

Phillips Bucks Trend As Tar Heels Net Split

By TED KEITH
Staff Writer

North Carolina men's tennis coach Sam Paul was distressed by his team's inability to "manage pressure and finish matches" after Friday's 5-2 loss to No. 17 Texas A&M.

Senior Tripp Phillips had no such problems Saturday, spearheading UNC's 6-1 win against Brown at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center.

Phillips' 6-4, 6-2 win was one of five singles victories against the Bears, and the Tar Heels swept the doubles competition. Senior Assaf Drori won the day's only three-set match, rallying for a 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 win against Nick Malon.

While Drori struggled, Phillips, UNC's No. 1 singles player, cruised to victory against Justin Natale. Phillips' calm demeanor and amazing court coverage frustrated Natale and kept the sec-

ond set from becoming interesting. "I knew I wanted to close it out early in the second set. I've been up and down with that," Phillips said. "I wanted to finish him and make sure he didn't come back."

Phillips used a powerful baseline game to dictate the tempo of the match and leave Natale muttering to himself. Trailing 30-0 and 4-1 in the second set, Natale screamed, "I'm done."

"He's just a freshman, so he still gets frustrated by little things," Phillips said. "I knew if I could get inside his head, he'd give me some points." Phillips' win came on the heels of a grueling 3-6, 7-6, 7-5 victory against Texas A&M's Shoun Madden on Friday. "It was a grind, but I think it will really help us down the line," Phillips said. Paul admitted his team was gunning for Texas A&M and was not sure how it would handle two matches in two days. Said Paul, "This group fights, it's a tough group to play."

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Tar Heels Dominate JMU Grapplers

UNC senior Jamie Groudle won a highly contested match in the last home meet of his Tar Heel career.

By ADAM D. HILL
Staff Writer

Coming into Saturday night's meet, James Madison had not beaten North Carolina since before any member of the present Tar Heel wrestling squad had been born.

UNC didn't want that streak to be broken this season, especially not on Senior Night.

With three Tar Heels participating in their final grappling event in Carmichael Auditorium, UNC provided an emotional effort and cruised past James Madison 26-8.

"I guess I really didn't realize it until after it was over. It is kind of just starting to hit me," senior Jamie Groudle said of his final match in Chapel Hill. "I had a

tight match tonight. Maybe I didn't wrestle my best tonight, but I'll take the win."

Like Groudle, coach Bill Lam was pleased with the team's effort.

"I thought we did a good job tonight," Lam said. "It was an emotional night for the kids, and I'm happy for them to get a win tonight."

Groudle and with fellow seniors Jason LaMotta and Rusty Lee - neither of whom wrestled because of injuries - were honored before the meet began and presented with silver mugs.

The Dukes, however, didn't plan on letting North Carolina revel in the Senior Night festivities for long.

James Madison stuck with the Tar Heels through the initial stages of the meet, and after four bouts UNC held a slim 8-5 lead.



UNC junior Corey Bell shut out James Madison's Nathan Rickman 5-0 on Saturday.

It was at that point, however, that Groudle took the mat, winning an emotional match that propelled the Tar Heels to victory.

Groudle jumped out to an early 2-0 lead on JMU's Seth Cameron with a takedown. Cameron scored a reversal seconds later, knotting the score at 2-2. Groudle then tallied an escape but allowed Cameron to post a takedown, giving Cameron a 4-3 lead with only 33 seconds remaining in the bout.

Groudle, however, scored a key escape with 24 seconds left and garnered a 5-4 victory by virtue of riding time.

Groudle's victory put the Tar Heels up 11-5, and they never looked back.

The night was filled with big performances, but perhaps the most impressive was Skyler Holman's. The redshirt freshman, who is currently ranked No. 8 nationally in the 125-pound weight class, exploded past JMU's Chris Combs 15-0 in less than two periods, scoring a technical fall.

"For a freshman, he is wrestling unbelievable," Lam said. "I think he can be an All-American as a freshman and, if he gets a break, be a high placer at the

nationals."

Holman was not the only Tar Heel to wrestle well, however.

Junior Corey Bell shut out JMU's Nathan Rickman 5-0, while heavy-weight Matt Kenny plowed past D.J. Hockman 13-4 in the evening's most physical match.

"I thought everybody wrestled great tonight," Groudle said. "Everybody really got after it, and everyone fought the whole time."

"I was really proud to be part of this team tonight."

While UNC performed wonderfully against James Madison, the Tar Heels will now be faced with a much stiffer brand of competition. On March 4, North Carolina will journey to College Park, Md., to grapple in the ACC tournament.

"We are tired, we are looking forward to training, and we're looking forward to the tournament," Lam said. "I'm sure (N.C.) State is favored going into it, but we are the defending champions, and we are going back and trying to defend it."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

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gave us tremendous juice in the second half. We don't win without Friel."

Meanwhile, the Tar Heels, who shot 43.3 percent in the game, connected on just two field goals in five minutes during that stretch. Owens hit two from the charity stripe to cut the lead to 10 with 3:40 to go, but Virginia forward Travis Watson's subsequent bucket turned the rest of the game into a hack-fest.

"I don't think you can blame (the loss) on the layoff," UNC coach Bill Guthridge said of his team's eight-day break since playing Wake Forest. "... (Friel) really broke our back - those were three key 3s. We didn't have any answers for them."

Bersticker Will Redshirt

UNC junior Brian Bersticker, who had surgery in December after fracturing a bone in his left foot, announced Sunday he will apply for a medical redshirt at the end of the season. Bersticker averaged 5.0 points and 2.8 boards in UNC's first five games this season.

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Virginia 90, UNC 76

Box Score

Virginia	46	44	90
UNC	33	43	76

Virginia (90)	fg	ft	reb	a	pf	tp	
min	38	00	44	1	4	9	
Williams	5-15	5-6	0-12	7	8	16	
T. Watson	6-12	2-3	3-11	0	4	18	
Hand	3-12	7-10	1-4	6	1	15	
Mason	3-8	1-2	1-2	0	3	9	
Map	2-5	4-8	0-0	2	1	8	
Conley	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	
Dersch	4-2	1-1	1-1	0	2	5	
Friel	4-5	2-2	0-0	0	2	11	
Total	200	21-49	22-32	15-36	18	23	90

Percentages - FG: 43.3, FT: 58.8, 3-point goals - 6-16, 37.5 (Hand 0-2, Williams 1-2, Hand 2-5, Mason 0-2, Map 0-1, Friel 3-4). Team rebounds - 3 Blocked shots - 5 (Williams 2, Mason, Dorsch, Friel). Turnovers - 8 (T. Watson 3, Mason 2, Hand, Hand, Williams). Steals - 11 (Hand 3, Dersch 2, Hand 2, Williams 2, Mason, T. Watson).

UNC (76)	fg	ft	reb	a	pf	tp	
min	25	2-8	2-3	2-7	0	1	6
Capel	5-7	1-2	2-2	3-9	2	5	17
Haywood	2-5	3-4	2-4	0	2	10	
Forte	1-5	1-3	2-6	4	3	12	
Cota	3-9	4-4	2-5	4	4	11	
Peppers	1-1	2-2	1-4	0	3	4	
Owens	1-5	2-6	4-0	0	2	10	
Holmes	3-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	
Newby	4-0-3	1-2	1-2	1	0	1	
Melendez	4-2	0-0	2-2	0	1	4	
Everett	3-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0	
Johnson	3-0	0-1	0-1	0	1	0	
Total	200	28-40	20-27	15-41	11	23	76

Percentages - FG: 43.3, FT: 74.1, 3-point goals - 4-18, 22.2 (Capel 1-3, Forte 0-3, Cota 1-5, Owens 2-5, Holmes 0-1, Newby 0-2). Team rebounds - 1 Blocked shots - 2 (Haywood 2). Turnovers - 15 (Cota 6, Haywood 2, Capel, Everett, Forte, Johnson, Lipp, Melendez, Owens, Peppers). Steals - 5 (Capel 2, Cota, Forte, Peppers).

Technical fouls - Virginia (Dersch). Attendance - 21,972. Officials - Mike Wood, Larry Ross, John Cahill.

PRESSURE

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the press, but also setting up the offense. The Tar Heels couldn't move the ball fast enough to get ahead of the quick Virginia defenders.

"They had a good scheme not letting Ed get the ball," UNC guard Joseph Forte said. "We suffered on the offensive end because of it. That hurt us a lot."

As the Cavaliers' lead swelled to as many as 18 points in the second half despite fewer UNC turnovers, UNC's inability to score became even more apparent. The Tar Heels went without a field goal for 4:46 midway through the second half.

And with the North Carolina offense lacking, the impact of Virginia's pressure-driven quick start was felt even in the late stages of the game.

"It was a good defensive effort (by Virginia)," UNC center Brendan Haywood said. "If we could've come out there and broken their pressure defense, it would've put them in a situation where maybe their confidence would've been broken a little bit."

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Men's Lacrosse Hangs on Against Fairfield

By MATT TERRY
Staff Writer

Fairfield attackman Spencer Steele found himself alone in front of the North Carolina goal with 15 seconds left in Sunday's men's lacrosse game.

For Steele, who had five goals already, No. 6 seemed to be a sure thing. But UNC goalie Kris Blindenbacher had other ideas.

Blindenbacher's biggest save of the day allowed the No. 10 Tar Heels to escape 12-11 against the Stags at Fetzer Field.

"I don't know how they got the ball down the field so fast," Blindenbacher said. "But I just turned, and (Steele's shot) hit me in the chest."

UNC (1-0) shouldn't have let it get

that close, however. Leading 9-5 with 5:08 remaining in the third quarter, UNC allowed Steele's third goal of the game. Mark Beckwith's extra-man goal with seven seconds remaining cut the Tar Heels' lead to 9-7 after three periods.

The Tar Heels extended the score to 12-10 after Mac Hammer slipped a shot past Geoff Champney with 1:11 left. But Steele scored his fifth 35 seconds later.

"I think that we let up a bit after we got the 9-5 cushion," UNC coach Dave Klarmann said. "It's a good lesson for us to learn - how to finish the game."

The Tar Heels didn't start the game very well, either. Although UNC took the early lead, it allowed Fairfield (0-1) to notch two extra-man goals, which tied the score 3-3 after one quarter.

More UNC penalties allowed the Stags to stay on the offensive and kept the Tar Heels from pushing forward.

"I thought we played well six-on-six," Blindenbacher said. "But we had a bunch of penalties, and they were pretty successful when we were a man down."

Even though the Tar Heels peppered the Stags' cage in the first half, they weren't getting rewarded on the scoreboard.

"We weren't shooting the ball well," said attackman Chase Martin, who scored twice. "I give all the credit to that goalie for keeping them in the game, but we couldn't finish our shots."

Trailing 5-3, UNC looked to Kyle Bell and Joel Miller. Each scored in the final minute of the half to tie the game.

Four players - Pat Jackson, Austin Garrison, Jeff Sonke and Peyton Chane - scored early in the third quarter to give UNC a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

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