

Tar Heels Hammer Hawks In Women's Lacrosse Rout

BY KURT TONDORF ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina women's lacrosse coach Jenny Slinguff knows the run-and-gun offense.

The 1992 NCAA Attack Player of the Year and scorer of 118 career goals proved she could play the up-tempo style at Virginia, and early in UNC's inaugural campaign, she has proven she can coach it, too.

Thursday against Lehigh, UNC exploded for seven straight goals in an 18-minute stretch spanning halftime en route to a 13-5 victory in front of 250 fans at Fetzer Field.

Freshman attacker Erin McGinnis ran the show for the Tar Heels (3-1) like a veteran, assaulting the Mountain Hawks' (1-1) backpedaling defense with quick, crisp passes at every opportunity.

During one stretch in the first half, McGinnis found a wide-open Brooke Crawford perched in front of the net for a 4-2 lead and then hit streaking cutters Sharon Moore and Crawford, respectively, for two more fast-break goals.

McGinnis also jump-started the Tar Heel offense with her shooting, notching the game's first two goals on unassisted rushes against Lehigh goalie Carly Lynch.

But it was solid Tar Heel defense that created transition opportunities for McGinnis and her teammates.

"I was an attacker, but I know that defense wins championships," Slinguff said. "Offense takes time to gel, but you can really teach defense great defense in a year and have them gel. It's harder to teach the attack."

As a team, UNC clogged the defensive zone and ran down would-be Lehigh attackers with impressive team speed.

And the Tar Heels also benefited from two standout defensive performances from Crawford and Amy Fine.

In addition to a hat trick, Crawford was responsible for shadowing 1995 national scoring leader Jill Alshuler. Alshuler did tally three goals on the afternoon, but one came on a free-position shot in the first stanza, and her last two came with under two minutes remaining.



SARAH DACEY scored a coast-to-coast goal for UNC.

Crawford, who made defending Alshuler look simple, also got plenty of support from the Tar Heel midfielders.

"It was challenging (playing both ends)," she said. "But I thought the whole midfield transition helped out on that. We moved the ball really well."

Fine, a junior midfielder, terrorized Lehigh stickhandlers in the open field. After Sarah Dacey torched the Mountain Hawks with a coast-to-coast score, Fine did the same, turning on the afterburners and finishing off her own steal.

"The faster you get the ball moving up the field — whether passing or running it — the less time the defense has to react," Fine said. "And then the ball will go in."

A simple approach, yes. But UNC has blitzed its last two opponents, outscoring GMU and Lehigh 25-9.

"I'm impressed that they played a full game today," Slinguff said. "But I think we can get even more efficient and more consistent. Our attack is still real tentative."

LACROSSE UNC 13, Lehigh 5

Score table for UNC 13, Lehigh 5

Goals: Lehigh: Alshuler 3, Brill, Shavin; UNC: McGinnis 4, Crawford 3, Fine 2, Dacey, Falk, Moore, Pasquonino; Assists: Lehigh, none; UNC: McGinnis 3, Fine, Blount; Lehigh: 21; UNC: 23; Saves: Lehigh: Lynch 7; UNC: Castele. Attendance: 250

Late Rally Erases Errors for UNC As Baseball Tops Northern Illinois

BY LEE TAFT STAFF WRITER

When North Carolina center fielder Antawan Smith stepped to the plate in the bottom of the ninth inning Thursday, a long line of negatives stared him in the face.

His team was down 6-5 to Northern Illinois with one out and runners on second and third. He was riding a 10-game hitting streak but was 0 for 2 from the plate in the game.

But Smith took his frustration out on a Tony Epperson pitch, blasting a three-run home run over the left field fence and giving UNC an 8-6 victory over the Huskies.

"My first thought was to get the guy in," Smith said. "Sacrifice fly — get the ball into the outfield where we get the tying run. If it fell in, then it fell in for a hit, and I kept my streak alive."

The game was a constant come-from-behind struggle for the Tar Heels, as UNC gave up two runs in the opening inning. The Tar Heels responded with three runs

in the first, powered by a three-run homer from Michael Stoner, who went 1 for 4 with four RBIs. The dinger was his third in as many games.

"I've been in a slump lately," Stoner said. "These homers have been getting me out of it. It's been feeling good to do that."

Northern Illinois applied the pressure on the Tar Heels again in the fifth, scoring three runs. NIU's Gerad Gast blasted a two-run double into the gap, and Jason King scored Gast on a sacrifice fly.

UNC chipped away at the Huskies' lead, scoring one run off Stoner's sacrifice fly in the bottom of the sixth.

NIU tried to pull away in the seventh, as Eric Welsh hit a solo-shot to left field off UNC pitcher Michael Horney.

Northern Illinois cut the lead by one in the eighth, when Jarrett Shearin knocked in Crandel Coltrane with a triple into the gap.

Shearin was thrown out when trying to stretch his triple into an inside-the-park



ANTAWAN SMITH hit a three-run homer to seal UNC's win.

home run. UNC held the Huskies scoreless in the top of the ninth, and the Tar Heels opened their half of the inning with Clay Hooper drawing a walk.

Hooper moved to second on a throwing error on Stoner's bunt.

After designated hitter Josh Rowell sacrificed both runners over, Smith stepped to the plate and spanked his game-winner.

While UNC coach Mike Roberts was satisfied with the win, he said he still isn't comfortable with his team's day-to-day performance.

"When I look out and see that we won, I am very happy," Roberts said. "But when I see that we had four errors, it shows you that you've got a lot of things to improve on."

"(NIU) only made one error in the game, but it happened to be in the bottom of the ninth. Errors turn into a lot of runs."

Roberts said his team's errors are something that take time to improve on.

BASEBALL UNC 8, Northern Illinois 6

Score table for UNC 8, Northern Illinois 6

NIU — Schmidt, Epperson (8); UNC — Stein, Horney (6), Richardson (7), W — Richardson, L — Epperson. Attendance — 175

Eastern Michigan Ousts Duke in Opening Round of NCAA Tourney

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Eastern Michigan managed to do what no other team has since 1955 — beat Duke in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Earl Boykins scored 23 points and Brian

Tolbert added 20 as the Eagles beat the Blue Devils 75-60 Thursday in the Southeast Regional.

Eastern Michigan, the ninth seed, will play first-seeded Connecticut in the second round on Saturday.

"The most important part of basketball is confidence," Boykins said. "We knew we could play with Duke. They're not the top-ranked team in the country anymore. Once we got past that part, it was just a matter of going out and playing."

Coach Ben Braun said his team might have been a little tentative in the first half, which ended with the teams tied at 26. But they came out quick in the second half, and Duke never had a chance.

Tolbert was fouled by Taymon Domzalski on his first shot in the second half, and converted the free throw to break the tie.

Duke was called for goaltending 15 seconds later, and Eastern Michigan took the lead for good at 31-26 with 18:39 left.

"In the first half, we were looking at the 'Duke' on their shirts," Tolbert said. "After we settled down and played the guys in the shirts, it was a different game."

The Eagles extended their lead to 39-30 with 14:19 remaining as Derrick Dial rolled off six quick points during an 8-2 run. Greg Newton answered with two dunks and had cut the Eagles' lead to five with 12:17 left, but the Blue Devils got no closer.

Jeff Capel and Newton led Duke with 15 each, and Ricky Pierce added 14. But they were no match for Boykins, who thrilled the crowd with his quick feet and superb ball-handling skills. The 5-foot-7 guard dished out a game-high five assists, including one to Theron Wilson that gave Eastern Michigan its final basket with 15.8 seconds to go.

"He plays with so much confidence and heart, and that spread throughout the team," Tolbert said of Boykins. "He makes

so many things happen, he makes everything so much easier, offensively and defensively."

Wilson's basket was Eastern Michigan's only one in the final two minutes, but it didn't matter.

Duke managed to score only twice, and Boykins made six free throws.

This was the Eagles' first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 1991, when they made it to the regional semifinals before losing to North Carolina 93-67.

The Blue Devils, the eighth seed, were back in the tournament after staying home last year for the first time since 1985.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski had been optimistic about his team's chances, especially since the Blue Devils were playing at the

NCAA First Round Scores

SOUTHEAST REGION

UConn 68, Colgate 59  
E. Michigan 75, Duke 60  
Mississippi State 58, VCU 51  
UCLA vs. Princeton (late)

WEST REGION

Purdue 73, Western Carolina 71  
Drexel 75, Memphis 63  
Syracuse 88, Montana St. 55  
Georgia vs. Clemson (late)

EAST REGION

UMass 92, Central Florida 70  
Stanford 66, Bradley 58  
Arkansas 86, Penn State 80  
Marquette vs. Monmouth (late)

MIDWEST REGION

Kentucky 110, San Jose St. 72  
Virginia Tech 61, Wisconsin-G.B. 48  
Iowa State 74, California 64  
Utah vs. Canisius (late)

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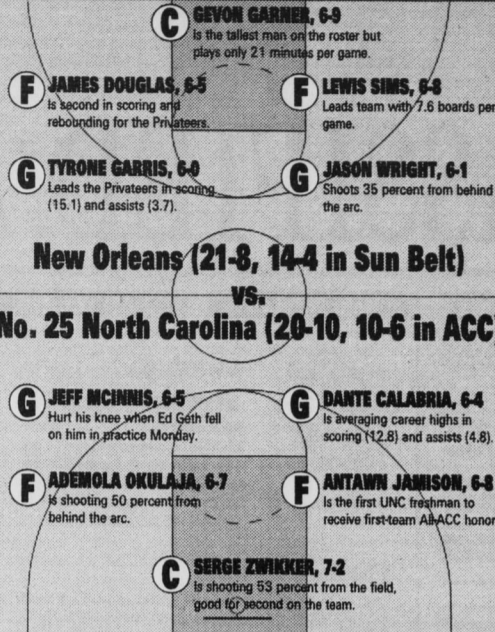
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THE LOWDOWN ON TONIGHT'S GAME



Game: NCAA first round: New Orleans (21-8, 14-4 in the Sun Belt) vs. No. 25 North Carolina (20-10, 10-6 in the ACC).

Time: 10 p.m.

Location: Richmond Coliseum, Richmond, Va.

Radio: CBS Sports, WRAL TV-5

Television: WCHL 1360 AM, WTRG 100.7 FM

Series Record: First meeting

Keys for UNC: The Tar Heels will have little trouble if they play like the first 35 minutes against Clemson, not the last five. With Zwikker, the Tar Heels have a distinctive size advantage inside.

Keys for New Orleans: The Privateers want to press, and they have the bench to do so, going about nine deep. Sims and Garris are first team all-conference players and provide a good inside-outside duo.

Tar Heel Bench: Shammond Williams has earned a spot on the floor during crucial points, nailing important shots all season. Vince Carter is shooting 50 percent from the floor.

Privateer Bench: Nine players average at least 10 minutes per game. Forward Kwan Johnson is fourth in scoring and shoots 52 percent from the floor. Swingman Jermaine Spivey averages eight points per game and launches more than four 3s per game.

Prediction: UNC 78, New Orleans 69

COMPILED BY TODD GRAFF

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 1

But UNC can look to the '90 team for inspiration.

After receiving an eighth-seed, the Tar Heels defeated Southwest Missouri State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

North Carolina then shocked top-seeded Oklahoma on a Rick Fox layup with only seconds remaining in the game.

"That's been proven to be a pretty good short-term motivator," Smith said. "It's the 'Somebody says you can't do something, I'll show you' type of thing. You'd like to think we're more mature than that, but we're probably not."

"I think anybody that knows college basketball knows that there's no given. It's a one-game-and-you're-out type tournament."



DEAN SMITH has led North Carolina to 22 consecutive appearances in the NCAA Tournament.

NBA Lifts Suspension of Denver Standout

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The NBA lifted its suspension of Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf on Thursday after the Denver Nuggets guard agreed to stand during the national anthem, while also honoring his Islamic faith with a silent prayer.

Both sides got what they wanted: the league defused a controversy over freedom of religion and speech, and Abdul-Rauf regained the right to play while still preserving his ideals.

Saying he found a "better approach" but refusing to call it a compromise, Abdul-Rauf said he will line up alongside his

teammates Friday night in Chicago when the anthem is played before the Nuggets' game with the Bulls.

"I'll stand, I will offer a prayer, my own prayer, for those who are suffering — Muslim, Caucasian, African-American, Asian or whoever is in that position, whoever is experiencing difficulty," he said.

On Tuesday, the NBA suspended him indefinitely for his refusal to stand during "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The NBA requires players to stand "in a dignified posture" while the national anthem is played before games.

"Now I recognize there is a better ap-

proach," Abdul-Rauf said. "In Islam, you honor your contract. And if after making a decision, you see that which is better, you do that."

It took the league only a few minutes to lift the suspension.

The league said in a statement: "The NBA has always required that on-court personnel stand while the anthem is played."

ROAD TO THE



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RCA Dome, where they won the NCAA title in 1991.

But Duke has had a rash of injuries lately — Chris Collins is recovering from the flu and Steve Wojciechowski has a sprained ankle — and the Blue Devils just couldn't keep up with Eastern Michigan.

"They're deeper and in better shape than we are," Krzyzewski said. "Like the old saying, 'The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'"

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