

## UNC Men's Soccer Tops Virginia Tech In Exhibition Game

Senior forward Caleb Norkus scored a goal in UNC's 3-0 victory against Virginia Tech at the Raleigh WRAL Soccer Center on Saturday. The men's soccer season kicks off for real Friday in Birmingham, Ala. See Page 12



**BRET STRELOW**  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

## Mack Brown Should Have No Regrets

Jump on any Internet browser and type in mackbrown.com.

Go ahead, don't be afraid. There won't be any audio clips of Mack Brown complaining in a nasal tone that more fans should have come to see North Carolina's home finale against Duke in 1997.

You will quickly be routed to a different Web page, but it is one that ultimately represents who Brown is.

That site is the Texas Longhorns football page, presented by TexasSports.com.

A thumbnail of Brown pops up in the left corner of the page, and the look on Brown's face makes you think Mack Brown and Texas football are one and the same.

They are, you know. Brown has become as synonymous with the program as the white helmet with the burnt orange longhorn silhouette.

That wasn't the case when Brown took over as the Longhorns' head coach two years ago.

Texas Longhorn football meant Ricky Williams breaking long runs for touchdowns. It also meant expectations being swept to the wayside by memories of past glory.

The Longhorns struggled before Brown arrived in Austin, Texas. They went 4-7 in 1997 under former coach John Makovic.

Williams played for Brown for one season before he went on to greener artificial turf in the NFL after the 1998 season. His departure allowed Brown to focus on building his legacy at Texas around a team, not one dreadlocked individual.

Brown is well on his way. The Longhorns have gone 18-8 in his two seasons at the helm, including a 9-5 record without Williams a year ago. Texas has played in the Cotton Bowl each of the last two seasons.

Brown was hired with the intention of turning the Texas program back into the football power it was during the 1960s. He temporarily took North Carolina into the doldrums before making six consecutive bowl appearances.

He didn't coach in the final game of that streak because he had accepted the coaching position at Texas. That paved the way for the debut of new coach Carl Torbush, who watched from the coaches box as UNC beat Virginia Tech in the Gator Bowl.

Torbush has gone 10-13 since that game. That record looks draw-droppingly impressive compared to the mark Brown had in his first two years.

The Tar Heels went 5-6 in 1987 under Dick Crum, who was replaced by Brown after the season. Brown went 1-10 in each of his first two seasons at UNC before breaking through in 1990.

The Tar Heels went 6-4-1 and provided the only blemish on Georgia Tech's championship season with a 13-13 tie in Chapel Hill.

Six wins aren't exactly what Brown has in mind for his third season with the Longhorns. ESPN analyst Beano Cook thinks Texas will play in the Orange Bowl for the national title.

The Longhorns might just fulfill those expectations. But even if they don't, Texas fans don't need to reach for the panic button.

Brown has stockpiled enough talent in Austin that the Longhorns will return next year with similar hopes. And the next year. And the next one.

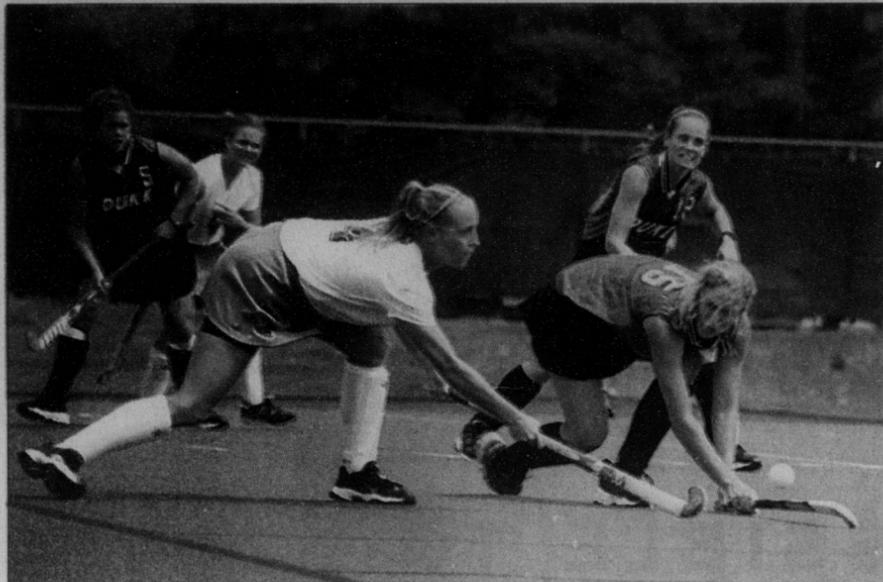
That is why Brown can look back and smile at the decision he made to leave UNC.

The Texas program needed just a little fine tuning. He has the talent to resurrect it into a title contender in the matter of a few seasons.

In contrast, the 10 years of hard work Brown put in at UNC were never enough to convince fans or pollsters that North Carolina should be on the football map with Florida State or Nebraska. Not even Texas.

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# Field Hockey Blanks Blue Devils in Opener



DTH/KATHERINE EAKER

UNC forward Abbey Woolley tries to take the ball away from Duke during the Tar Heels' 3-0 victory against the Blue Devils at Henry Stadium on Saturday. Woolley earned her first assist of the season on a Jana Toepel goal.

North Carolina capitalized on its sixth penalty corner opportunity to start a string of three goals in 10 minutes.

By RACHEL CARTER  
Assistant Sports Editor

It was only a matter of time. Duke goalkeeper Erica Perrier had been doing her best in the second half, deflecting shot after shot from the North Carolina field hockey team.

But her luck ran out as the Tar Heels got their first goal of the afternoon on a penalty corner conversion by midfielder Jana Toepel.

Toepel's goal got the Tar Heels on the board and led a UNC scoring charge of three goals inside of 10 minutes to defeat the Blue Devils 3-0 in front of 761 spectators at Henry Stadium on Saturday.

The goal came on UNC's sixth penalty corner attempt. And once UNC managed to convert the corner, momentum swung firmly to its side.

But UNC coach Karen Shelton was quick to point out that the score could have been very different.



"I told the team and (Duke coach Liz) Tchou that they had four breakaways, and had they capitalized a little bit more, they could have won the game 4-3," Shelton said.

One of those four breakaways was in the first half, when Duke's Robin Merritt seized a loose ball and raced to get inside the shooting circle.

UNC goalkeeper Amy Tran had ventured far out of the goal, watching the traffic at the midfield. But suddenly, with Merritt charging hard toward her, Tran was closer to the edge of the circle than to the goal.

Merritt shot, but Tran was able to deflect the ball and prevented Duke from getting on the board.

The first half had its share of Tar Heel miscues, which some players chalked up to opening-day nerves.

Toepel, who made her debut in the UNC midfield, said it took her some

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### Field Hockey

Duke	.....0
UNC	.....3

# Returning to Form

Former UNC track star Allen Johnson, who won four ACC titles, looks to repeat in the 110-meter hurdles at the Olympics in Sydney.

By T. NOLAN HAYES  
Sports Editor

Allen Johnson has never been a man interested in telling the world how good he is. He'd rather just show everyone.

That philosophy fits Johnson, who is quiet by nature, but it also might be the reason the world forgets about him.

Johnson is the best in the world at what he does — the 110-meter high hurdles — but he fails to get the same kind of respect that other stars in track and field receive.

Even his opponents overlook him. He doesn't engage in the verbal sparring that's become commonplace in the sprints and hurdles, so some people take that as a lack of confidence.

"People think just because I'm not loud and boisterous that I might be a weak individual or that it doesn't take much to knock me off," Johnson says. "But I'm a very fierce competitor."

Johnson's demeanor hasn't changed since his days at North Carolina, where he starred as a four-time All-American from 1990-93. Johnson amazed UNC coach Dennis Craddock with his behavior after he won the 1992 indoor NCAA championship in the 55-meter hurdles.

"I never will forget it. He didn't even do that," says Craddock, pumping his fist. "He just nodded his head."

Johnson has needed that quiet confidence in recent years. He was sidetracked by injuries during much of 1998 and 1999 and fell off the radar screen of elite track and field performers.

But he has returned with a vengeance this Olympic year. He won the third U.S. title of his career at the Olympic Trials in July, earning a trip to Sydney, Australia, for next month's Games.

Johnson, who won the 110 hurdles in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, will be the favorite to repeat. Only two men in history — Lee Calhoun (1956 and 1960) and Roger Kingdom (1984 and 1988) — have ever accomplished that feat.

But Johnson doesn't see the Olympic gold medal as something he can defend.

"I don't look at it as defending my Olympic title," he says. "I just look at it as going to the Olympics and then trying to advance each round. When it gets to the final, nobody else is going to care that I won in '96, and it doesn't matter to me."

"In four years, careers are made and broken in that time." Until his performance at the Trials, there were doubts as to whether Johnson's career would be one of those. He had endured injury problems since 1998, the year after he won his second World Championships title.

Johnson missed six months with a stress fracture he sustained in his pelvis and had trouble getting his rhythm back. He lost his dominance.

But Johnson began finding his top form in the summer of 1999, when he experienced one of the strangest days an athlete can have. That day in July is still a vivid memory for Johnson and his coach, Curtis Frye.

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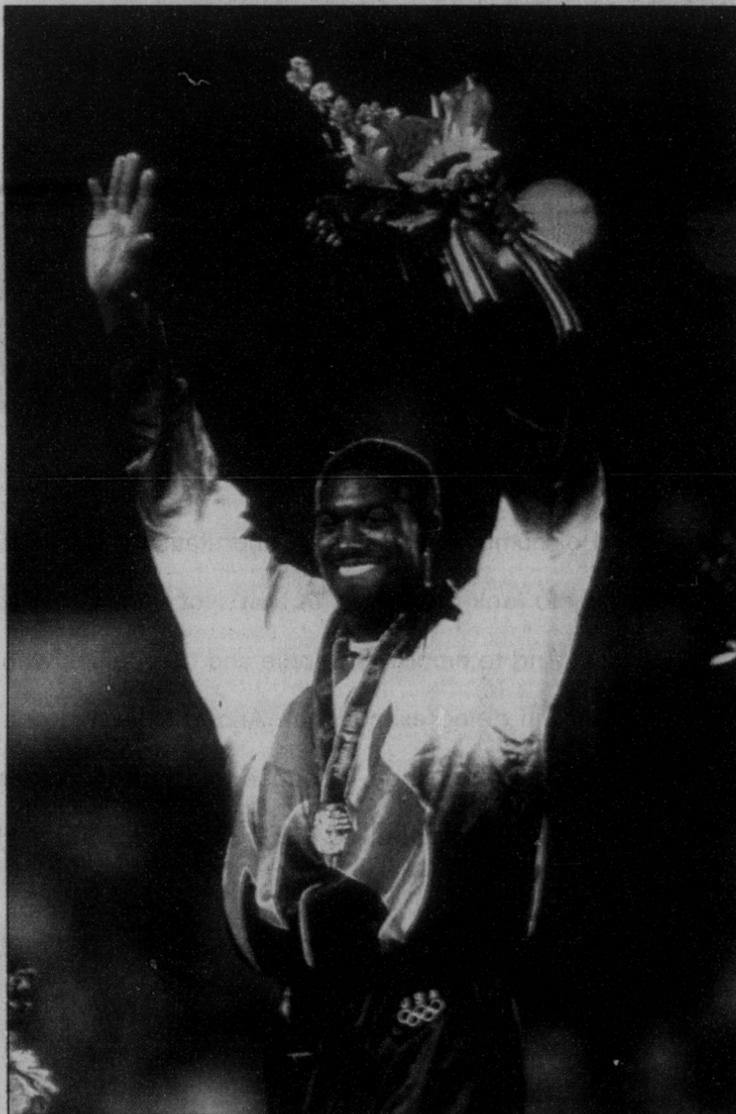


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC SPORTS INFORMATION

Allen Johnson celebrates after winning a gold medal in the 110-meter hurdles in the 1996 Olympics. He holds the American record in the event with a time of 12.92 seconds.

# UNC Alum Makes Leap For Sydney

UNC assistant Nicole Gamble will try to reach the Olympic 'A' standard in the triple jump at a one-event meet.

Staff Report

Nicole Gamble, an assistant track and field coach at North Carolina, will make one more leap for the Olympics this week.

She will compete with some of the best jumpers in the United States in the "Jump for Sydney," a special one-event meet set up by UNC head coach Dennis Craddock.

The event will take place Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Belk Track. Admission is free, and door prizes will be given out.

"It's only going to be one event, but I wanted the student body to get a chance to see Nicole before she left for the Games," Craddock said. "Nicole just means so much to us because she's an actual citizen of Chapel Hill, and I'm not sure there's another resident of Chapel Hill who's going to the Games. She's one of our assistant coaches, and she's one of our former All-Americans and national champions."

Gamble, who won the triple jump at the U.S. Olympic Trials, is still seeking to meet the Olympic 'A' standard, which would automatically qualify her for next month's Games. Gamble won the Trials with a personal-best outdoor leap of 45 feet 9 3/4 inches, but she needs to travel 46-0 1/4 to secure her position.

If two of her competitors meet the standard and she does not, Gamble would lose her spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

Tiombe Hurd, who placed third (45-7 3/4) in the Trials, and Natasha Alleyne-Gib, who placed fifth (45-4 1/2), are among those scheduled to compete.

No U.S. woman has met the 'A' standard. If no one does, only Gamble will go to Sydney. If one person besides Gamble makes it, she will join Gamble on the team.

# UNC Returns Home With 2 Comeback Victories

Staff Report

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS — The North Carolina women's soccer team staged a comeback for the second consecutive game and defeated Texas A&M 4-1 on Sunday.

Junior midfielder Jena Kluegel broke a 1-1 tie with an unassisted goal from 22 yards out at 70:16. She then assisted on a goal by freshman Alyssa Ramsey in the 84th minute.

Sophomore Susan Bush put the finishing touches on top-ranked UNC's

victory with a goal at 87:21.

North Carolina improved to 2-0 with the win, while Texas A&M fell to 1-1.

The Aggies took a 1-0 lead when forward Nicky Thrasher beat UNC keeper Jenni Branam from 15 yards out at 25:16.

The Tar Heels tied the match on a

Women's Soccer	
UNC	.....4
Texas A & M	.....1
UNC	.....9
Texas	.....2

goal with 1:48 left in the first half. Freshman midfielder Maggie Tomecka fed Jordan Walker with a pass in the midfield, and Walker passed to freshman forward Catherine Reddick. Reddick deposited the ball into the left corner of the net past Aggie keeper Angela Barker.

Barker had four saves for Texas A&M, while Branam made three saves for North Carolina. UNC outshot Texas A&M 20-12.

The Tar Heels opened their season Friday night with a 9-2 victory against

Texas. UNC gave up a goal in the first minute of the game, but it scored eight second-half goals.

Texas midfielder Kati McBain scored 40 seconds into the match, and the Longhorns held a 1-0 lead for most of the first half.

Reddick scored in the final minute of the first half, though, to tie the score. Walker and Kluegel were given assists on the play.

Ramsey scored 1:48 into the second half to give UNC its first lead of the night. Ramsey, Bush and Meredith

Flornance — UNC's starters at forward — each had two goals. Flornance, Reddick and defender Kalli Kamholz also had two assists. The Tar Heels outshot Texas 31-5.

The eight goals North Carolina scored in the second half were the most by UNC since 1997, when it registered eight first-half goals against Pennsylvania.

The crowd of 5,440 set a Texas home attendance record. It was also the third largest crowd to watch a Tar Heel regular-season game.