



### Panthers Playoff Bound?

By beating the San Francisco 49ers Sunday, the Carolina Panthers (4-5) won their fourth straight game and put themselves in contention for postseason play. The four wins are a record for an expansion team.

# SPORTS MONDAY

The Daily Tar Heel

### NFL Scores

Carolina ..... 13	Houston ..... 37	Buffalo ..... 16	Monday's game:
San Francisco . 7	Cleveland ..... 10	Indianapolis ... 10	Philadelphia at Dallas
Green Bay ..... 24	N. England .. 20	N.Y. Giants ..... 28	
Minnesota .. 27	N.Y. Jets ..... 7	Seattle ..... 30	
Arizona ..... 6	Detroit ..... 22	Pittsburgh ... 37	
Denver ..... 38	Atlanta ..... 34	Chicago ..... 34	
St. Louis ..... 10	Washington ... 3	Miami ..... 24	
New Orleans 19	Kansas City 24	San Diego ..... 14	

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## Blunders Cost UNC Win in Death Valley

BY JAMES WHITFIELD  
SPORTS SATURDAY EDITOR

CLEMSON, S.C. — For the most part, North Carolina did what it needed to win Saturday's football game with Clemson. But once again, mistakes and missed opportunities interfered.

So when the Tar Heels walked out of Memorial Stadium after a 17-10 loss to the Tigers, they had to have a hollow feeling deep inside.

After all, this loss was the fourth defeat this year in which North Carolina (4-4 overall, 2-3 in the ACC) found itself dead even or better than its opponent on the stat page. The Tar Heels haven't won in Death Valley since 1980, and it was UNC's ninth loss to the Tigers in the last 10 games.

And it sent UNC's bowl hopes reeling.

"So many guys fought their guts out," said UNC coach Mack Brown. "It's really hard for this football team right now. I really hated it for them in the dressing room. Against Georgia Tech, we didn't play as well. Today, we really played hard."

But that's about all UNC had to show for its efforts. Tailback Leon Johnson rushed for his second straight 100-yard game. He tallied 102 yards on 25 carries in addition to his seven catches out of the backfield.

Also, UNC's nationally acclaimed defense showed its stuff against Clemson (6-3 overall, 5-2 in the ACC).

"The guys on the radio were saying at times our offense looked flat," Tiger coach Tommy West said. "Yeah it did, because North Carolina was knocking the stew out of us."

The Tar Heels gave up 325 total yards, but only surrendered 10 points on the scoreboard. The deciding seven points came off an offensive mistake.

Four plays into the second half, UNC quarterback Mike Thomas tried to hit tight end Freddie Jones on a rollout pass. Instead, safety Brian Dawkins picked off the pass and strolled 49 yards to make it 14-0.

"As long as he intercepts it and runs for a touchdown, it's fine," West said. "If you're gonna come

Football	UNC	10
	Clemson	17

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### Thomas Fires Record 17th INT, Nearing Justice's Career Mark

BY JUSTIN SCHEEF  
MANAGING EDITOR

CLEMSON, S.C. — Like his predecessor at quarterback, Mike Thomas is chasing the legendary Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice.

Last season, Jason Stanicek pursued and eventually broke Justice's UNC record for total offense. Thomas, however, is on the verge of eclipsing one of Justice's more dubious marks.

In throwing five interceptions against Clemson Saturday, the senior from Hamlet broke the Tar Heel record for INTs in a season with 17 and now is only six picks away from breaking Justice's career record of 32 interceptions. The old season mark of 16 was set by Ray Farris in 1960.

But not only did the quintet of interceptions put Thomas in the record books, they literally lost the game for the Tar Heels. Other than the turnovers, the game was statistically a dead heat — UNC had 321 yards, Clemson 325.

"They just had the one turnover. We had way too many," UNC coach Mack Brown said. "And again, I think that's the difference in the ball game."

Clemson cornerback Dexter McCleon agreed. "We forced (Thomas) into situations he didn't want to be in today," McCleon said. "You just have to give credit to the defense, we just made the plays."



Tar Heel quarterback MIKE THOMAS has been picked off 26 times in his career.

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Clemson tailback Raymond Priestler cuts around fallen Tar Heel linebacker Brian Simmons and safety Sean Boyd. Priestler finished with 95 yards rushing on 20 carries. The Tigers ran for 194 yards against the North Carolina defense.

## Men's Soccer Finishes ACC Season Sans Win

BY HEIDI C. SCHMITT  
STAFF WRITER

Somebody please give the UNC men's soccer team a rabbit's foot.

Or a four-leaf clover, or a heads-up penny or anything else to improve the Tar Heels' luck.

North Carolina (10-7-1, 0-5-1 in the ACC) ended its regular season — two months characterized by bad luck and hard breaks — with a 2-1 loss against Maryland (12-5-1, 4-1-1 ACC) on Saturday at Fetzer Field.

But bad luck or not, UNC failed to win an ACC game this season. This year's league record is the worst in the program's history.

The Tar Heels didn't go out without a fight. Despite outshooting the Terps 15-4, the ball did not seem to bounce in UNC's favor.

Take the game-winning goal, for example, Maryland freshman midfielder Keith Beach scored the clincher by ricocheting a ball off of a Tar Heel defender at the 83:35 mark of the game.

UNC couldn't buy a break as seconds later, sophomore defender Carey Talley sent a ball sailing toward the net that would have tied the game. But the 10-foot shot hit the post, and the Tar Heels would not come close to scoring again for the rest of the contest.

Senior midfielder Robert Murray attributed the loss to tough breaks.

"Basically, we didn't have any luck," he said. "Everything we could, we did. It just came down to the last couple minutes. All the guys played really hard. It's a tough way for me to go out."

Saturday also marked senior day for the Tar Heels. UNC honored defender Eddie Pope, keeper Patrick Smith and midfielders Murray, Kerry Zavagnin and Greg Caiola in their last regular-season career game.

Murray, making his 27th playing appearance, stepped up the intensity for the Tar Heels when he came off the bench after Zavagnin left the game late in the first half with an injury.

Murray assisted on the lone Tar Heel goal, scored by junior forward Temoc Suarez at the 56:45 mark of the game. Maryland junior forward Shane Dougherty netted a back save when he deflected a shot by Murray. But Suarez capitalized on the rebound and converted.

Maryland scored the first goal of the game at the 20:59 mark. UNC was running a risky offside trap defensive strategy, but Judah Coles took a pass from Tod Herskovitz and scored on a fast break.

Coach Elmar Bolowich said this was one of the major breakdowns in the game.

"On their goal, we made a poor decision to play an offside trap, which did not

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UNC junior Victor Suarez and Maryland sophomore R.T. Moore (16) pursue the ball in Saturday's 2-1 Terp win.

## Tar Heel Graybeards Lift Play on Senior Day

BY LEE TAFT  
STAFF WRITER

With experience comes leadership, and that's what the men's soccer team needed as it closed out its ACC schedule against Maryland Saturday.

The seniors provided a spark, but that wasn't enough as the Tar Heels fell to the Terps 2-1 on aptly named Senior Day.

During the player introductions, special recognition was given to seniors Patrick Smith, Eddie Pope, Kerry Zavagnin, Robert Murray and Greg Caiola. Smith did not play, and Caiola was out with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

During the game, however, the seniors made sure they were recognized, playing a definite leadership role on the field.

Despite sloppy field conditions, Pope led an aggressive defensive force, while Zavagnin and Murray were major forces on the offensive end.

Pope was back in the lineup for his first game since the Oct. 8 loss to South Carolina. He had missed 11 games this season due to a stress fracture in his right ankle.

"I missed the game," he said. "I missed

my teammates. It was good to come back.

"I felt that I could add a lot to the team, and that I could lift everyone's spirits and keep them high."

Zavagnin was part of a strong offensive force in the first half. After he suffered an injury late in the first half, Murray entered the game.

Murray's presence added an extra spark to the offense, helping to lead a relentless offensive attack in the second half. He posted three shots in the period, and assisted Temoc Suarez on the lone North Carolina goal of the match, which knotted the score at 1-1.

After the goal, the team had a newfound intensity. Murray recognized the Tar Heels' need for big plays, and he spearheaded UNC's desperate attempt to win.



Senior EDDIE POPE, who has been out with a fractured ankle, played his first game since Oct. 8.

"As far as the intensity, it was the only thing we had left to do," he said. "The ball wasn't bouncing our way the whole first half. After the goal, we needed to step it up somewhere, and regardless of field conditions, that was the one area where we had total control."

Murray said the team just didn't have the luck it needed to finish off Maryland.

"Everything we could, we did," he said. "It just came down to the end of the game. The scoreboard shows the tale of the tape. Sixteen shots to four, and they only had two shots in the second half. All the guys played hard."

Murray said the team must now focus on the upcoming ACC tournament, when UNC will face Maryland again.

"Now we look forward to the short season," he said. "Thursday we have the first round of the ACCs, and that's what we're looking forward to right now. By no means is the season over. If there's a chance left, we'll give it all we can. We get a second chance on Thursday."

And for these seniors, the ACC tournament presents the last chance to salvage an otherwise lackluster season.

## Volleyball Drops 4th Straight Despite Phenomenal Hitting

BY KURT TONDORF  
STAFF WRITER

You can't teach experience. That's the phrase the North Carolina volleyball team used to console itself following its

fourth-straight loss Sunday, a frustrating 15-11, 15-12, 15-13 defeat at the hands of No. 22 Georgia Tech at Carmichael Auditorium. UNC also lost another tough match against Clemson 13-15, 15-8, 15-9, 15-8 Friday night.

The Tar Heels (14-12, 6-7 ACC) played well enough to win both. Over the two-match span, UNC posted a .230 hitting percentage as a team, indicative of winning volleyball.

But Clemson and Georgia Tech did the Tar Heels one better, hitting .292 and .291, respectively. Those marks signify phenomenal averages for a whole match.

"We just weren't — we weren't perfect," UNC coach Joe Sagula said. "And we had to be to win these two matches."

Volleyball	Georgia Tech	3
	UNC	0
	Clemson	3
	UNC	1

Playing perfect — a tall order for any team, but especially for the Tar Heels.

The squad features a pair of proven outside hitters in Kristin Kruse and Amber Willey, but aside from those two, Sagula finds himself calling on a lot of players who lack seasoning.

"They spoil you into thinking they're going to be great all of the time," Sagula said. "And you have to step back and say, wait a minute — some of these people are still maturing, still need time to develop."

One player who has been developing throughout the season is sophomore Lori Carlson. The outside hitter, whose erratic play early in the season briefly took her out of the Tar Heel starting rotation, shined against the Tigers, tying the school record with 33 digs.

"In the last two weeks she's really im-

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KRISTIN KRUSE had 29 kills against the Yellow Jackets.

### SPORTS SCHEDULE

<b>Today</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
Women's Tennis at Rolex Regional, Lexington, Ky., All day	Men's and Women's Golf at Golf World/Palmetto Dunes Collegiate, Hilton Head, S.C., All day
<b>Tuesday</b>	Football vs. Florida State, Kenan Stadium, noon
Volleyball at Duke, 7:30 p.m.	Men's and Women's Cross Country at NCAA District III Championship, Greenville, S.C., 10 a.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	Women's Soccer at NCAA Tournament First Round, TBA
Field Hockey at NCAA Tournament, Durham, TBA	Men's Tennis: Region 2 Rolex Championships, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, All day
Men's Soccer at ACC Tournament, Durham, TBA	<b>Sunday</b>
Men's Tennis: Region 2 Rolex Championships, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, All day	Field Hockey at NCAA Tournament Second Round, TBA
<b>Friday</b>	Men's and Women's Golf at Golf World/Palmetto Dunes Collegiate, Hilton Head, S.C., All day
Men's and Women's Golf at Golf World/Palmetto Dunes Collegiate, Hilton Head, S.C., All day	Men's Soccer at ACC Tournament, Durham, TBA
Men's Soccer at ACC Tournament, Durham, TBA	Women's Soccer at NCAA Tournament First Round, TBA
Men's Tennis: Region 2 Rolex Championships, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, All day	Men's Tennis: Region 2 Rolex Championships, Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center, All day
Volleyball: Carolina Classic (UNC vs. William and Mary), Carmichael Auditorium, 7 p.m.	Volleyball: Carolina Classic (UNC vs. Arkansas State), 2 p.m.