



Tar Heel Assaf Drori dropped a 7-5, 6-2 decision to Texas' Michael Blue on Saturday before clinching UNC's victory against Purdue on Sunday.

Tar Heels Boil Purdue With Decisive Victory

BY BRET STRELOW
Assistant Sports Editor

North Carolina senior Assaf Drori had Sunday's match against Purdue on the strings of his racket not once, but twice.

The second opportunity proved to be UNC's charm.

Drori, fresh off missing a chance to close out his match against Purdue's Derek Miller at No. 5 singles, held serve to capture a 7-5, 2-6, 7-5 win and propel UNC to a 4-3 victory.

With Drori preparing to serve at 5-4 in the third, Purdue's Andrew Wakefield finished off his three-set win against UNC's Chad Riley to tie the match a 3-3.

Drori owned two match points, but Miller broke to even the match at five apiece. Drori came back to break Miller's serve in the 11th game of the set.

Drori then closed out the match when Miller knocked a forehand wide at 40-30. "For him to break me when I'm serving for the match, I needed to make him beat me," Drori said. "I just tried to keep the ball in the court and find an opportunity."

UNC (3-1) got the ball rolling with No. 3 David Cheatwood's 6-4, 6-4 win

against Laith Al-Agba.

Cheatwood, who lost only one service game, broke Al-Agba twice at 5-4 to capture each set.

"I noticed in doubles that (Al-Agba and Scott Mayer) got a little tight when it got close," Cheatwood said. "I wanted to put a lot of pressure on him when he was serving at 4-5."

North Carolina handled the pressure points on Sunday much better than it did in Saturday's 6-1 loss to No. 20 Texas.

Four of the six singles matches went to three sets, and UNC forced the Longhorns into three tiebreakers.

But Texas won all three, including Brandon Hawk's 9-7 third-set decision to knock off UNC senior Tripp Phillips.

"It was close yesterday, and we didn't execute exactly like we wanted to do," UNC coach Sam Paul said. "We talked about that, and today we did a lot better."

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

Men's Tennis	
Purdue3
UNC4
Texas6
UNC1



UNC junior David Cheatwood closed out each set of his 6-4, 6-4 win at No. 3 by breaking Laith Al-Agba's serve.

Top-Ranked Crimson Tide Rolls Past UNC

UNC junior Brooke Wilson posted a score of 38.850 in the all-around competition, good enough for fifth place.

North Carolina's gymnastics team lost to No. 1 Alabama 196.100-191.300 on Friday in front of a crowd of more than 8,000 fans.

"Our team was focused, enthusiastic," UNC coach Derrick Galvin said. "They really performed well, and the crowd responded."

North Carolina junior Brooke Wilson scored a 38.850 in the all-around competition to finish in fifth place. Alabama sophomore Andree Pickens, ranked first nationally in the all-around, won the title with a score of 39.575.

Wilson finished fourth in the floor exercise, tied for fourth on the balance beam and tied for fifth in both the vault and bars.

Julie Pasqualini placed seventh in the bars and eighth in the floor exercise, and Monica Middleton finished eighth in both the vault and balance beam.

The Tar Heels will compete at Carmichael Auditorium for the first time

this weekend ON THE ROAD

this season on Feb. 18. UNC takes on James Madison at 7 p.m.

Sesay Leads UNC Track

North Carolina junior Ola Sesay placed second in the long jump Saturday at the Kroger Invitational in Blacksburg, Va., with an NCAA provisional qualifying mark of 20 feet, 3 inches.

Sesay also finished 13th in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.92.

Trish Nervo finished fourth in the mile in 4:58.72, and Kim Timberlake placed third in the 3,000 meters in 10:08.11.

In the relays, the Tar Heels finished second in the 4 x 800 meters with a time of 9:15.39 and fourth in the 4 x 400 with a time of 3:47.40.

The distance medley relay team won its event in 11:44.46 on Friday.

Freshman Jill Pedretti, who finished fourth in the shot put Friday, placed sixth Saturday with a throw of 45-5 1/4.

The Tar Heel men dominated the shot put, claiming three of the top four spots. Sophomore Ian Douglas led the

way, winning the event with a mark of 58-8 1/2.

Sal Gigante and John Ridgway followed in third and fourth. UNC also won the 4-x-800-meter relay with a time of 7:37.76.

Brent Callaway finished fifth in the pole vault by clearing 17-0 3/4.

The Tar Heels will compete in the ACC Indoor Championships in Blacksburg on Feb. 18 and 19.



UNC junior Ola Sesay finished second in the long jump at the Kroger Invitational in Blacksburg, Va.

6-1, 6-2 at No. 5 singles.

UNC dropped its first dual match of the season in a 5-4 loss to 22nd-ranked Kentucky on Saturday.

Mejia defeated Carolina Mayorga 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles, and senior Jessica Zaganczyk beat Sarah Witten 6-4, 6-2 at No. 2 singles.

Niebling captured a three-set victory at No. 6 against Lauren Rookledge, and the doubles tandem of Zaganczyk and freshman Kendrick Bunn defeated Rookledge and Amy Trefethen 9-7.

"We let one slip away from us," UNC coach Roland Thornqvist said. "We had some extraordinary opportunities to take a big lead in singles."

The Heels return to action Feb. 17, when they host Richmond at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center at 5 p.m.

Women Fencers Get Sweep in Durham

Women's Tennis Drops Pair on Road

The North Carolina women's tennis team dropped its second consecutive match on Sunday, falling 6-3 to No. 14 Tennessee.

Marlene Mejia and Erin Niebling accounted for all three of UNC's wins. Mejia defeated Alison Ojeda 6-2, 6-0 at No. 1 singles and teamed with Niebling for a 8-5 win at No. 1 doubles.

Niebling knocked off Candy Reid

The UNC women's fencing team swept the competition at the Duke Invitational in Durham on Saturday.

The Tar Heels defeated Brandeis, M.I.T., Duke, Ohio State and Air Force.

The North Carolina men's team finished 3-2 on Friday, defeating Brandeis, Ohio State and Air Force.

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