

Gymnastics Ends Season With 'W' Men's Lacrosse Snaps Road Losing Streak

By BRAD BROTHERS
Staff Writer

The emotions couldn't be contained. Sunday at Carmichael Auditorium, senior gymnast Brooke Wilson was honored in an pregame ceremony. Wilson owns all but one of North Carolina's school records.

Gymnastics	
U-Chicago	.191.925
EMU	.194.775
UNC	.194.900

Teammate Monica Middleton provided Wilson with flowers before tearfully embracing Lisa Compagnoni. But once things got going on the mats,

the Tar Heels successfully turned tears into triumph.

"It's very emotional, but exciting at the same time," Wilson said. "Running out of the tunnel that last time was definitely a little emotional. You know that you are never going to do that again."

UNC kept things close with Eastern Michigan



In her last home meet at UNC, Brooke Wilson broke her own all-around record with a 39.500 score.

before closing out the meet with a stellar team effort on floor exercise, defeating the Eagles 194.900-194.775.

Illinois-Chicago finished third. Wilson closed out her Carmichael career with a vengeance, setting a school-record 39.500 score in all-around competition. Fittingly, in her final home meet, another mark was shattered.

But Wilson wasn't the only individual highlight. Middleton wiped her tears away and finished third with a 39.175 in the all-around - her personal best - and Compagnoni placed fourth.

Though several Tar Heels came into Sunday's meet battling nagging injuries or illness, those that were able to compete more than proved their worth.

As a team, consistency was a common theme. UNC finished above 48.225 in each of the four events.

In fact, the Tar Heels increased their team scores after each meet.

"The thing that I enjoy so much

about this team is that they adjust so well, they are so flexible, literally and figuratively," UNC coach Derek Galvin said.

Floor exercise, UNC's final event, again yielded positive results. The Tar Heels mixed energetic routines and hit several tricky flip combinations en route to a 49.100 mark, which was the best team mark for any event Sunday.

The efficiency on floor was just enough for the Tar Heels, who eked out the win by .125 points for their third home victory in as many tries in 2001.

The win puts UNC in good shape for the East Atlantic Gymnastics League championship on March 24.

"We are looking good," Middleton said. "We have three weeks until EAGL, and I think we are going to be ready for that."

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UNC attackman Jeff Sonke's last-second goal broke an away losing stretch that dates back to April 14, 1999.

Staff Report

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - North Carolina attackman Jeff Sonke lifted the Tar Heels to an 11-10 victory against Navy on Saturday.

Last year Sonke scored in sudden victory overtime at Fetzer Field in Chapel Hill to give the Heels the win 11-10.

Saturday afternoon he scored with one second remaining at Rip Miller Field in Annapolis to lift the 18th-ranked Tar Heels to yet another 11-10 victory against the No. 13 Midshipmen.

Sonke's heroics, which capped a day in which he scored three goals and added three assists, also assured UNC of its first victory outside of Chapel Hill since April 14, 1999, when UNC upset an undefeated and second-ranked Duke team 10-9 in Durham.

In improving to 9-6 all-time against the Midshipmen, the Tar Heels got not only a big game from Sonke but also two goals from fifth-year senior attackman Judd Lattimore, three goals from junior midfielder Pat Jackson and two goals from junior midfielder Tim Gosier.

Both Gosier (five) and Jackson (three) have already equaled or surpassed their goal totals for the whole of the 2000 season after their performances in this game, the Tar Heels' third contest of the season.

Lattimore scored his first goals since 1998. He had been sidelined the entire

ty of the 1999 and 2000 seasons with major injury problems.

UNC's win also exorcised some of the demons brought on by a 9-4 loss at the hands of Bucknell last Saturday and improved to 2-1 on the season. Navy fell to 0-2.

Carolina senior midfielder Mac Hammer, who won eight of 14 faceoffs, won a faceoff for UNC against Navy's Chris Dingman, and the Tar Heels looked for the game winner. That came off the stick of Sonke, who took a pass from midfielder Lance Zimmerman, to beat Navy goalie Craig Patterson with one second to play.

The Tar Heels (2-1, ACC 0-0) will return to action again next Saturday when they play at Delaware at 7:30 p.m.



UNC attackman Jeff Sonke scored a goal with one second left to defeat Navy for the second straight year.

Ellis Earns NCAA Trip

Jeff Ellis bettered his personal best in the 800 meters on Saturday (March 3) at the Alex Wilson Invitational hosted by Notre Dame. Ellis won the 800 in a time of 1:49.06, which should assure him a trip to the NCAA championships. This is the second time this season Ellis has broken his own UNC record in this event.

Ian Douglas also competed in the shot put, placing fourth overall with a throw of 55-11 3/4. Douglas is also a NCAA provisional qualifier with a season best put of 59.9.

UNC Match Moved Inside

The North Carolina men's tennis program will match its 3-3 record against the Charlotte 49ers on Monday at 3 p.m. Originally slated as the opener to the Tar Heels' outdoor season, the match will now be played indoors due to weather conditions.

The Tar Heels are currently undefeated against the 49ers in 10 meetings with a 10-0 record all-time. The 49ers compete in Conference USA.

Softball Tournament Canceled

The Carolina Classic was canceled due to bad weather Saturday and Sunday. UNC, Coastal Carolina and Charlotte were set to face off in the tournament at Finley Field.

ROWING

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mat, North Carolina swept all three heats of the second varsity eight and the novice eight, while the Blue Devils did the same in the novice/varsity four and the varsity eight - the meet's feature race.

Each race covered a distance of 1,000 meters.

"We never want to come up against Duke and lose, certainly," Furtek said, "but this early in the season, this format, I'm actually very proud of what we did, and I feel good about it. It's a good base from which to start."

The meet featured a display in contrasting styles of rowing: high-and-hard versus long-and-low.

Duke showcased the former technique, using short strokes at a pace of about 37 to 40 strokes per minute. UNC stuck with the latter strategy, keeping a pace of 32 or 33 very long strokes per minute.

Although UNC's varsity eight never finished closer than five seconds behind the Blue Devils, the unit closed the gap further with each heat.

Duke won the first heat by 7.2 seconds, the second by 6.59 seconds and the third by 5.57 seconds.

The Tar Heels practiced for three hours on the water Friday, twice the amount of normal practice time the day before a meet, Furtek said.

"We knew that our race today is not our top speed or peak speed by any stretch of the imagination, as it's not supposed to be because we have a lot of races ahead of us," said varsity eight member Laura Fogt. "But I definitely think we learned a lot and know the importance of working together and staying low throughout the race."

The Tar Heels will now prepare to leave the overcast skies that enveloped University Lake on Saturday for the sunny skies of Florida.

The team travels to Tampa next week for the President's Cup on March 10.

"We're looking forward to it," second varsity coxswain Kelley Gates said. "This kind of sets the mood. So we're really excited."

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