

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**Edberg Cruises in Open**

NEW YORK — Stefan Edberg is conjuring up the magic of Jimmy Connors at the U.S. Open.

In his own quiet, yet fiery way, Edberg surged into the quarterfinals Tuesday with a fist-pumping 6-7 (7-2), 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, 6-4 victory over Britain's Tim Henman.

Not since Connors' amazing run to the 1991 semifinals here at age 39 — the year Edberg won for the first time — has a player been such a sentimental favorite with the crowd. They've been doing it all tournament, and they can be expected to do it Thursday when he plays No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic.

**Stokes returns to team**

CULLOWHEE — Running back Terence Stokes has returned to Western Carolina's football team on a conditional basis after he was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle.

The sophomore from Bunn began practicing with the Catamounts Tuesday, four weeks after he was suspended from the program following his arrest Aug. 7 in Raleigh. A decision about when he will be reinstated as a full-time player has not been made, according to a news release from the university.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Missed opportunities mar UNC's chances vs. Huskies**

BY PAUL STRELOW  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The best teams in volleyball display a consistent level of play in order to minimize an opponent's scoring runs.

The only consistency North Carolina's volleyball team showed Tuesday night was in squandering leads and missing opportunities.

The Tar Heels (4-1) failed to rally from several droughts in a 15-13, 15-9, 15-10 loss to Washington (3-1) in Carmichael Auditorium.

UNC led during the middle of every game but couldn't capitalize on their chances.

"We passed the ball well, and we ran our middle attack and our slide ... and they never blocked us," coach Joe Sagula said.

"But we lost focus. We would give up three or four points in a row and we didn't side out even with them tonight."

The first game was knotted at 5 when the Tar Heels put together one of their few good strings. Maya Starks, Amber Willey and Jill Peden rattled off kills during a run that left UNC leading 11-7.

But UNC's attack suffered after outside hitter Alicia Alford sprained her ankle late in the first game.

Sagula then used a lineup featuring two setters, starter Erin Berg and substitute Lib Hobson, for the remainder of the match.

"It was unfortunate to lose Alicia," he said. "She had two great swings at the ball and had become a blocking factor."

"That was a big loss for us." The Tar Heels trailed 12-11 when Alford went down, but rallied to a 13-all tie off a kill by Starks.

The Huskies earned a sideout, then reached game point following an errant set by Hobson.

Angela Bransom's kill, one of the senior's game-leading 23, gave Washington the first game.

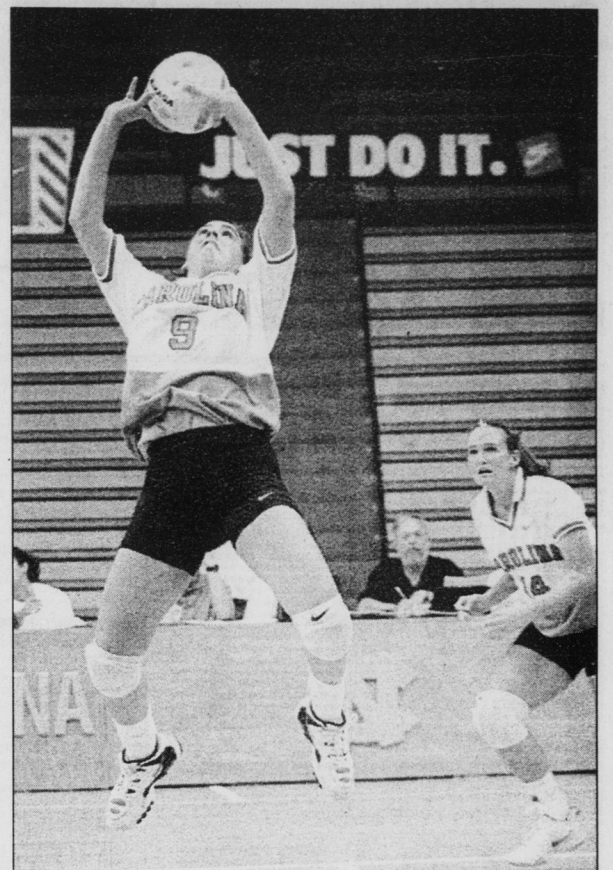
The second game featured a seesaw battle until Hobson tipped the ball over the net for an 8-7 Tar Heel lead.

The Huskies then tallied five straight points, four off North Carolina miscues, en route to a commanding 12-8 advantage.

The Tar Heels forced three sideouts, but failed to refute with a scoring run of their own.



Senior AMBER WILLEY led the Tar Heels with 15 kills.



Sophomore Erin Berg (9) sets the ball for teammate Alicia Alford (14) in the Tar Heels' home opener Tuesday night.

**AP Football Top 25**

Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Nebraska (49)	0-0-0	1,842	7
2. Tennessee (8)	1-0-0	1,568	2
3. Florida State (5)	0-0-0	1,518	3
4. Florida (1)	1-0-0	1,484	4
5. Colorado (3)	1-0-0	1,405	5
6. Notre Dame (1)	0-0-0	1,311	6
7. Penn State	1-0-0	1,266	7
8. Texas	1-0-0	1,128	8
9. Syracuse	0-0-0	1,062	10
10. Ohio State	0-0-0	1,038	9
11. Miami	1-0-0	923	11
12. Michigan	1-0-0	845	12
13. Northwestern	0-0-0	663	15
14. Alabama	1-0-0	660	13
15. Virginia Tech	0-0-0	625	14
16. Brigham Young	2-0-0	589	19
17. LSU	0-0-0	538	18
18. Auburn	1-0-0	511	16
19. Southern Cal	0-1-0	456	17
20. Arizona State	0-0-0	447	20
21. Kansas State	1-0-0	438	21
22. Iowa	0-0-0	364	22
23. Virginia	0-0-0	242	24
24. North Carolina	1-0-0	237	—
25. Texas A&M	0-1-0	227	23

Others receiving votes: Kansas 207, Oregon 116, Washington 110, East Carolina 41, Michigan State 35, San Diego State 19, Southern Mississippi 18, Stanford 11, Clemson 8, Wyoming 8, Wisconsin 7, Texas Tech 6, West Virginia 5, Arkansas 3, Louisville 3, Toledo 3, Utah 3, UCLA 1.

**Schmitz, special teamers get kick out of Clemson thrashing**

BY ROBBI PICKERAL  
SPORTS EDITOR

Brian Schmitz couldn't sleep the night before last Saturday's game against Clemson.

He was hyper, nervous, worried — about his first collegiate game.

And the freshman from Park Ridge, Ill., didn't even know yet that he would be the starting kicker.

"I finally had to take Nyquil to get to sleep," he said.

The dosage must have worked, because the next day, on the Tar Heels' first kickoff of the game, UNC fans saw something they've rarely seen in the past few years.

That's right — a knee in the end zone.

A deep kick. A *touchback*.

And the crowd roared.

"That had to be the most exciting thing in my career so far — it definitely was," he said. "I went back over to the sideline, and two or three people told me ... that was the first time the fans had seen that in a couple of years."

Yes, UNC fans got to roar, not groan, at the kicking game Saturday, and it looks like that could continue.

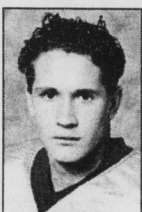
Tar Heel coach Mack Brown made special teams a focus in preseason practice, and it seems to be paying off.

Schmitz recorded two touchbacks Saturday, redshirt freshman Josh McGee connected on a field goal and five extra points, and redshirt freshman Derrick DePriest and seniors David Secrest and

Derrick DePriest all booted long punt and kickoff combinations. The crowd responded as if they'd never seen anything like it.

"I heard their reaction, knew they were cheering for me ... and just couldn't believe it," Schmitz said.

With so many kickers, the compe-



Senior kicker CHRIS WELCH has earned a football scholarship this season.

tion in practice has been fierce — but that's what's forced the kickers to step up.

"If they know that there's someone just as good as them behind them ... well, they're going to work harder, and that pays off in the game," Brown said.

Although Schmitz earned the nod against Clemson, Brown said his starting kickers aren't set in stone. After Saturday's game, he said, they began charting progress in practice again, and starters have not been named for Saturday's game at Syracuse.

"I'm really just trying not to put any pressure on myself," Schmitz said. "I'm

just trying to work hard because I want to do really, really well."

**Special teams notes**

Ironically, McGee's 37-yard field goal in the first quarter equalled graduated kicker Scott Caparelli's longest college field goal ever. ... Brown announced Tuesday that he had granted a scholarship to Welch, a senior from Greensboro. "Every year we try to give an older guy that's been around a scholarship, if we have one. It's always tough, because there are always 20 or 30 guys who could get it ... but we think that Chris has done a lot to deserve it."

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