

Sooner Crowd, 'D' Await Tar Heels

Oklahoma's offensive line is a trouble spot for the Sooners, but their defense is among the nation's best.

Game and time: North Carolina at No. 3 Oklahoma. Kickoff is at 7:45 p.m. EST.

Site: Memorial Stadium.
TV/radio: ESPN will televise the game nationally. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide live radio coverage; its flagship station is WCHL 1360 AM.

Records: Season opener for both teams.

Series: Oklahoma leads 6-0.

Personnel update: North Carolina - PK Jeff Reed (sprained ankle) is questionable. Oklahoma - None reported.

The Key Matchup: Oklahoma's weakest area might be its offensive line - unfortunately for North Carolina, that isn't really saying much.

Three starters return on the Sooners' line, but junior Josh Smith, who played nine games last season, is a new starter at center, and redshirt freshman Wes Sims takes over the right tackle spot.

A small opening for the Tar Heels, but it's one they're going to have to exploit to keep the score respectable.

All-American defensive end Julius Peppers surely will keep the pressure on junior quarterback Nate Hybl, who takes over starting duties for Heisman Trophy runner-up Josh Heupel.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said last week he would decide whether to adjust OU's blocking scheme to account for Peppers during practice this week.

"Certainly, he's an exceptional pass rusher and defensive player, Julius Peppers," Stoops said, "and without question we will pay close attention to

where he is all the time."

It's almost certain, though, that the Sooners will stick to their usual one-on-one scheme.

But if Peppers starts to dominate - and UNC tackles Ryan Sims and Will Chapman and end Joey Evans get penetration - Oklahoma could have some problems offensively.

"They're not better than us up front," Peppers said. "We've got four of the best 'D' linemen in the country."

Final analysis/prediction: Jeff Reed was upgraded from doubtful to questionable Thursday and will be available, maybe, for extra points, which could cost UNC a field goal or two. Reed sprained his left ankle at practice Tuesday while practicing kickoffs.

But his absence could just make the score more lopsided, not cost UNC a win.

North Carolina has talent, but the Sooners are way too deep defensively, and the Tar Heels might never see the red zone, let alone the end zone. Oklahoma linebacker Rocky Calmus and strong safety Roy Williams could be the best at their positions in the nation.

UNC running back Willie Parker and quarterback Ronald Curry really don't stand much of a chance with a young offensive line in front of them.

And if the sold-out crowd of 72,765 gets to them, it could get ugly.

"You try to simulate it as best you can," said North Carolina coach John Bunting, who has been pumping crowd



UNC place-kicker Jeff Reed is questionable for Saturday's game after spraining his left ankle Tuesday.

The Lowdown on Saturday's Game

North Carolina Tar Heels at Oklahoma Sooners
(0-0) Memorial Stadium, 7:45 p.m. EST (0-0)

Head to Head

UNC's Rush vs. Oklahoma's Front Seven: UNC faces nine problems: an offensive line with four sophomores (all new starters) and five returning starters on a front seven that gave up 3.2 yards per rush last season. **Edge: OU.**

UNC's Pass vs. Oklahoma's Secondary: UNC QB Ronald Curry has talented targets, but OU's Roy Williams is probably the best safety in the nation, and sophomore CB Derrick Strait (two INTs in 2000) is a glove. **Edge: OU.**

Oklahoma's Rush vs. UNC's Front Seven: RBs Quentin Griffin and Renaldo Works (combined 1,160 yards and 21 TDs in 2000) are back, but Julius Peppers anchors a defensive line that should create problems. **Edge: UNC.**

Oklahoma's Pass vs. UNC's Secondary: Even with OU's top eight receivers back, Nate Hybl is no Josh Heupel. Against UNC, it won't matter. CBs Errol Hood and Michael Waddell have struggled with consistency. **Edge: OU.**

Special Teams: UNC PK Jeff Reed is questionable with a sprained left ankle, and P John Lafferty is a starter by default. OU's Jeff Ferguson is one of the top punters in the nation. **Edge: OU.**

The Bottom Line - Oklahoma 27, UNC 3

COMPILED BY JAMES GIZA

noise from speakers at practices. "But nothing can replace the actual experience."

It'll be a learning one for UNC. Oklahoma 27, UNC 3.

- Compiled by James Giza

'Speechless' Milbrett Picked WUSA's MVP

The New York forward led the league with 16 goals and 35 points and helped the Power to the playoffs.

The Associated Press

BOSTON - When she played on the U.S. national team, Tiffany Milbrett was frequently overshadowed by Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain and Briana Scurry.

In the WUSA's first season, though, Milbrett was second to none.

The New York Power forward was selected the league's MVP and Offensive Player of the Year on Thursday after scoring a league-high 16 goals and 35 points.

"It leaves you speechless," Milbrett said between practices for the teams that will play in Saturday's championship game.

The Women's United Soccer Association wraps up its first season Saturday when the Bay Area CyberRays play the Atlanta Beat for the Founders Cup at Foxboro Stadium. Milbrett's Power lost in the semifinals to the CyberRays 3-2, but she was in town for the championship game and to receive her awards, which will be formally presented at a banquet tonight.

In other individual awards announced Thursday, Ian Sawyers of the Bay Area CyberRays was voted

coach of the year; Doris Fitschen of the Philadelphia Charge was chosen Defensive Player of the Year; and LaKeysha Beene of the CyberRays was voted Goalkeeper of the Year.

Milbrett, one of the leading scorers for the U.S. team for several years, played a major role in the Americans' 1999 World Cup title and was the top female player of the year in 2000. But it was only when she got away from the national team that she asserted herself as a leader.

"What I tried to do is lead by example - being a threat for my team. I wasn't too vocal, but I think when the team needed a push, I was there," she said. "I think the players need to learn for themselves what it's about, what it means to be a professional, to be in this league."

"Some of the players here have never even been close to something like that. I want them to be successful," she said, "whether they're on my team or not."

Sawyers helped the CyberRays go 11-6-4, no small thanks to Beene, who had a 0.97 goals against average and a 624-minute shutout streak during the year. She finished the season with eight shutouts, one more than Scurry.

Rowing to Hold Interest Meeting Sunday

The information session is open to all undergraduate women, including those without any prior experience.

Staff Report

The North Carolina women's rowing program will hold an information meeting at 7:30 p.m. Sunday for prospective members of the varsity team. All undergraduate women interested in trying out for the team are invited to attend the session, which will be held in 100 Hamilton Hall.

"A unique thing about rowing is that you don't need any prior experience in order to row competitively in college," said first-year UNC assistant coach Sarah Haney. "I started rowing while I was a student here at Carolina, and the sport has become an important part of my life."

The majority of the student-athletes on UNC's team, which is heading into its fifth season as a varsity squad, picked up the sport after arriving on campus.

The team competes throughout the fall and spring, with the ACC Championships in April and the NCAA Championships in May. The returning rowers began workouts Tuesday.

Peppers Picked Preseason All-American
North Carolina junior defensive end

Julius Peppers has been named a preseason first-team All-America by ABC Sports Online.

The fourth annual team was voted on by ABC Sports' college football announcing team and ABC Sports Online writers and editors.

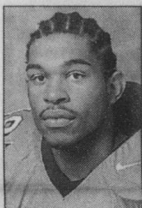
Peppers, a candidate for the 2001 Lombardi Award,

also has been named a first-team preseason All-America by Playboy, Lindy's, The Sporting News and Athlon. Peppers enters 2001 tied with Lawrence Taylor in third place with 21 career sacks at UNC. He enters the 2001 season needing 12 sacks to break the school record of 32.5 held by Greg Ellis.

Soccer to be Broadcast on Web

For the second successive year, the North Carolina women's soccer games will be broadcast live on the Internet. Tar Heel Sports Marketing will broadcast eight regular season games and three postseason tournament games on TarHeelBlue.com, the official Web site for the Carolina athletic department.

UNC's potential games in the NCAA Tournament in rounds one, two and



UNC defensive end Julius Peppers needs 12 sacks to break former Tar Heel Greg Ellis' career record of 32.5.

three, as well as the quarterfinals, will also be broadcast as long as UNC earns a home field in any of those rounds.

Fall Men's Lacrosse Schedule Announced

North Carolina men's lacrosse coach John Haus has announced the team's fall schedule.

The alumni lacrosse game will be played at 8 p.m. on Sept. 28 at Henry

Stadium. The alumni will battle the 2001-02 varsity that night.

The Tar Heels will travel to Baltimore on Oct. 6 to play in the annual Leukemia Tournament at the McDonough School.

The long-planned reunion of the 1981, 1982, 1986 and 1991 North Carolina NCAA championship teams will be held on Oct. 26 and 27.

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Mon 27th 7:15-8:30 Carroll III
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www.unc.edu/student/orgs/fever

Do you suffer from Colds?
Chapel Hill Internal Medicine is conducting a research study for people who have NOT had any cold symptoms within the last two weeks. If you are 18 to 74 years old, you may be able to participate in a research study to evaluate an investigational oral antiviral medication for a cold. We are studying this investigational drug to see if it helps prevent you from developing a cold, but this is not guaranteed. If you would like more information, call immediately: 919-942-5123, voice mail option 9.

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Sunday 8/26 3pm - Durham Bulls game - meet at the house for a cookout, then the game at 5pm
Wednesday 8/29 7pm - Pharmacy Info Session - learn about the school from students & faculty. In Beard Lounge (Pharmacy School)
Friday 9/7 10pm - Beach Blast Party - dress in favorite luau attire!
Tuesday 9/11 7pm - Charlie Goodnight's in Raleigh - meet at house
Thursday 9/13 5:30pm - Steak dinner (by invitation)
Sunday 9/16 & Monday 9/17 - Formal Rush - attendance required for one night - professional dress required - refreshments provided
208 Finley Golf Course Road
Call for directions or a ride: 968-9971
Maria Tzefos, Rush Chair, 968-3038

TODAY@Carolina
Exhibition Game
Women's Soccer vs. Nebraska
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AMERICAN OUTLAWS Sat/Sun 1:15 Daily 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
SUMMER CATCH Sat/Sun 1:05 Daily 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
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GHOSTS OF MARS Sat/Sun 1:15 Daily 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:30
RAT RACE Sat/Sun 1:00 Daily 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45
CAPT. CORELLI'S MANDOLIN Sat/Sun *1:05 Daily **3:30, 7:00, 9:35 *No Sat. Show ** No Sun. Show
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