

## Men's Golf Finishes 7th In Tourney

Tar Heels Ted Haley, Don Hill, Brad Hyler and Rob Simmons all won against Arizona State on Monday.

Staff Report

The North Carolina men's golf team finished seventh at the Rolex National Intercollegiate Match Play Team Championships in Vero Beach, Fla., on Monday.

The Tar Heels came out ahead of Arizona State 4.5-0.5 in the seventh-place round.

Four Tar Heel golfers - Don Hill, Brad Hyler, Ted Haley and Rob Simmons - won their matches Monday, while UNC's Max Harris halved his match with Arizona State's Brad Cannon.

Georgia captured the team event by defeating Clemson 3-2, while South Carolina beat Arizona 4.5-0.5 to take fifth place.

The Tar Heels lost their first two matches of the tournament on Sunday.

UNC lost to Clemson in the first round 3.5-1.5, as Tar Heel Brad Hyler beat the Tigers' Michael Hoey.

UNC also dropped a second-round match to South Carolina 4.5-0.5.

The 54-hole event was played at Indian River Club, which features a par 72, 6,608-yard layout.

# UNC Front Four Shines Against FSU

North Carolina's defensive line recorded four sacks and helped limit Florida State to 75 yards rushing Saturday.

By M. LEE TAFT  
Senior Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - While the North Carolina secondary was fighting a losing battle with Florida State's receivers in Saturday's 39-13 loss at Doak Campbell Stadium, the Tar Heel defensive line played perhaps its best game of the season.

UNC's defensive line recorded 15 tackles - four of them for lost yardage - and also recorded four sacks for a total of 47 yards.

UNC held FSU's high-octane rushing attack to just 75 yards on the ground - half of its average for the season and easily the lowest total this year.

FSU's Travis Minor, who averaged 4.7 yards per carry coming into the game, was held to an average of 3.2 yards per attempt.

The 75 ground yards were also well below the 118.8 UNC's opponents had averaged each contest this year.

"They were giving us everything they had," Minor said. "They are a good defense, and that's what we expected. It was a good test for us."

The defensive front also put the pressure on Seminole quarterback Chris Weinke. Weinke, who threw for 338 yards and two touchdowns on a 15-of-27 performance, was sacked four times by

the Tar Heels. The Seminoles had allowed an average of only 2.25 sacks per contest.

"I think (the defensive line) has played pretty well the last few games," UNC coach Carl Torbush said. "We had a chance to get him sacked three or four more times, and he was able to get off and make a play because of it."

The Tar Heels started the game with high pressure, sacking Weinke on the first series of the game. Senior tackle Marcus Dow wrapped up Weinke on a third-and-10 from FSU's own 23, forcing FSU to punt.

"We felt we did the things we wanted to do up front," UNC defensive end Mike Pringley said. "We wanted to put pressure on Weinke. We wanted to make him hold it a little bit, make him think a little bit."

Pringley recorded two sacks on Weinke, one late in the second quarter for a loss of 10 yards, the other in the fourth quarter for a loss of nine yards.

Weinke said he was impressed with the pressure the Tar Heels brought.

"They've got one of the best defensive fronts we've played this season, but we stuck with what we were doing," Weinke said.



Senior defensive end Ebenezer Ekuban had one sack on Saturday and leads UNC with seven this season.

"We made a couple of adjustments at halftime and started moving the pocket by rolling out. We got more time that way."

But the Tar Heels seemed to do just fine after FSU's adjustments. Senior defensive end Ebenezer Ekuban recorded the Tar Heels' other sack on the Seminoles' first possession of the second half. The hit marked Ekuban's team-leading seventh sack of the season.

But the UNC front line did have some miscues. After tackling Minor for a loss of two yards and receiving a holding penalty, the Tar Heels had FSU facing a third-and-38 situation from its own 45 in the first quarter.

On the next play, Ekuban got through the FSU O-line and gave chase to Weinke. But Ekuban failed to pull down Weinke, who hit wide receiver Laveranues Coles for a 42-yard bomb, giving FSU the ball at the UNC 13.

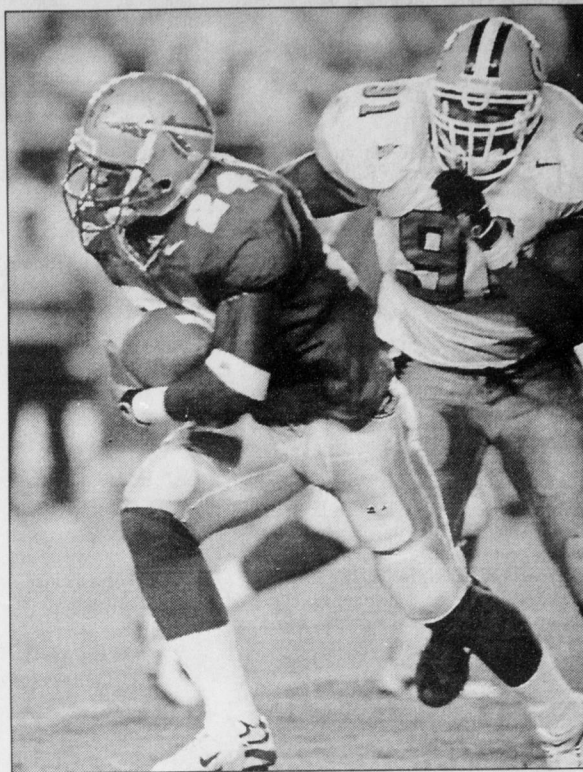
"You pull your heart out on those first two downs, and you give them a play on third-and-long, it takes the air out of you like taking the air out of a cushion or a ball," Pringley said.

"You can't give a team like Florida State those kind of opportunities."

Despite the solid effort from UNC's first line of defense, FSU was too strong and came through too many times on too many big plays for the Tar Heels to recover.

"We made some big plays," Pringley said. "Obviously we didn't make enough big plays."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.



UNC defensive end Mike Pringley pursues tailback Jeff Chaney in FSU's 39-13 win Saturday. Pringley had two sacks in the game.

# Tar Heels Jump-Start Offense in Weekend ACC Wins

By JOE DISNEY  
Staff Writer

While the North Carolina volleyball team has been winning consistently in the ACC, its offense has been inconsistent at times.

For example, in the Tar Heels' first match against Wake Forest on Oct. 16, UNC hit at a woeful .140 pace en route to its first loss of the season against ACC competition.

But last weekend, the trio of Shannon Smith, Casey Simpson and Tori Seibert had the offense running efficiently during victories against Duke and Wake.

And as the Tar Heels face the final stretch before the ACC and NCAA tournaments, the production of the trio bodes well for the future.

"I think we are working real well, and practice has been really good," Simpson said. "Everybody's working in and doing what the coaches tell us to do, and I think it's all going to work out real well."

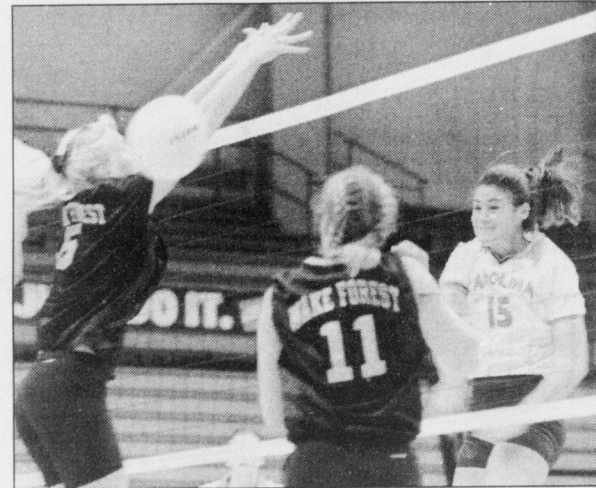
Smith was ready to play this weekend, leading the Tar Heels with 27 kills combined against Duke and Wake Forest. She helped her conference-leading hitting percentage with a .433 mark versus the Deacons.

Smith and Seibert teamed up to dominate on defense this weekend, combining for 18 total blocks in wins against Duke and Wake.

"The combination of Tori Seibert and Smith, what more can you say," UNC coach Joe Sagula said. "Tori's all over the place, and Shannon's all over the place. We have some good balance I think."

In fact, the duo has been the center of a retooling offense.

"Our new game plan is at the beginning of the game to focus on me and Tori because we are the strong middles in the conference, and we feel like we will dominate the middle," Smith said. "Then in the mid game, (Sagula) goes



North Carolina middle hitter Shannon Smith blasts a kill past two Wake Forest blockers in the Tar Heels' 3-0 sweep on Saturday.

to the outsides like Casey, Asa (Gustavsson) and Maya (Starks). And in the end, he goes back to us to mix it up. It has been working real well for us."

One of the Tar Heels' most effective offensive weapons is the slide play with either Seibert or Smith.

"It's a slide that we run wide near the antenna, but we also run one tight right behind the middle blocker," Sagula said. "It's so fast often that it catches them by surprise."

Although the offense has shifted toward the play of Seibert and Smith, Simpson forced her way into the Tar Heel attack with her play this weekend.

Coming into the weekend, Simpson wasn't even sure she would play at all after missing a week of practice with a pinched nerve in her elbow.

"I didn't know if I was going to play or not, but it worked out where I was

okay, and I was really confident when I got in there," Simpson said.

Simpson only saw limited time in the Duke match, coming in during the third game, but she immediately proved her influence, connecting on all seven of her kill opportunities.

Simpson continued her attack against Wake Forest, tying for the team lead in kills (13) with Smith.

"We're gonna figure out the way to tape up (Simpson's) elbow all the time if she's gonna hit that way," Sagula said.

"I'm not exactly sure what or why, but I'm really excited for her that she could come off with two days, with some rest, and come on and play this well. The team needs it, she needs it - it's just great for her confidence."

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# Berg Setting UNC Up for Postseason

By RACHEL CARTER  
Staff Writer

North Carolina senior setter Erin Berg has volleyball in her blood.

Her father, Dennis, played the game at the University of California at Santa Barbara and currently coaches the game.

Berg's sister, Lindsay, is a freshman starter and setter for 25th-ranked Minnesota.

It's no wonder that Berg attributes her success as a setter to her knowledge of the game.

"Setting's one of those things that if you know the game real well, then you have an advantage," Berg said.

Berg has been the Tar Heels' most consistent threat at setter in her four-year career. The four-year starter has 5,276 assists for her career and has her sight set on breaking former UNC setter Sherri Vogel's record of 5,513 career assists.

"(The record) would be a great thing, and I'd love to (break) it," Berg said. "The way we're playing this year and the way my hitters are playing great this year, I have a really good chance to make it."

Berg is also on pace to break Vogel's career assists-per-game record, which stands at 10.94.

Having a good setter like Berg is critical to the success of a volleyball team, UNC coach Joe Sagula said.

"It is absolutely important," he said. "Like in basketball, if you have a point guard that's outstanding, then that team can function really well."

"Berg came in as a freshman with the experience of an upperclassman, and she just expanded that. Physically, she's gotten stronger. She's always had a

knack for the game."

Berg has been breaking records ever since her freshman year. In 1995, she had 83 assists in a match against Arkansas State, the most ever for a UNC setter.

But records aside, Berg considers the success of the team her most important concern.

"This season, what's important is how well we're doing and that we're winning," Berg said.

"Everyone's competing a lot harder. Everyone is being more intense."

It shows. This year, the Tar Heels have jumped out to a 22-5 record and are on pace for their first NCAA tournament bid since 1989.

Sagula gives Berg a lot of credit for the UNC's turnaround. He said she's improved technically throughout her career and has gotten physically stronger and more mature.

"Erin Berg has been an outstanding contributor to this program," he said.

That maturity has turned into leadership.

Berg says being a leader comes with



Senior setter Erin Berg has accumulated 5,276 assists during her career at North Carolina.

the territory.

"Leadership is absolutely important - being able to fire people up, being able to direct and focus a team," Sagula said.

Sagula also stresses consistency, something Berg has possessed throughout her career.

"Being a good setter is like what they say in real estate - location is everything," he said. "You've got to put the ball in the right location. A setter who can hit the same spot time and time again is worth a million-dollar home."

But one million dollars isn't close to the value Berg places on volleyball.

Though she is nearing the end of her tenure as a Tar Heel setter, she'll still remain involved with the team as an undergraduate assistant next year.

"Erin Berg loves volleyball," Sagula said. "She brings that passion into the game for herself and her team, and people see that."

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# Nervo, UNC Women 2nd at ACCs

Staff Report

The North Carolina women's cross country team finished second in Monday's ACC Championships in Charlottesville, Va.

Paced by junior Trish Nervo, who came in second place individually, the Tar Heels (65 points) trailed only defending champion N.C. State (32). Wake Forest (75) was third.

Nervo earned All-ACC recognition for the second consecutive year, completing the course in 17:17.2 - 11 seconds

behind Wake's Janelle Kraus. "Trish ran an outstanding race," UNC coach Michael Whittlesey said. "She was really focused."

Including Nervo, the Tar Heels boasted five of the race's top 18 finishers. Juniors Julie Smith and Heather Tanner finished 13th and 15th, respectively - just in front of senior Rebecca Walker (17th) and sophomore Kim Timberlake (18th).

UNC came in fifth place in the men's race with 121 points, trailing N.C. State (26), Duke (75), Clemson (94) and

Virginia (101).

Nick Winkel finished ninth for the Tar Heels to achieve All-ACC status, but the day did not go as well as expected for the UNC men.

"Unfortunately, the men struggled today," Whittlesey said. "However, we did have some solid performances from Nick Winkel and Nick Iauco."

Iauco came in 27th place and was UNC's third finisher, coming in behind senior Bill Jackson (21st).

Brendan Rogers of N.C. State claimed the individual title.

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