

SPORTS BRIEFS

Singles dominance lifts women's tennis to win

North Carolina's women's tennis team captured four of six singles matches en route to a 5-3 win over Clemson on Sunday in Clemson, S.C.

The victory is the fourth in five outings for the Tar Heels (7-12, 4-3 in the ACC).

Despite losing at No. 1 and No. 5 singles, the Tar Heels took the other matches to claim the win.

North Carolina's Sarah Hawkins and Alison Levy teamed at No. 2 for an 8-6 'W' to split with Clemson in doubles play.

Tar Heels J.C. Biber (No. 2) and Jeni Burnette (No. 6) lost their first sets in singles but rebounded to claim victories. Hawkins and fourth-seeded Cena Hackler each won their matches in two sets.

North Carolina's next action will come on Wednesday, when it faces Wake Forest at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center.

UNC's Comfort to coach women's national squad

North Carolina swimming coach Frank Comfort has been chosen as the women's coach for the United States Swimming National Junior Team, U.S. Swimming announced Monday.

The team will compete in the Malmo Grand Prix in Malmo, Sweden, on May 17 and 18.

Comfort also served as the coach of the 1994 U.S. women's team that competed in the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia. Additionally, he has coached six times in the U.S. Olympic Festival.

Comfort is the winningest coach in ACC history, having led the Tar Heels to 21 league titles (12 women's, nine men's) during his 20-year career at North Carolina.

The Tar Heel men's team captured the conference championship this season.

Comfort has won the ACC men's or women's coach of the year award 11 times.

Dr. Tim Taft, North Carolina's director of sports medicine, will serve as the team physician for the men's and women's junior national swimming squads.

Racquetball finishes 13th at intercollegiate meet

North Carolina's men's and women's racquetball squads placed 13th out of 18 combined teams in the U.S. National Intercollegiate Championships on April 2-6 in Boise, Idaho.

The Tar Heel women's squad turned in a sixth-place finish to pace North Carolina.

UNC's men's team came in 26th out of 29 schools competing in the men's championships.

Brigham Young won the women's team title and came in second in the men's championships to capture the overall crown. Florida won the men's title, topping the Cougars by nearly 900 points.

Vanessa Tulao of North Carolina, a former Junior Team USA member, headed the Tar Heel effort. Tulao, who played at No. 1 singles, took a 15-7, 15-9 decision over Shannon Feaster of Howard.

Tulao wound up third in the women's singles competition. She also teamed with Tar Heel Erica Camp to reach the quarterfinals of the doubles tournament.

No other ACC schools competed in the men's or women's racquetball championships.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

UNC to stress basics vs. Radford tonight

■ The Tar Heels have not won since defeating Loyola 17-11 on March 8.

BY M. LEE TAFT
SENIOR WRITER

The men's lacrosse team desperately needs one thing in tonight's game against Radford: a win.

The Tar Heels (2-6) haven't won a game since March 8 against Loyola, a losing string that has stretched to five contests.

North Carolina coach Dave Klarmann is stressing fundamentals in practice in the hope of turning things around for his team.

"We're working on ground balls, team defense and shooting on target — the basic things," Klarmann said.

"We certainly didn't expect to be 2-6 at this juncture in the season."

North Carolina is coming off a 20-5 shellacking at the hands of Virginia on Saturday. In the five straight games North Carolina has lost, it has only scored more than 10 goals on one occasion.

"We certainly helped (Virginia)," Klarmann said. "Virginia played an excellent game, and we didn't."

"But you're never as good or as bad as the score indicates."

Defense has been the Achilles' heel for the Tar Heels, as North Carolina has been outscored 66-40 during the losing streak. The Cavaliers reeled off 55 shots against the Tar Heel defense on Saturday night.

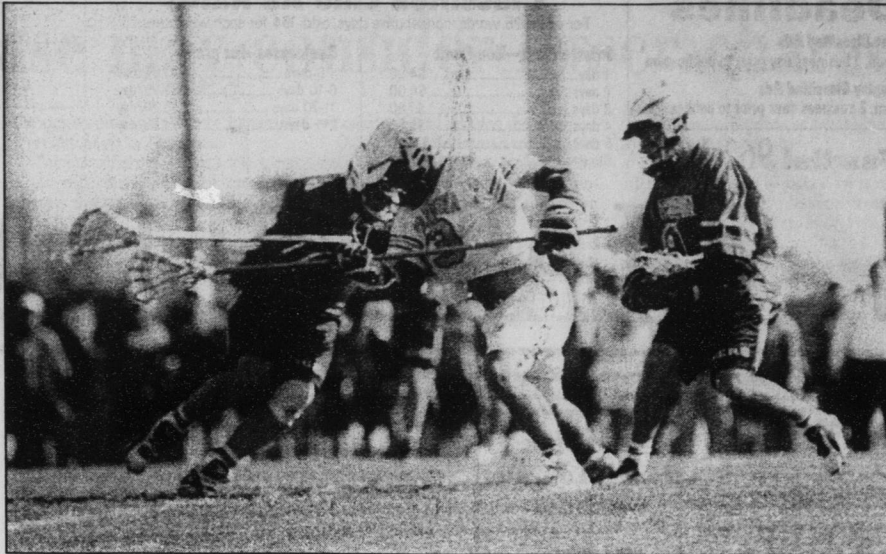
Making matters worse, North Carolina's leading scorers — Spencer Deering, Merrill Turnbull and Chase Martin — have only scored four goals combined in the Tar Heels' last two games.

"We have a lot of young guys," Klarmann said. "New minutes for new faces helps them, though it may not show right now."

Klarmann, who hasn't had a losing



Senior attackman **MERRILL TURNBULL** leads a UNC scoring attack that averages 10 goals per game.



DTH/AMY CAPPELLO

UNC defender Peter Murphy (13) goes head-to-head with a Princeton player in the Tar Heels' 10-9 loss March 16. Murphy has 22 take-aways this season, but UNC has struggled on defense, allowing 11.9 goals per game.

season at North Carolina in his six years as head coach, said the winless streak, as bitter as it has been, could produce positive benefits for his younger Tar Heel players.

"They need to get the feeling of being humiliated," he said. "Hopefully, they'll learn from that experience."

Radford (3-6) brings a balanced, yet sometimes ineffective, attack to Chapel Hill.

Led by B.J. Forte's 10 goals and David Benes' 10 goals and eight assists, the Highlanders are averaging only 9.4 goals per game.

The Tar Heels have allowed 11.9

goals per game on defense while averaging 10 a game on the offensive end.

"We hope to start winning," Klarmann said.

"We want to beat Radford, beat Delaware, beat VMI and hopefully get some momentum heading into the ACCs."

Women golfers grab lead in tourney

STAFF REPORT

North Carolina women's golf coach Sally Austin and her squad hoped Sunday to be within striking distance of the leader heading into today's final round of the Duke Spring Invitational in Durham.

But on Monday, the Tar Heels did more than accomplish their goal — they overtook Tennessee, who led North Carolina by seven strokes after the first round. The Tar Heels fired a team total of 303 to grab a one-stroke lead over the Volunteers and a two-shot advantage over Wake Forest at the par-73 Duke Golf Club.

North Carolina was led by Staci Aber, who carded a one-over-par 74 on Monday to go with her 76 in the first round. Aber is currently tied for fifth place in the individual medalist competition.

Memphis' Amanda Moltke-Leth followed her first-round 69 with a 75 on

Monday, but she still maintains the lead by four strokes over Laura Thijsse of Coastal Carolina.

The Demon Deacons' Sonia Bauer and Duke's Amanda Loewen are knotted at third after firing two-day totals of 149.

The next highest Tar Heel behind Aber is Kelly McCall, whose 76 on Monday gave her sole possession of 11th place. North Carolina's Marcy Newton and Patricia White each turned in an 80 in the second round, good for a tie at 17th place.

Megan Morgan made the Tar Heels'



UNC golfer **STACI ABER** is tied for fifth after firing a second-round 74 on Monday.

most impressive rebound from Sunday to Monday, firing a 74 in the second round after carding an 84 on the first day of competition. North Carolina's Lee Shirley (two-day total of 163), Jenny Jones (169) and Sara Levin (178) rounded out the Tar Heel contingent on Monday.

In the team competition, Memphis was in fourth place, 10 strokes off North Carolina's pace. Duke, which trails the Tar Heels by 13 shots, is the only other squad within 20 shots of UNC.

Only one golfer in the tournament — Moltke-Leth — managed to score below 70 in Sunday's blustery first round. But the players also had to battle rock-hard greens and fast putting surfaces Sunday.

And although the area got some rain on Sunday afternoon, players still didn't tame the course in the second round. Scores remained high Monday.

The tournament concludes this afternoon.

Alomar hears boos, signs autographs in return to Orioles' lineup

■ The Baltimore second baseman was suspended for spitting on an umpire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Boored when he was introduced and when he came to bat, Roberto Alomar returned to baseball Monday.

The Baltimore Orioles second baseman was playing for the first time since completing a five-game suspension for spitting in the face of umpire John Hirschbeck last season.

The autograph hounds sought out Alomar before the game, but he received a less hospitable reception when his name was announced over the public address system at the Kansas City Royals' home opener.

The booing picked up for his first at-bat. Alomar, hitting second, sacrificed after Brady Anderson's leadoff double. Anderson scored on a sacrifice fly by Rafael Palmeiro. Alomar started at second base, playing on a sprained ankle that he said was almost healed.

He spent nearly 10 minutes before batting practice signing about two

dozen autographs for about a 100 fans around the third-base dugout. They seemed to have put aside the September spitting episode that polarized players and umpires and discouraged fans already upset about baseball's labor problems.

"He was wrong, but there is not a person around who hasn't made a mistake," said Jeremy Earl, 16, who landed an Alomar autograph.

"Forgive and forget," said Chris Bell, 22, who had a game program signed by Alomar.

When Alomar left, those who did not get autographs were understanding.

"I appreciate your taking the time, Mr. Alomar," said one. "Thank you very much, Mr. Alomar," said another.

Alomar rejoined the Orioles after an extended stay in Florida to treat his ankle. He had hurt himself stumbling on stairs in his apartment building in

Baltimore, then aggravated the injury before spring training in a charity basketball game.

He received about 15 minutes of treatment on the ankle before the game, and the ankle was heavily taped.

Alomar declined to talk about the suspension as he dressed in the clubhouse before batting practice.

When pressed about how he felt to finally play again, Alomar tried to deflect the questions.

"I just try to go out there and play my game," he said. "If you worry too much about things, you can't do the best you can."

Orioles manager Davey Johnson supported his second baseman.

"I know he's going to be sensitive about it," Johnson said. "I know he's going to hear things. I told him when they didn't have emotion, that's when he has to worry."

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