The Daily Tar Reel

SPORTS

Tar Heels struggle to find net Puckett injured in single-car accident when playing with extra man THE ASSOCIATED PRESS MOUNDS VIEW, Minn. - Kirby MOUNDS VIEW, Minn. — Kirby Puckett, forced to retire from baseball in 1996 after glaucoma left him blind in his right eye, sustained cuts on his arm and head in a one-vehicle rollover accident north of Minneapolis. The crash occurred shortly before 1:30 p.m. Sunday on Interstate 35-W near Mounds View. The former Minnesota star, who was driving. was returning with his father-in-BY DAVE ALEXANDER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR There are plenty of statistics that explain the struggles of the North Carolina men's lacrosse team during the

1998 season: The Tar Heels' schedule, for instance, pits them against six of the top seven teams in the country. UNC has amassed a 1-5 record against those teams.

Or the fact that the Tar Heels are a relatively young team, playing only three seniors in regular rotation compared with eight freshmen and sopho-mores, adds to the difficulty. But UNC's difficulties can also be

linked to one particularly critical area of

opportunities, a 28 percent success rate. Their opponents, on the other hand,

Virginia (4-3), UNC capitalized in just one of six extra-man situations. Though the Cavs were penalized six times for a total of five minutes, UNC fired only five shots against goalkeeper Chris Sanderson, several of which were either

soach Dave Klarmann said. Sometimes the best play is to move the coach ball to the next man, especially on extraman offense.

On the one occasion in which a UNC man-up situation translated into a goal against UVa., the Tar Heels used crisp, rapid ball movement to find fresh-man attacker Jeff Sonke open left of the crease for a point-blank conversion.

But on each of its remaining five penalty opportunities, UNC seemed overly deliberate, often spending more time setting up its offense than going to the net or looking for shots. UNC also surrendered a short-handed goal to Cav midfeider Drew Melchiconi midfielder Drew Melchionn

Twelve of North Carolina's 14 extraman goals have come in its four most impressive results — wins against Navy, Loyola and Dartmouth and a 12-111 ss to top-ranked Maryland.

UNC's ineffiency against UVa., how-ever, contributed in its lowest goal out-put since 1989. After hammering home

the game - extra-man situations In 1998, the Tar Heels (3-6) have managed to score on 15 of 53 man-up have converted over 40 percent (18 of 44) of chances with a man advantage. In Saturday's 15-4 loss to No. 6

off target or easily saved. "We didn't take the right shot," UNC

Virginia in the Tar Heels' 15-4 loss to the Cavs at Fetzer Field on Saturday.

three goals in the first period, the Tar Heels went more than 46 minutes with just one score

"You can't get shut out in lacrosse," Klarmann said. " ... Lacrosse is not a shutout game. We went 45 minutes and scored one goal. That's very rare. That doesn't happen in college much."

UNC adds to '98 slate

The Tar Heels have added another contest to their 1998 schedule. UNC will face off with Ohio State on Wednesday,

April 29 at 2:30 p.m.in Columbus, Ohio. The Buckeyes are coached by former UNC All-American defenseman Joe Breschi (Class of 1990).

Breschi received first-team All-America honors in 1990 and honorable mention recognition in 1989. He was an All-ACC performer in '89 and '90, both years in which the Tar Heels won the

conference championship. North Carolina holds a 2-0 all-time record against OSU. The two schools last met in 1989, a 29-1 UNC victory.

24 Chinese athletes punished for drug offenses

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS BEIJING - Twenty-four Chinese athletes committed drug offenses in 1997, and they and their coaches were punished, sports officials said Monday.

Thirteen of those caught were from track and field, and the others were from weightlifting, wrestling, boxing, cycling and boating, the Xinhua News Agency said, quoting the Chinese Olympic

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ommittee's anti-doping commission. The best-known athlete was female long jumper Xiong Qiying, the gold medalist at China's National Games last October, Xinhua said.



driving, was returning with his father-in-law from a fishing trip, Twins spokesman Dave St. Peter said. Puckett was held for observation at Fairview-Southdale Hospital in Edina and was released before 8 a.m. Monday,

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a nursing supervisor said. His father-in-law was not hospitalized. St. Peter said the sport-utility vehicle rolled over two or three times, but the cause of the accident was unknown. The Minnesota State Patrol was investi-The Minnesota State Patrol was investi-

gating. Dr. Tom Samuelson, a glaucoma spe-cialist who has treated Puckett, said the former player, who played his entire career with the Twins, can see well enough to drive safely.

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