

SPORTS TUESDAY

Tuesday, September 5, 2000

The Daily Tar Heel



**UNC Offense
Could Be Its
Best Ever**

The women's soccer team scored 12 goals in two games, causing assistant coach Bill Palladino, left, to say this year's offense might be the best in school history. See Page 8.

INSIDE:

■ UNC field hockey rallies to knock off Penn State, earns sweep in St. Louis. Page 7
■ Men's soccer team drops tight match but comes away with split. Page 7



MIKE OGLE
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Endangered Tailgaters Need Help

College football. Beer. Grilled meat. It all makes sense. They go together like red, white and blue.

College football isn't just a game — it's an American experience. It's a pregame. Parked cars and RVs far as far as the eye can see. Team flags flying proudly. Kids tossing pigskins in the aisles. The smells and smoke of barbecuing hamburger and sausage in the air. Cases of Bud Light disappearing faster than Duke underclassman basketball players.

It's a game. Cleats flinging muddy grass. Helmets exchanging school colors. Imposing linebackers that could knock an opponent into next season and outrun a thoroughbred. Cat-like receivers and tailbacks that turn on dime and dodge outstretched arms. Tens of thousands of fans chanting fight songs and cheers while holding their breath with each snap of the ball.

If your team emerges triumphant, there's also a postgame. That's what Saturdays in the fall are all about. It happens on campuses across the nation.

At West Virginia, Mountaineer fans do it right. They show up a day early in Morgantown to lay claim to a spot in the parking lot adjacent to the stadium. They rise at the crack of dawn for a night game so they can squeeze in that extra meal and few drinks.

Stereos blare local sports talk shows and broadcasts from other games of interest. Strangers invite you into their asphalt picnics for a brew, a dog and some football-related banter.

Granted there's not a whole hell of a lot else to do in West Virginia. A full Mountaineer Field (63,500 capacity) holds more people than the population of any city in the state, and the student section in the upper level boasts a chain-link fence separating the kids from the "ordinary" West Virginians.

But similar tailgating scenes are not uncommon. Schools in the SEC and Big Ten are notorious for such festivities. They even do tailgating right at Carter-Finley Stadium. C'mon, State? Not at North Carolina. Here the tailgater is an endangered species headed for extinction. Join with me, environmental activists.

Save the tailgater. In Chapel Hill, they have Tar Heel Town. Has anybody ever been to that? Does anyone even know what it is?

The town and University frown on tailgating and general fun of any kind.

There are a few survivors out there refusing to let their good time be denied. Not all Tar Heels are wine and cheese. Many are barley and hops. They can be spotted around campus on game day drinking from plastic red cups, eating red meat and making you proud. They are college football.

And major college football can never be synonymous with UNC without major tailgating.

This is where the Carolina Athletic Association steps in. The CAA now has a shot to redeem itself for the disappointing hoopla surrounding the Smith Center seating fiasco.

Note to Tee: In future negotiations, different does not always equal better. Here's the task — provide an environment conducive to tailgating. The No. 1 problem is there's just no good place to do it.

Parking is already a nightmare, so why not kill two birds with one stone? Level off the area around Kenan Stadium as well as can be done. Eliminate Stadium Drive and the Ehringhaus intramural field. Make it all a giant parking lot. Knock out the trees on the other side of the stadium and annex the Bell Tower lot.

Introduce Tar Heel fans to real college football. They deserve it. But tell the construction company to leave a few Porta-Johns. They will be needed.

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Tar Heels Open Season With Win

Curry Rules in Comeback

By T. NOLAN HAYES
Sports Editor

Mike O' Cain was nervous before Saturday's season-opening game against Tulsa.

That was understandable. The game was O' Cain's first as North Carolina's offensive coordinator.

Also, he was calling plays for the first time since 1985, when he was the assistant head coach at East Carolina.

But O' Cain had no reason to worry. His offense worked just as he hoped it would, enabling the Tar Heels to pick

up 415 total yards in their 30-9 victory against the Golden Hurricane.

"It felt great," O' Cain said of his first true test at his new job. "It was good to get that first one under my belt."

The same could be said for head coach Carl Torbush. UNC had dropped each of its two previous season-opening games with him at the helm.

"We needed to win this ballgame to start the season off the way we wanted to start because you can't make up for that first one," Torbush said.

**Newcomers
Provide Boost
With Scoring**
See Page 11

| Football | |
|----------|----|
| Tulsa | 9 |
| UNC | 30 |

See FOOTBALL, Page 11



Quarterback Ronald Curry slices through the Tulsa defense on one of his 12 rushing attempts. Curry picked up a game-high 69 yards on the ground.

DTH/JEFF FOULAND

Defense Frustrates Hurricane

By BRET STRELOW
Assistant Sports Editor

North Carolina football coach Carl Torbush and linebacker Brandon Spoon handled their nerves differently before Saturday's season opener.

Spoon, anxious to play for the first time since the second game of 1999, threw up for five minutes before the Tar Heels took the field to stretch.

Torbush, on the other hand, didn't let the pressure he faced to finally win a season opener as UNC's head coach affect him. Torbush felt relaxed, letting new defensive coordinator Ken Browning do all the worrying.

Browning's defense put any worries to rest as it held Tulsa to 233 yards of total offense in the Tar Heels' 30-9 victory.

"I was probably a little bit more relaxed than I normally am because I didn't have to call the defensive signals," Torbush said.

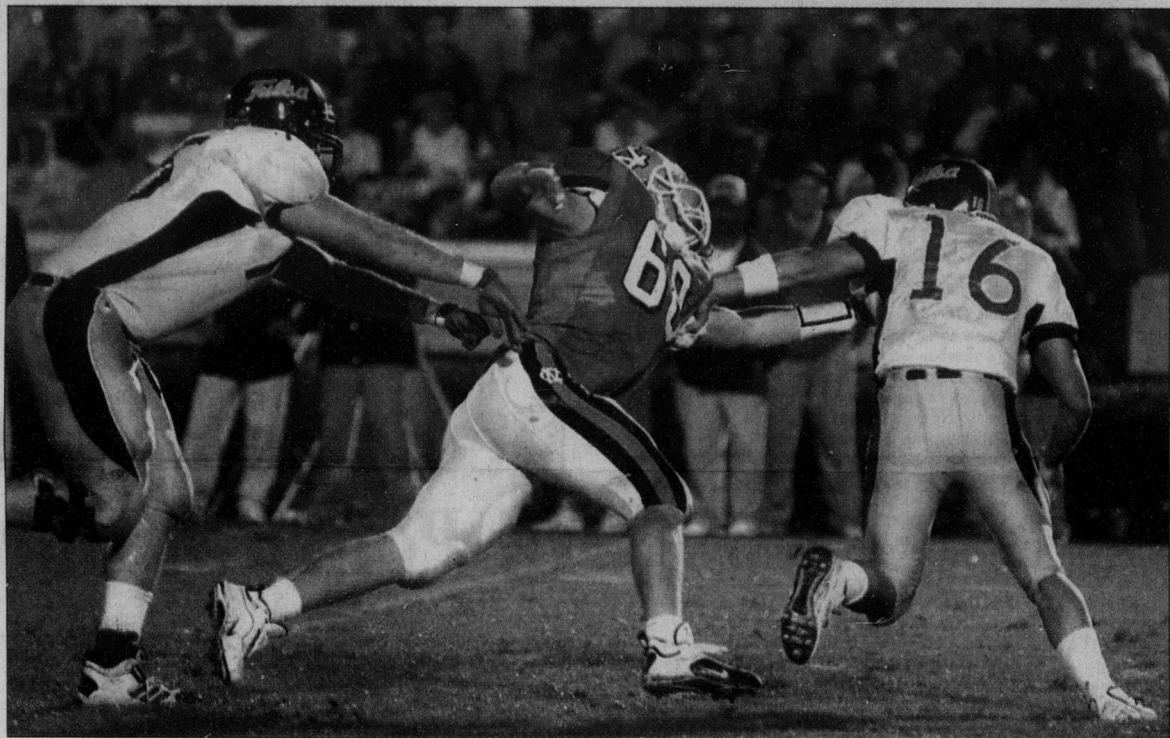
Browning made the correct calls throughout the evening. The UNC defense limited the Golden Hurricane to 19 yards on 27 rushing attempts.

North Carolina pressured Tulsa quarterback Josh Blankenship all night, sacking him three times. He completed 45 percent of his passes.

Blankenship started off the contest with a hot hand. He completed 4-of-5 passes for 33 yards after Tulsa received the opening kickoff. The Golden Hurricane marched 49 yards on 11 plays to set up Chris Earnest's 41-yard field goal, which gave Tulsa a 3-0 lead.

The UNC defense got stingy from there. Discounting Tulsa's final possession of the first half, which went three plays before time ran out, the Tar Heels forced three-and-outs on seven of the eight possessions following the field goal.

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UNC defensive end Ross McAllister wraps up Tulsa quarterback Josh Blankenship for a 13-yard sack. The Tar Heels sacked Blankenship three times.

DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

Despite Early Struggles, UNC Stomps Vols, Cavs

The UNC women's soccer team exploded for three goals in a two-minute span in its win against Tennessee.

By MATT TERRY
Assistant SportSaturday Editor

It's beginning to sound like a broken record.

For the third time in its first four games, the North Carolina women's soccer team struggled out of the gate Sunday only to rally its way to a lopsided victory.

UNC scored five goals in the second half against Tennessee — three within a

two-minute span — to put away the Lady Volunteers 6-1 at Fetzer Field.

The Tar Heels (4-0, 1-0 in the ACC) controlled the ball early but did little with it, mishiring on passes inside the attacking third of the field and on shots.

Tennessee (1-3) had more dangerous early-game scoring chances and got on the board in the 40th minute.

Erica LaShomb got behind the UNC defense and lifted a 15-yard chip over Tar Heel goalkeeper Jenni Branam, who had come to the top of the 6-yard box.

Top-ranked North Carolina, which had never conceded a goal to the Lady



UNC forward Kim Patrick scored two goals against Tennessee after getting one against Virginia.

Vols in three previous meetings, found itself down 1-0.

Then the Tar Heels woke up.

Two minutes after LaShomb's goal, UNC defender Danielle Borgman dribbled a shot that got past Lady Vol goalkeeper Ellen Dean. However, defender Lisa Tipton slid and knocked the ball off the goal line before it reached the net.

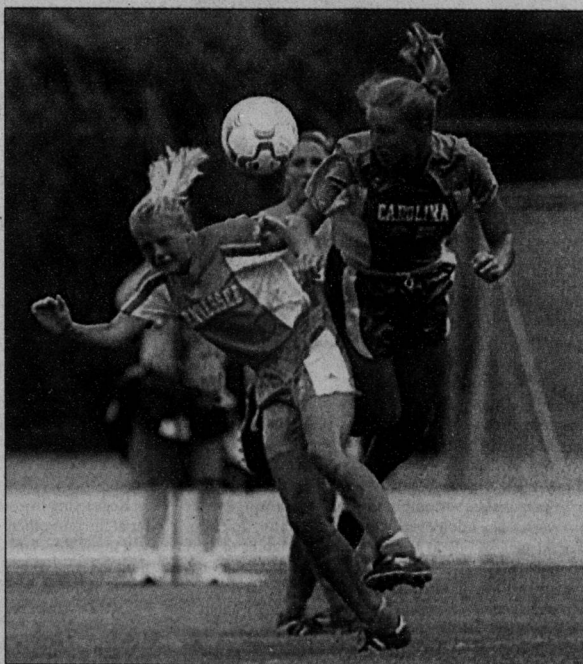
Seconds later, Jena Kluegel found an unmarked Kim Patrick in the middle of the Lady Vols penalty area. Patrick, who earlier sent a 20-yard side volley just wide of the net, tied the game with an easy header from Kluegel's serve.

"We come out slow," Patrick said. "It's like that one goal (we allowed) in each game we played has motivated us. We need to find something before the game starts to do that."

Despite facing 1-0 deficits three times, the Tar Heels have won each of their

See WOMEN'S SOCCER, Page 8

| Women's Soccer | |
|----------------|---|
| Tennessee | 1 |
| UNC | 6 |
| Virginia | 1 |
| UNC | 6 |



Freshman Maggie Tomecka, right, battles a Tennessee player for possession. Tomecka helped UNC limit the Lady Volunteers to three second-half shots.

DTH/KATE MELLINK

Volleyball Sweeps Foes at Carolina Fall Preview

By ADAM D. HILL
Staff Writer

If Labor Day weekend's 2000 Carolina Fall Preview is in fact foreshadowing the upcoming North Carolina volleyball season, Tar Heel fans should be smiling — widely.

UNC won all four of its matches Friday and Saturday, rolling through a field composed of Coastal Carolina, East

Tennessee State, Hofstra and Pittsburgh.

"I was pleasantly surprised," UNC coach Joe Sagula said.

"Coming in here I didn't know what to expect, but I was very encouraged." UNC freshman Nicole Reis was

| Volleyball (Saturday) | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Hofstra | 1 |
| UNC | 3 |
| E. Tenn. State | 0 |
| UNC | 3 |

tabbed as the tournament's MVP, leading the squad in kills in three of the four matches. The hitter from New York also contributed with 31 digs and 11 block assists.

Reis was just one of many Tar Heels

| Volleyball (Friday) | |
|---------------------|---|
| Pittsburgh | 0 |
| UNC | 3 |
| Coastal Carolina | 0 |
| UNC | 3 |

who performed admirably. "Everyone played very well," Sagula said. "It was definitely a team effort. I couldn't be happier for everyone involved."

For the most part, the UNC squad worked well together, passing, setting, and killing like a seasoned, machine-like unit.

With Jen Schirmer delivering assists from the digs of Malaika Underwood

and Lisa Fryer, the Tar Heels set the stage for an offensive attack unrivaled by any other team in the field.

The combination of Krista Buchholz, Laura Greene, Holly Strauss and Reis formed a front line capable of overpowering any of the opponents' defenses.

"We are really finding some chemistry on the court," Fryer said. "We are

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