance was not very surprised by

the comeback by the Blue Devils.

"It's just the nature of the game; it's ebb and flow," said Dorrance. "Duke was rocked for a while and then we were rocked. They sensed a loss of confidence in us and they took advantage of it." Not one to take chances, Dorrance replaced Proost with sophomore Lori Walker.

"I was just concerned that Proost wasn't concentrating," said Dorrance. Any possible chance of an upset was dashed when UNC midfielder Wiegman scored at the 73:25 mark to account for the 4-2 final score.

The Tar Heels received a spark from the return of freshman forward Mia Hamm, who had been out with a bruised thigh. Although she did not score, Hamm's presence definitely was a lift.

The Tar Heels had Hamm back, but they are still missing two key players: Ava Hyatt, the senior leader of the backfield, and Tracey Bates, the senior igniter in the midfield. Both are out with injuries.

During the first half of the match alone, the Tar Heels outshot Duke handily, 22-3. For the game, UNC had 41 shots to Duke's 10.

And of course, the streaks continue for the Tar Heels. North Carolina has not lost in its last 78 matches and has not been beaten at home since UNC started women's soccer 10 years ago.

UNC upped its record to 2-0 in the ACC and 8-0 overall. Duke falls to 0-1 in the ACC and 4-2 overall. The Tar Heels hit the road for their next game as they face Connecticut this Sunday.

Derrick and the 'D' lead UNC

By BOBBY McCORSKEY
Staff Writer

North Carolina used a tried and true formula to dispose of the Charleston Cougars, 3-0, Wednesday afternoon at Finley Field. Derrick and the Defense came through once again as junior forward Derrick Missimo scored twice and assisted a third goal, leading the men's soccer team to the shutout victory over Charleston.

The UNC defense surrendered a mere 11 shots while keying an offense that pounded out 23 shots of its own. The ball spent so much time in front of the Charleston goal that the Cougars seemed unwilling to mount an attack of their own.

The scoring onslaught started early. Surprising everyone, especially Charleston, Missimo took a quick pass from Marco Ferruzzi after the opening kickoff and blasted the ball past Cougar goalkeeper Doug Campbell. The entire sequence of events took only 12 seconds.

Following the goal, the UNC defense swarmed all over the Cougars' front line, clearing the ball effectively and creating numerous scoring opportunities for the Tar Heels. Missimo struck again midway through the half, collecting his second goal at the 23:25 mark. He gobbled up a pass from midfielder Chad Ashton, took one step to his right, and shot a worm-burner just below Campbell's reaching hands.

The North Carolina defenders were aided by several Charleston miscues. The Cougars were penalized several times for offside and personal fouls, and their shot selection and execution left much to be desired. UNC freshman goalkeeper Watson Jennison made some outstanding saves while picking up his first collegiate shutout victory.

But Charleston's most costly mistake came at 39:13 into the game. Junior midfielder Alvin Thomas was recharged for striking a Tar Heel player below the belt, leaving the Cougars to finish the game with 10 players on the field.

Then at halftime, the rain came. Falling lightly at first, it became a torrential downpour that spared no one. Fans obviously decided that dryness takes precedence over athletics and ran for shelter faster than you can say quick.

Oblivious to the weather, UNC came out firing in the second half. Missimo assisted sophomore forward Adam Tinkham at 48:51 to stun the Cougars with the third—and final—goal of the day. The assist gave Missimo his fifth point of the day and the 90th of his career. That leaves him just one point shy of the school record of 91 points held by Mark Devey (1982-1986).

For the rest of the game, North Carolina staved off each Cougar attack but failed to convert any of their remaining scoring chances. Cougar goalie Campbell made 11 saves over the course

of the game, and each one was well-earned.

The rain and mud combined to make the game less dependent on skills and more dependent on force. But one other thing made the contest even more unattractive—fouls. Missimo in particular was a marked man and the frustration got to him early in the game.

Ferruzzi scooted a pass down the wing for Missimo, who was trying to break free from his defender. This task proved quite difficult because the defender had two handfuls of Missimo's jersey in his grasp.

Missimo didn't get the ball and proceeded to address the linesman in less-than-respectful terms. The linesman immediately waved his flag in the air, motioning for a yellow card to be given to Missimo. Clearly agitated, Missimo mocked the linesman's motions in perfect fashion. Missimo then scored his second goal. Ironically, the referee waited until after Missimo scored the goal to hand him the yellow card he had worked so hard to receive.

"I'm a nice guy," Missimo said. "I don't know what happened. A ball was played down the sideline, and the other guy was all over me. I didn't get frustrated. I just asked the referee for a flag."

As far as the records go, Missimo is happy to have them, but his game doesn't revolve around setting records he said. It revolves around playing a

team game and winning.

"I'm excited, I guess," Missimo said, "but it's a team thing. Individual records don't really matter. I'm happy, but it's more important that we win. And the main thing today is that we got a shutout."

UNC head coach Elmar Bolowich is still cautious about his team's development thus far. While pleased with the win, Bolowich is still coping with the Tar Heel weaknesses.

"It's good that we got a shutout," Bolowich said. "But there are still some little things that we have to develop. We are not where we should be yet. There are still some flaws in our defensive scheme, but progressively it is getting better. In our previous games against Catawba and Hartwick, we were a nightmare defensively."

"We should have attacked more after being up 3-0. We should have taken them harder and then gone for the kill. We were too passive."

The Tar Heels have a chance to work on getting rid of their passive tendencies when they travel to Storrs, Conn. Sunday to take on the Connecticut Huskies at 2:00 p.m.

Missimo thinks the team direction for the rest of the year may be decided then. "Today was like a launching pad, and if we can win this weekend against Connecticut, it will set the tone for the year. If we can win Sunday, we're back."

Bland's sports blues

By JOHN BLAND
Staff Writer

Once again, it's that time of year when the seasons overlap.

Just as we down here in the South can never tell just when summer ends and winter begins, or rather fall begins, or no, maybe it's spring again (look, why don't they make it only two seasons for the South—Leaves and No Leaves), it's sometimes difficult to tell just when baseball ends and basketball begins—no, not basketball, I'm missing one, hockey! No, that's not it, oh, yeah, NASCAR.

Season overlap can be very confusing to some people. The other night I was watching a baseball game with a friend of mine when, with the score 4-3, she asked, "How many touchdowns has the home team scored?"

"Touchdowns!" I screamed. "Touchdowns! You idiot, it's not touchdowns, it's goals! I can't believe you! Touchdowns, sheesh!"

Since we're in the throes of major season overlap, with baseball and . . . and . . . er . . . football, maybe you people out there who aren't exactly sure for whom you should be rooting should take a look at my handy-dandy Season Overlap Guide.

Washington does not have a baseball team. This is easy to remember. The Senators moved to Minnesota in 1969, followed, in 1971, by the Representatives.

Washington does not have a baseball team. This is easy to remember. The Seattle Mariners are a softball team.

New York has two football teams, two baseball teams and two hockey teams. And you can hate all six of them.

Atlanta is in both the NFC West and the NL West. Sometimes God does things as a joke.

The Chicago Cubs are leading the NL East. Sometimes God does things as a joke.

The Washington Redskins are 0-2. Naah, this column's getting too repetitive already.

The Los Angeles Factor. L.A., like New York, has two football teams and two baseball teams, but only one hockey team, which is an inspiration to Wayne Gretzky wanna-be's in Southern California. For example, the Los Angeles Raiders (football) play in Los Angeles Coliseum (stadium), but might move to Sacramento (wimp capital), in which case they will still be called the Los Angeles Raiders (Sacramento Raiders?).

If it's November, it must be Football. Wrong. Forget about Basketball?

If it's March, it must be Basketball. Wrong. Forget about Hockey?

If it's Tuesday, it must be Belgium. Wrong. Forget about The Netherlands?

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