

# UNC Must Stop Jordan To Pay Back Terrapins

Maryland's LaMont Jordan rushed for 147 yards on 26 carries in the Terrapins' 45-7 win against UNC last year.

**Game and time:** Maryland at North Carolina. Kickoff is at noon.

**Records:** Maryland is 5-4 overall and 3-3 in the ACC. UNC is 4-5, 1-5.

**Series:** UNC leads 35-27-1.

**Personnel update:** Maryland - No injuries reported. UNC - CB Anthony Anderson (shoulder), RB Rufus Brown (shoulder), P John Lafferty (mononucleosis) and LB Mercedes Perry (fractured right ankle) are out.

**The key matchup:** For the Tar Heels to keep their bowl hopes alive, they will need to prevent Maryland running back LaMont Jordan from repeating the performance he had in the Terrapins' 45-7 win in College Park last season.

Jordan ran 26 times for 147 yards and two touchdowns in that game, and the Terps amassed 268 yards on the ground.

Although Jordan's numbers have dropped this season - he averages 88.2 yards per game - he remains the Terps' main offensive threat. Jordan has rushed for 259 yards and three touchdowns in Maryland's last two games - both wins.

"He's big and strong, and I think he gets better as the game goes along," UNC coach Carl Torbush said. "He can take a lot of licks. He reminds you a lot of ways of (former UNC tailback) Natrone Means.

"You don't think he looks real fast, but as the game goes along he seems to get faster and faster. There's no doubt that for us to win the ballgame, we've got to stop LaMont Jordan."

To keep Jordan in check, the Tar Heels will have to hit him at the line before he

can break free into the secondary.

UNC, which ranks 15th in the nation in rush defense, has been yielding averages of 2.7 yards per carry and 98.4 yards on the ground per game. Jordan's biggest output of the season was a 158-yard performance two weeks ago against Duke.

"He's a force to be reckoned with," UNC defensive tackle Ryan Sims said. "But we've been pretty good this year about coming in a big game, where we know they've got to run, to make them one-dimensional - kind of like Clemson."

**Final analysis/prediction:** Of course, when UNC focused on stopping the run against Clemson three weeks ago, it got burned badly. Although the Tar Heels limited the Tigers' rushing attack to 112 yards on 45 carries, they paid dearly for leaving their corners isolated in the secondary.

The Tar Heels would run that risk against Maryland again on Saturday - if only the Terps could throw the ball.

Maryland has the third-worst passing attack in the ACC. Starting QB Calvin McCall sprained his ankle late in the first half of last week's 35-28 double-overtime win against N.C. State, and his status for Saturday's game is still unknown.

Backup Shaun Hill, a junior-college transfer, finished 15-of-24 for 137 yards and two touchdowns as Maryland erased a 15-point deficit.

But he and the rest of the Terrapins will run into a UNC team that enters Saturday's game with a load of confidence and renewed bowl hopes.

"Last year was embarrassing. We embarrassed ourselves up there," Sims said. "And, of course, we owe them one."

The Tar Heels keep Jordan from taking over the game and move a step closer to a bowl.

**UNC 27, Maryland 17**  
- Compiled by James Giza

# Doherty Faces Easier Season Opener

By T. NOLAN HAYES  
Sports Editor

One year ago, Matt Doherty was coaching his first game at a new school. One year later, he's doing the same thing. But much has changed in a year. Doherty's task to tip off 1999 was to lead his Notre Dame squad on the road against fourth-ranked Ohio State. The Fighting Irish won 59-57.

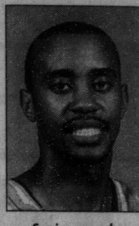
Doherty's task this year? To lead North Carolina past Winthrop in the first round of the NABC Classic at the Smith Center. The teams square off at 7:30 p.m. "No one expected us to beat (Ohio State)," Doherty said. "This situation is kind of different. That's not a knock against Winthrop - that's just fact. We're the ones coming off the Final Four. Winthrop has everything to gain, and

we've got to go out and play."

UNC will probably have to do it without supersub Max Owens, who sprained an ankle in Wednesday's practice after landing on Brendan Haywood's foot.

Owens, who scored 16 points in UNC's final exhibition game, is doubtful for this weekend's Classic.

Tulsa and Arizona State meet at 9:30 p.m., and the winners will play for the title Saturday at 8:30. The consolation game is scheduled for 6 p.m.



Senior guard Max Owens is doubtful for this weekend's games because of a sprained left ankle.

The Tar Heel starting lineup is set, with the exception of point guard. Doherty will go with Joseph Forte at shooting guard, Jason Capel and Kris Lang at forward, and Brendan Haywood at center.

But he said Wednesday on a conference call with the media that he had not yet picked his floor general.

"The point guard position is geared to be going toward defense and taking care of the basketball - who can best guard the ball and who can best take care of the basketball," Doherty said. "I can't say it's more offense than defense - I think it's an even split."

Freshman Adam Boone has seen the most minutes in the preseason of the three candidates for the position. Freshman Brian Morrison and sophomore Jonathan Holmes are the other

two contenders.

The Tar Heels should have few problems with Winthrop, although the Eagles did qualify for the NCAA tournament last season for the second year in a row. If UNC wins and Tulsa knocks off Arizona State, the Smith Center crowd will get to witness a UNC family reunion of sorts.

Buzz Peterson, Tulsa's coach, and Doherty are friends going back to their three years together as teammates at UNC. Both men were members of North Carolina's 1982 NCAA title team.

"I would love to play against Buzz in the finals Saturday night and win by one point in overtime," Doherty said. "That would be an ideal weekend."

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

# Men's Soccer Set to Kick Off Postseason

By IAN GORDON  
Staff Writer

They've been saying it all year long. Since their first exhibition against Virginia Tech on Aug. 26, the North Carolina men's soccer team has proclaimed that it is talented enough to be a national success story.

"We all believe; we all have confidence that we can make the final four," defender Danny Jackson said after that game against the Hokies.

And the rest of the nation is starting to believe Jackson & Co. UNC is ranked second in the nation as it heads into the ACC tournament tonight at Wake Forest's Spry Stadium.

The Tar Heels play the winner of last

night's Clemson-Wake Forest match at 8 p.m.

UNC (17-2, 5-1 in the ACC) has won 11 straight matches, dating back to a 3-1 loss to Virginia on Sept. 24. The Tar Heels are also the No. 1 seed in this weekend's postseason tourney.

Earlier in the week, the conference recognized a rejuvenated UNC program that was 6-13 just three years ago. Five Tar Heels were named to either the first or second All-ACC teams, while coach Elmar Bolowich was tabbed as the conference's coach of the year, and striker Chris Carrieri was titled player of the year.

Tonight, the Tar Heels will join the other remaining three ACC teams in Winston-Salem for the semifinals of the conference tournament.

As the top-ranked squad in the conference, UNC was afforded the only first-round bye in the seven-team tourney.

"You can use that to your advantage by speeding up the play and wearing the other team out," Bolowich said. "But the game of soccer is funny. The ball bounces funny - one brilliant shot from one of their players may just decide the game."

It is that minimal margin for error

that makes postseason play, especially in a conference as strong as the ACC, so unlike the regular season.

"I believe that (the ACC) is the best conference in the U.S.," Carrieri said. "I feel like this game coming up tomorrow is like a final four game."

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

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