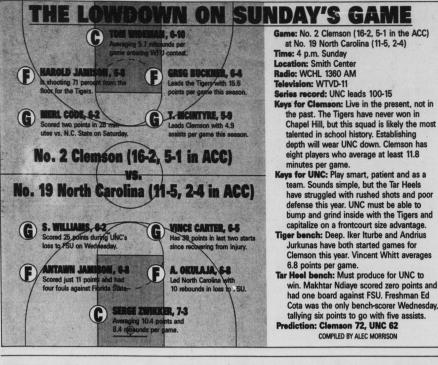
The Baily Tar Heel





Tigers look to make history Sunday

BY ALEC MORRISON SPORTS EDITOR

doing it again. The 19th-ranked Tar Heels (11-5, 24 in the ACC), who fell to Florida State 84-71 on Wednesday, opened the ACC season 0-3 for the first time in school

history. Now UNC confronts history again as Clemson (16-2, 5-1), ranked No. 2 in the

Clemson (16-2, 5-1), ranked No. 2 in the country for the first time ever, comes to Chapel Hill for a 4 p.m. matchup on Sunday. The Tigers have never beaten UNC in Chapel Hill, dropping 42

straight contests. "Somebody has to lose," coach Dean

Somebody has to lose," coach Dean Smith said following UNC's defeat Wednesday. "We've lost four, and I hope we don't lose many more." While the past may favor the Tar Heels, this Clemson squad is unlike any that's come to Chapel Hill before. Tiger

coach Rick Barnes has constructed a

ence and depth. Seven different players have started for the Tigers this season. And Barnes' squad didn't take long to make a lasting impression, knocking off No. 3 Kentucky in overtime to start North Carolina has already made history once this season. The Tar Heels will need a concerted effort to avoid the season

The Tigers, who were alone at the top of the ACC until a 65-62 loss to Wake Forest on Thursday, had allowed just 57.8 points per game entering Thursday's contest with the Deacons and had won 12 straight since a Dec. 1 loss to Minnesota.

While Clemson has solidified its presence as one of the top teams in the country, North Carolina is struggling to find its nd its identity. The Tar Heels seemed to have put

their poor league start behind them with consecutive wins over N.C. State and Georgia Tech, but Wednesday's setback against FSU proves there is still work to

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distant and

be done. "We're improving," Smith said. "It may not look like it ... but we are." Foul trouble and a lack of defense — FSU shot 50 percent from the floor — plagued UNC throughout the loss. Against a Tiger squad known for its physical play and defensive dominance, such weaknesses could spell the differ-ence between victory and a 2-5 ACC ence between victory and a 2-5 ACC start for the Tar Heels.



THUMBS UP!

Wrestlers to face tougher test from UVa.

BY JOHN SWEENEY STAFF WRITER

North Carolina wrestling coach Bill Lam knows it won't be so easy this time. Lam knows it won't be so easy this time. Despite pummeling Virginia last year 30-3, Lam doesn't expect a blowout Saturday when the Cavaliers (3-4, 0-0 in the ACC) come to Carmichael Auditorium for a 7:30 p.m. showdown with the No. 21 Tar Heels. "Waring to have need metch a circle

"It's going to be a good match, a tight match," Lam said. "Our matchups are strange, because it looks like there are going to be a lot of one-point differences

But close matches could be dangerous with this Cavalier squad. Virginia coach Lenny Bernstein, who wrestled for Lam from 1985 to 1989,

has built a solid contender for the ACC crown.

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"Lenny's done a good job up there," he said. "They're in the hunt for the ACC tournament championship."

The Tar Heels (4-0, 1-0), after defeat-ing defending ACC champion N.C. State last week, may be the only thing standing between Bernstein and that

goal. But as good as the Cavaliers might be, UNC matches up well against them. Lam said that, on paper at least, it looked as though the two teams would split the weight classes 5-5. That means the Tar Heels would need an upset or a major decision, worth four points instead of three, for a victory. One particular weight class might be especially

important. "We need to win at 118 lbs.," Lam said. "We beat (Virginia's Gerard

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Harrison) once before, but it was only by That was Nov. 30 at the Carolina

Open, when Tar Heel freshman Chuckie Connor defeated Harrison 4-3. The two are expected to face off again

Saturday. It will be the only time the two teams meet until the ACC tournament, mean-ing a lot more could be riding on the match than just bragging rights. Not that Lam wouldn't enjoy brag-

ging rights. "Virginia was pretty tough on us in

football, and they were pretty tough on us in basketball," Lam said. "If the students come out and support us, maybe we can get some momentum going in one of those tough matches and win this thing."

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