

North Carolina's Tony Thomas joined with Tripp Phillips to capture the A-1 doubles championship in the Tar Heel Fall Invitational tennis tournament.

Two doubles tandems 2nd at Tar Heel Fall Invitational

BY ALEC MORRISON
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

By the time David Britt exited Court 7 at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center Sunday, his face was barely discernible through the beads of sweat that covered it.

Such was life at the Tar Heel Fall Invitational.

The three-day men's tennis tournament culminated Sunday with six different UNC players taking the court for various matches. Four Tar Heels reached at least the semifinals of their respective draws: Paul Harsanyi, the No. 2 seed in A-1 Flight Singles, who lost in the final; Britt and Robert Tedesco, both of whom fell in the A-2 Flight semifinals; and Adam McNabb, who had to retire from his match in the B-2 Flight final.

But while no Tar Heels came away Sunday with singles titles, two doubles tandems were victorious. Tony Thomas and Tripp Phillips paired to capture A-1 doubles, 8-4 over Virginia Tech's Andrew Kraftt and Chad Toleafoa, while Tedesco and Britt knocked off Scott

Lebovitz and Chris Seeger of Virginia 8-4 in A-2 doubles.

After the matches, UNC coach Sam Paul said the doubles victories were a learning process for the tandems.

"We're not looking at winning these two doubles so much as we're looking at how they can become better teams or play better tennis," he said. "Obviously, our doubles are gonna be high because we're playing at a national high, high level. So that's pleasing. I liked some things that I saw, but we gotta get more consistent."

Thomas and Phillips found consistency in a serve-and-volley game that tied opponents in knots all weekend. Thomas' power serves and Phillips' clutch volleys were often more than Virginia Tech could handle in the final.

"Tripp and I played pretty well together, we connected well," Thomas said. "We do a lot of things to compliment one another."

Phillips, a freshman, said he enjoyed playing with high-quality players such as Thomas.

"It's fun," Phillips said. "All the guys on the team, really, are rooting for each other. It's a good environment to play in, and you learn a lot. It's a lot better,



Paul Harsanyi

because I'm not used to having 12, 13 good guys to go out and hit with."

Tedesco said one key to his duo's victory their ability to return serve well.

"We returned well this tournament, so ... we knew we were gonna have a break at least every eight-game pro set," he said.

In singles, Harsanyi had the most successful tournament of any Tar Heel, reaching the finals of his draw before falling to South Carolina's Jorge Esqueda 6-4, 6-3. Paul said Harsanyi played well, but top-seeded Esqueda was too strong.

Britt's semifinal matchup in A-2 singles was a marathon. After bludgeoning his opponents in the first two rounds, Britt trailed Davidson's Jon Pastel 1-5 in the third set of their semifinal match.

But Britt put together a stunning comeback, winning four straight games to even the match at 5-5. The two went to a tiebreak, and Britt opened a 3-1 lead. Pastel recovered from Britt's whirlwind rally, however, and held on to take the tiebreak and the match, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6.

"It could've gone either way. He played a great match, but when I was up 3-1 (in the tiebreak), I had a passing shot right there, and I missed it by an inch or so. I thought if I had made that shot and gone up 4-1, I thought that'd really have made him go nuts," Britt said.

McNabb cruised through his B-2 singles draw before facing something much

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Volleyball rolls over State, Duke

BY KURT TONDORF
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina volleyball team maintained its inspired play by cruising past N.C. State 15-12, 15-4, 15-8 Sept. 29 and squeaking by defending ACC champion Duke 10-15, 6-15, 15-5, 15-9, 16-14 the next evening.

UNC will host Virginia at Carmichael today at 6 p.m.

The two wins evened UNC's conference record (9-5, 2-2 in the ACC) and affirmed the Tar Heels' belief that they belong among the ACC's top three teams. Only Georgia Tech and Clemson, both of which beat UNC last weekend, had proven themselves worthy of being held among the ACC's three best teams.

But when senior Kristin Kruse rejected a Blue Devil spike at 15-14 in the fifth game to seal the victory, the Tar

Heels joined the ACC elite and established bragging rights as the best team in North Carolina.


"It means a whole lot to us to be 2-2 in the conference right now," said UNC coach Joe Sagula, who considered the UNC-Duke match one of the best in which he has ever coached. "I'm so happy that this team was able to get a win in front of this crowd. My senses are just dulled."

"Dull" was a good way of describing the Tar Heel attack as UNC dropped the first two games.

Down 0-2, Sagula put a big and powerful lineup on the floor in which no one stood below 5-foot-10. The Tar Heels won the next three games and UNC captured its first home win against the Blue Devils since 1990.

On Sept. 29, UNC notched its first ACC win in a straight-sets victory over State. Jill Peden and Lindsay Smith led the way with eight kills apiece.

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Tar Heel Notebook

Men's Soccer

Invitational with a pair of second-place finishes.

Freshman Sarah Hawkins placed second in Flight C singles, while the doubles duo of Robyn Gurney and Catherine Glass finished second in Flight C doubles.

Elizabeth Webb and Gurney also posted singles finishes, placing 15th in Flight B and Flight D singles, respectively.

Women's Soccer

STANFORD, Calif. — The UNC women's soccer team shut out a pair of West Coast teams this weekend. The Tar Heels (10-0) topped ninth-ranked Stanford 3-0 on Sunday after blanking No. 7 Santa Clara 2-0 on Friday.

In the Stanford win, all the UNC scoring came in a span of 3:32 in the second half. At the 67:40 mark, Robin Confer scored off assists from Debbie Keller and Cindy Parlow. Freshman midfielder Tiffany Roberts then scored her second goal of the weekend, followed by Keller's 12th goal of the season at 71:12.

Men's Golf

ST. LOUIS — North Carolina's Mark Wilson fired a three-day score of 6-under-par 207 to finish third individually and lead his team to a third-place finish at the Missouri Bluffs Intercollegiate.

The Tar Heels shot a team score of 860, 10 shots behind champion Oklahoma State and four shots behind Wake Forest. UNC beat perennial golf power Arizona State for fourth by nine strokes.

Earlier this season, Wilson placed fourth at the Ping-Golfweek Intercollegiate tournament. Other UNC scores were: Rob Bradley 216, Drew Scott 220, Lee McEntee 221 and Greg DiDonna 223.

OSU's Bo VanPelt fired a 204 to win the individual crown by one shot.

Field Hockey

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The No. 1 ranked UNC field hockey team cruised to a 4-1 win against American University Saturday and survived overtime Sunday to defeat Maryland 2-1.

Freshman forward Nancy Pelligrone scored with 10:44 remaining in the second overtime against the Terps to improve the Tar Heels to 11-0 and 4-0 in the ACC.

The 11 consecutive wins to start the season tied a school record that the Tar Heels set last season.

Cross Country

AUBURN, Ala. — The UNC men's cross country team finished second in a field of 27 Saturday, as junior David Mabe finished seventh overall with a time of 24:51.5.

Junior Brandon Coonse had the next-best time for the Tar Heels in 25:10.8.

The women's cross country team placed fifth at the same meet, with junior Karen Godcock finishing second in 17:21.9.

Women's Tennis

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The UNC women's tennis team wrapped up the South Carolina