

Men's soccer slips past Deacons with dominant defensive display

BY M. LEE TAFT
ASSISTANT SPORTS SATURDAY EDITOR

For six seniors on the North Carolina men's soccer team, Sunday was something special: it was the last chance to play at Fetzer Field, the last chance to win.

"When we stepped out there we made sure we were going to come away with a victory no matter what," said senior goalkeeper Dimitry Drouin.

Drouin and the seniors made good on their promise, beating Wake Forest 1-0.

The Tar Heels' (8-6-1, 2-2-1 in the ACC) defense dominated the match, limiting the Deacons to only four shots in the first half.

The lone goal of the match came 10:02 into the second half, when Joe DiSalvo took the ball down the left flank. As the Deacon defenders closed in on DiSalvo, he sent a high cross into the Wake box. Junior Carey Talley headed the ball past WFU goalkeeper Tim Woods into the back of the net for his team-leading ninth goal of the season.

"Joey just happened to put it on my head and I was there," Talley said. "It was a great ball by him, and I just happened to be the one to finish it off."

UNC's defensive play set the tone of the match, shutting down the passing lanes and winning nearly every up-for-grabs ball in the open field.

"Defensively I think it's the best we've played all year, it's the most organized," Talley said. "We had problems at times closing the gap between the midfield and the forwards. If we work on that, I think we can put together a complete game."

The Tar Heels had numerous opportunities, putting up 16 shots, but had trouble finding the net early on.

Temoc Suarez put together two scoring opportunities, feeding passes in to Daniel Kulenic and Thomas Rijsman, but neither scored. Kulenic's shot hit the crossbar and went out of bounds, while Rijsman's header went just wide of the goal.

With the Tar Heel defense containing the Wake (10-6-1, 2-3-1) offense, the Deacons were forced to take half their shots from outside the penalty box, which UNC keeper Drouin easily fought off.

"The defense really stepped it up today," Drouin said. "Basically, I saw all the shots, and they weren't that difficult to save. The defense was basically containing them, and if they contain them they don't get as many breakaways as they usually do, and they only shoot from maybe 15 yards. I'm supposed to



UNC midfielder CAREY TALLEY scored the game's only goal.

save those."

But the Tar Heel defensive effort wasn't without flaws, as occasional defensive breakdowns gave the Deacons opportunities to score. Just after the UNC goal, Wake forward Kyle Bachmeier was wide open in the box and blasted a shot off the crossbar. Deacon defender Josh Timbers had a wide open goal, but headed the rebound over the goal.

In the waning moments of the game, Wake resorted to an all-out offensive attack, pumping every ball possible into the box, hoping to tie the game. But the UNC defense held off the attack, and Drouin made the saves in the clutch, sealing the win.

"(Drouin) really stepped it up today," UNC coach Elmar Bolowich said. "He's very solid back there. He's good at keeping the defense on their toes. And certainly his experience helped him in a clutch match like that."

Gophers sink swimmers despite late rally

BY DAVE ALEXANDER
STAFF WRITER

Athletic competition is all about winning, but there are lessons to be learned from losing as well.

North Carolina's men's and women's swimming and diving teams found out a lot about themselves on Saturday, dropping close contests to Minnesota at Koury Natatorium but staying competitive in the process.

The women (0-2) fell 158-142 and the men (0-2) were edged 153-145.

"I'm really proud of the way we performed," UNC coach Frank Comfort said. "They're one of the best teams in the country. It was great to compete against them, and I'm thrilled to have done so well, but we wanted to win."

On the women's side, the 16th-ranked Tar Heels dug themselves into an early hole, trailing 77-35 after just five of 16 events. The No. 15 Minnesota women (1-0) were led early by Gretchen Hegener, who helped the Gophers capture the 200 medley relay, and later swam to victory in the 100 and 200 breaststrokes.

UNC began its comeback in the sixth

event, the 200 butterfly, as captain Chrissy Miller outdistanced the rest of the field. Including Miller's win, UNC was victorious in seven of the final 11 events.

Richelle Depold led the charge, dominating the competition every time she jumped in the pool. She touched the wall first in the 50 freestyle, the 100 freestyle and the 100 butterfly, qualifying for the NCAAs in all three.

More impressively, her time of 22.70 seconds in the 50 freestyle broke the school and conference record she set last weekend, and she finished nearly 1 1/2 seconds ahead of her closest competitor.

But the team's effort came just short as Minnesota held on for the victory. Nonetheless, a strong showing against one of the nation's top teams could be considered a moral victory for the Tar Heels.

The 15th-ranked North Carolina men found themselves in a similar situation.

The Tar Heels managed to win only five of 16 events, but placed consistently high in the remaining events to mount the comeback.

Jeff Weiss contributed a strong performance for UNC, picking up wins in the 100 and 200 breaststrokes. Trevor Runberg and Tom Schmelzer also swam well for the Tar Heels, picking up one win each.

"Our effort was fantastic," Comfort said. "We wanted to win. Minnesota's men are the Big Ten champions. They're ranked ahead of us, and it would have been nice to have won."

Saturday's dual meet was preceded by the 20th Annual Tar Heel Invitational on Friday evening. The meet featured swimming clubs from around the area as well as UNC and Minnesota. Tar Heel swimmers performed well, winning four of eight timed events.

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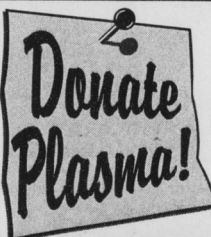
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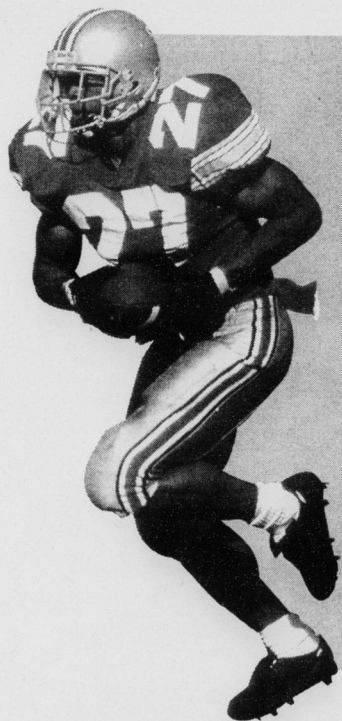
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