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The Streak Continues

Sophomore forward Robin Confer (left) scored two goals and had two assists as the UNC women's soccer team won its 25th straight game by defeating two teams at The St. Mary's Classic.

SPORTS MONDAY

The Daily Tar Heel

NFL Scores

Green Bay 24	Cincinnati 16	Houston 17	Tonight's game:
Dallas 34	Tampa Bay .. 19	Minnesota .. 23	San Diego at
			Kansas City
Washington ... 34	Pittsburgh 16	Arizona 21	
Philadelphia 37	Jacksonville 20	N.Y. Giants .. 27	
Indianapolis 27	N.Y. Jets 10	Cleveland 20	
Miami 24	Buffalo 29	Detroit 38	
Seattle 14	Carolina 27	Denver 37	
Oakland 34	Chicago 31	New England .. 3	

Monday, October 9, 1995 14

Toppling Cavs Puts Tar Heels Back on Track

After starting the season 0-2, UNC's bowl hopes were grim. Saturday's win has rekindled those aspirations.

After kicking off the 1995 season with two disappointing losses to Syracuse and Maryland, Coach Mack Brown declared that UNC was starting its season anew.

Brown knew his team could have and should have won those games. In the following two contests, the Tar Heels evened their record, albeit against feeble competition. They squeaked by Louisville despite a sloppy offensive game, and the offense found its rhythm with a 62-0 throttling of Ohio. The defense was ranked tops in the nation after limiting the Bobcats to 84 yards, but the offense had yet to score and hold on to the ball against decent teams.



JUSTIN SCHEEF
COMIN' ATCHA

The Tar Heels still had plenty to prove. Saturday was redemption day. Time to take on No. 9 Virginia, a team that had come seconds and inches away from beating Michigan in Ann Arbor. Time to take on a team that had ruined the Tar Heels' hopes for a major bowl for the past two years. Time for some payback.

The Tar Heels proved they were up to the challenge.

"What this means to us is that we're as good as we thought we were," defensive tackle Marcus Jones said. "People criticized us after those first two games. I'm not saying they shouldn't have, but we knew what kind of team we have, and it was up to us to prove it."

What UNC proved was that on any given Saturday it can play with the best teams in college football. It limited the Cavalier offense, which had been averaging 384.3 yards per game, to 266 yards against UNC. The Tar Heel 'D' was for real.

The offense also proved it could still rack up the yards against the best defense it's faced all year. Mike Thomas again threw for over 200 yards and only turned the ball over once. The offense persevered in pressure situations, scoring in the red zone and converting two fourth downs that led to nine points. The turnovers and red zone difficulties led to the two losses and almost a third at Louisville.

However, the solid performance against Virginia shouldn't be much of a surprise. The team has moved the ball well and the defense has played lights out every game.

It was the turnovers that killed North Carolina against the Orangemen and the Terrapins. It was just a matter of time before the Tar Heels started to put it all together.

"We had some key mistakes, and we corrected them," said cornerback Fuzzy Lee. "Now that I feel like we're back on track — I really can't say that we were off track — we're clicking on all cylinders."

For the Tar Heels to continue their quest for a fourth-straight bowl game — a quest that seemed doomed after starting 0-2 — they must continue to run in high gear for the rest of the season. That means no letdowns like last year's Clemson debacle. Any unexpected losses now would be devastating.

"If we don't play well at Georgia Tech next week, we're still fighting uphill," Brown said. "This one gives us a chance to get back on track."

Beating Virginia essentially saves UNC's season. What if the Tar Heels run the table, save a loss vs. Florida State, and go 8-3? That may sound far-fetched, but none of the remaining opponents will be of Virginia's caliber. Duke and N.C. State are floundering, Clemson still lingers on the bottom of its sine curve, Georgia Tech is improved but still beatable and Wake Forest is, well, Wake Forest. Another bowl appearance is likely, if not a sure thing.

"It's really going to spite us if we finish like we're playing right now and have to look back at those first two games and be disgusted with ourselves," Jones said. "That's not the Carolina team I knew we had at the beginning of the season. But now that we've worked out all the mistakes, we can go out on the field and play with anyone, I believe."

The Tar Heels proved that Saturday.

Random Thoughts

When Omar Brown almost blocked Will Brice's punt in the first quarter, maybe he forgot Brice is a lefty. Brown was zeroing in on his right leg. ... You would think the Virginia DBs would be ready for a second Leon Johnson pass. Oops. ... What's up with Marcus Wall? ... Wake Forest is the only team that can hold Maryland to nine points and lose.

Johnson 'Feels Flow,' Runs, Passes for 3 TDs



Tailback Leon Johnson, evading UVA. linebacker Skeet Jones, was everywhere Saturday. He ran for 92 yards, caught five passes for 48 yards and passed for 43 yards. He scored the winning TD in the fourth quarter on a 6-yard run.

BY ROBBY PICKERAL
SPORTS EDITOR

The 'Natural' is back.

After struggling through this season's first five games to regain the rhythm that's made him a standout runner in baby blue, Leon Johnson used a combination of bulldozer strength, razor-sharp cutbacks and swift offensive reads to return to his form of old Saturday in North Carolina's 22-17 conquest of Virginia.

"Leon Johnson played like a champion today — the two halfback passes, running for extra yards, making some key catches out of the backfield," Coach Mack Brown said.

LJ was the do-it-all man. Eye his stats: ■ 23 rushes for 92 yards and two touchdowns

■ 2-for-2 passing with a TD throw
■ five catches for 48 yards

Not bad for a guy who hadn't quite found his sync in '95 despite three TDs vs. Ohio.

"I think I'm feeling more at my prime — the way I was last year," Johnson said. "My legs are feeling really good now; I'm really feeling the flow now. Now I just want to stay that way."

One key to Johnson's heyday? The halfback pass — or, on Saturday, passes.

The first came on the third play of the game. After rumbolling for a first down at the Wahoo 46, quarterback Mike Thomas pitched right to LJ, who pulled up to find an open Octavius Barnes 24 yards downfield for the pass completion.

Boom. First down on the UVa. 30, and four plays later LJ pounded it over the goal line on the next play.

"Leon, he was recruited as quarterback here, and he's got an arm," Thomas said. "You know, people want to run up to the ball, and once he gets his hands on the ball ... then, hey, he can throw the ball down the field and make a big play."

Wideout Octavius Barnes said: "We knew they had an aggressive defense, and that they came hard. They came at Leon,

and that left things open."

It was a good coaching call for UNC, and the UVa. defense should have taken note — because the Wahoo corners bit again just one quarter later.

On a second-and-5 play inside the red zone, Thomas pitched to Johnson, who scanned the end zone for a toss attempt. UVA. safety Paul London bit hard, coming up close to try to stop the run, and Johnson loped it to senior Marcus Wall for six.

"I saw Marcus wide," Johnson said. "When I saw him, I wanted to get it to him in the end zone, because me and Octavius have both gotten touchdowns and Marcus hadn't gotten in."

"Marcus got his."

But so did LJ, because it was his first touchdown toss as a Tar Heel.

Not that he hasn't thrown TDs before. At Freedom High School in Morganton, Johnson was an option quarterback who threw for seven TDs in 1991.

"In high school I had an arm," Johnson said. "But now that I'm here, I've put on a little more weight and muscle. I can still throw the ball, there ain't no doubt, but I feel right now, I'm a running back. If you want me to throw the ball, I'll throw the ball, but I'd rather you give me the ball and let me run it down the field."

Good thing, because LJ's running game has become the meat and potatoes of the Tar Heels' scoring drives. The classic case was on UNC's winning TD drive.

With just over 12 minutes left in the game and Virginia ahead by one, Johnson took five of the final seven snaps to push the ball to the Wahoo 6. From there, he took a pitch from Thomas and bulldozed around the right side — with several Cavs grasping at his jersey — for the score.

"I saw the hole and I thought I could break through," he said. "I saw a couple of the Virginia players over-run me, so I cut back against them, then caught a little hop over a player. And when I landed, I saw that I could get the touchdown, so I kept my legs pumping and went on in."

"I wanted the ball; I was pumped. ... Coach Brown called that play, and I just followed Chris Watson around."

That's why Johnson will not be a backup QB; that's why he prefers to stay a runner.

"I like quarterback, but I'm a running back now and that's where I'm gonna stay."



LEON JOHNSON
threw for one TD and ran for two others.

Volleyball Sweeps League Foes For 2nd Consecutive Weekend

BY ALEC MORRISON
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

AND JOSEPH ROLISON
ASSISTANT SPORTS SATURDAY EDITOR

Football wasn't the only sport in which UNC excoriated demons against Virginia.

The UNC volleyball team avenged a heartbreaking home loss to the Cavaliers in 1994 by taking a tight five-game match from UVA. Saturday in Carmichael Auditorium. The Tar Heels (11-5 overall, 4-2 in the ACC) bested Virginia (6-10, 0-6) 12-15, 15-11, 15-13, 11-15, 15-7 in front of a crowd of 226.

The win was UNC's second five-game victory of the weekend. On Friday, North Carolina outlasted Maryland 14-16, 15-11, 15-5, 9-15, 15-8.

After the UVA. match, UNC coach Joe Sagula said both wins were key victories for the Tar Heels.

"Any win is a good win, without question," he said. "This is an important match for us to win two ACC matches back to

back — as we did last weekend — to go 4-2 to put us in contention for the lead in the conference."

It didn't look like the Tar Heels would get that second consecutive win early in the Virginia match. The two teams battled back and forth throughout the game, but UVA. took control behind strong front-line play and hard hitting from outside hitter Whitney Casey and captured the game 15-12.

"We knew that Whitney Casey was going to be real effective," Sagula said. "We tried not to have her pass that much. She passed a lot of balls, and she hit a lot of balls. She had 30 kills in the match."

But in the second game, the Tar Heels grabbed an early 8-3 lead and didn't look back. Kristin Kruse, who finished the match with 20 kills, appeared to be everywhere during the game, constantly coming through with clutch hits to keep the Tar Heels in points. Amber Willey, who tallied 14 kills, led the way for UNC at the end of the game with a series of key kills and blocks.

It was in the third game that UNC found momentum to secure the match. Virginia rolled to a 9-3 lead by capitalizing on Tar Heel mistakes. But once UNC found cohe-

sion, it was unstoppable. The Wahoos couldn't recover from a barrage of kills and digs from Kruse, Willey and Anissa Cronenberg, and the front line tandem of Willey and Lindsay Smith proved too imposing for UVA. hitters. UNC grabbed the game, 15-13, and control of the match.

The Tar Heels nearly repeated their comeback performance in the fourth game as they narrowed a 14-6 Virginia lead to 14-11. The Cavs refused to lay down, though, and forced the fifth and decisive game by denying UNC another come-from-behind win.

Yet Willey did not blame her team's physical weariness for the loss of the game. "I think it was a little mental fatigue," she said. "We just had a whole lot of things that didn't go our way at the right time."

Sagula said UNC's rallies in the third and fourth games were due in part to improved serving.

"We started serving more effectively, serving the ball deeper on the court and taking them out of their offensive flow, which allowed us to dig more balls," he said.

UNC sealed the match by dominating the fifth game, played under the rally-score system, in which a team can score regard-

less of who is serving.

"Our momentum carried us through the game," Kruse said. "I don't think we were out there thinking that we were ex-

hausted. Energy was definitely out there."

Yet UNC could easily have been run

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SPORTS SCHEDULE	
Monday, Oct. 9	Saturday, Oct. 14
Volleyball at East Carolina, Greenville, 6 p.m.	Men's Cross Country at State Championships, Charlotte, 10 a.m.
Field Hockey vs. Radford, Navy Field, 7:30 p.m.	Women's Cross Country at NCAA Preview, Ames, Iowa, 11 a.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 11	Football at Georgia Tech, Atlanta, noon.
Men's Soccer vs. Davidson, Fetzer Field, 7 p.m.	Field Hockey vs. Maryland, Navy Field, 1 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Men's Tennis at Carolina Classic, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, All day.
Field Hockey vs. Virginia, Navy Field, 4 p.m.	Volleyball at Florida State, Tallahassee, Fla., 7 p.m.
Women's Soccer at Houston Challenge Cup, Houston, Texas, TBA.	Sunday, Oct. 15
Men's Tennis at Carolina Classic, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, All day.	Men's Soccer vs. Radford, Fetzer Field, 2 p.m.
Volleyball at Florida State, Tallahassee, Fla., 7 p.m.	Women's Soccer at Houston Challenge Cup, Houston, Texas, TBA.
	Men's Tennis at Carolina Classic, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, All day.

BY HEIDI C. SCHMITT
STAFF WRITER

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The Graveyard. The word had dual significance for the UNC men's soccer team last week. For one, The Graveyard was the site of the Tar Heels' latest defeat, as UNC (6-5) fell 3-1 to South Carolina (7-2) Sunday afternoon at the famed field in Columbia.

Secondly, the graveyard is where UNC's season is heading, as the Tar Heels are now riding a four-game losing streak.

UNC entered the game without junior goalkeeper Dimitry Drouin. Drouin, who

has played 856 minutes this season, was injured Wednesday night against College of Charleston. UNC lost 3-0.

Senior keeper Patrick Smith took Drouin's place in goal, marking his first career start, and posted six saves.

The Tar Heels came out intense, fighting off a powerful Gamecock attack for the first 35 minutes.

However, USC's first goal seemed to define the game. Junior forward Chuck Prosser scored off assists from freshman

Victor Suarez scored the Tar Heels' lone goal of the weekend.

Men's Soccer
UNC 1
South Carolina ... 3

UNC 0
Charleston 3

Men's Soccer
UNC 1
South Carolina ... 3

UNC 0
Charleston 3

UNC 0
Charleston 3

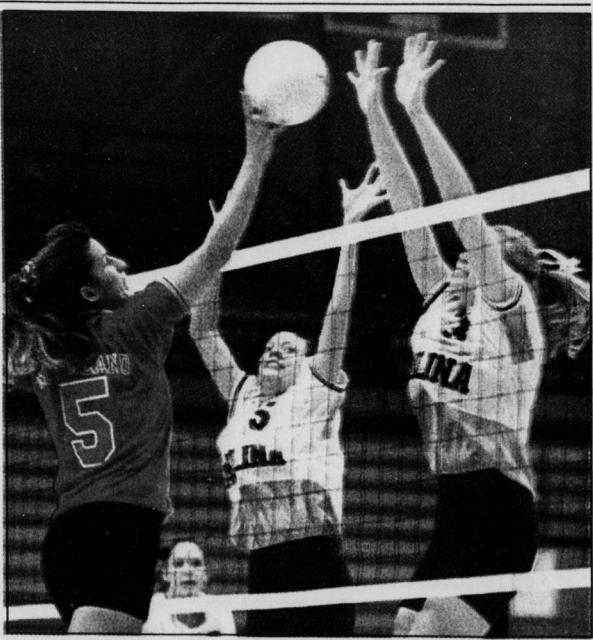
UNC 0
Charleston 3

UNC 0
Charleston 3

UNC 0
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UNC 0
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UNC 0
Charleston 3



Kristin Kruse (3) and Jill "The Kill" Peden (5) go up for a block against Maryland on Friday. Kruse tallied 31 kills as UNC won in five games.

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