

# Little Things Help UNC's Offense

By RACHEL CARTER  
Sports Editor

Sixty-nine yards rushing. Sure, it's not much, but North Carolina will take it. In Saturday's game against then-No. 6 Florida State, North Carolina's tailbacks were only able to pick up 69 rushing yards in 41 carries, but no one really cared. The North Carolina 41, Florida State 9 seemed to overshadow it all.

There were other little things that UNC's offense did that it hadn't done before. Kept the quarterback safe. Gave him time. Created holes for the tailbacks. Held onto the ball. Didn't make stupid mental errors.

Although UNC didn't move the ball particularly well, they did it well enough to complement the passing game. In the first half, four players combined for 41 yards, including true freshman Jacque Lewis' 27-yard carry in just his second career series.

"It was shocking," Lewis said. "I mean I couldn't believe that I got a big run."

While UNC's rush yardage went down in the second half, tailback Andre Williams still was able to break open for an 11-yard touchdown run.

"I think the offensive line and the offense just came together and were like, 'We're going to push the ball in as a team,'" Williams said.

Ronald Curry scored the Tar Heels' last touchdown of the game on a 1-yard run up the middle.

Before Saturday's game, UNC first-

year coach John Bunting preached about the importance of cutting down on turnovers. Going into Saturday's game, North Carolina ranked 112th in the country in turnover margin, having turned the ball over 11 times this season.

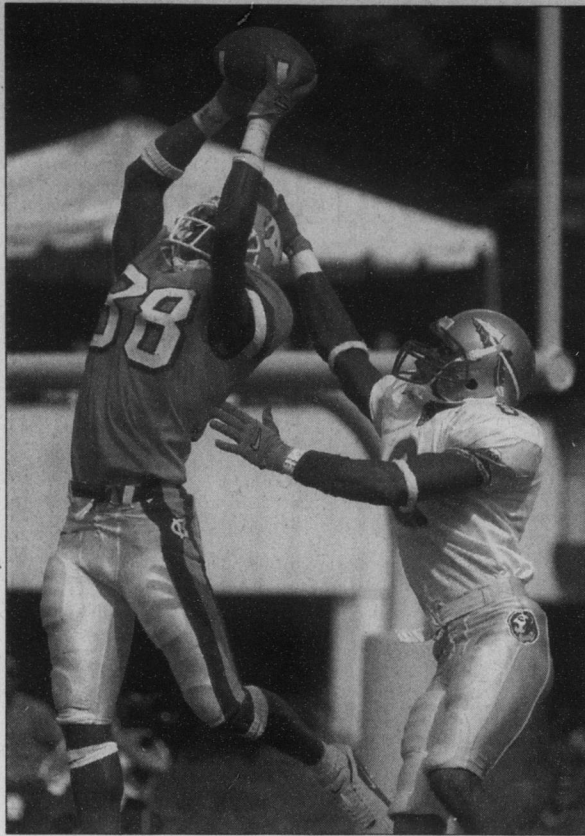
"It's always a point of emphasis," Bunting said. "The most important guys are the running backs. I had talked to

Andre, and to Jacque and to our quarterbacks, because they're the ones with their hands on the ball every single play. "They're the ones who are most responsible - they carry the weight of the team on their shoulder when they touch the ball."

North Carolina did not fumble the ball at all, but had two inconsequential

interceptions of Darian Durant. Bunting said for the Tar Heels to be successful, they must play turnover-free football. "There's a future this season," Bunting said. "Not just next season. There's a future this season."

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DTH/KARA ARNDT

Wideout Sam Aiken (88) pulls down a pass despite defensive efforts by FSU's Bryant McFadden. Aiken led UNC with five receptions for 63 yards.



DTH/KARA ARNDT

The North Carolina offensive line creates a hole for freshman tailback Jacque Lewis. Lewis had the longest rush of the day Saturday, a 27-yarder that was the longest against Florida State this year.

## Playing New Position Easy for Underwood

Malaika Underwood learned to be a setter so she could backup UNC's starter, who is now out with an ankle injury.

By JAMIE AGIN  
Assistant SportSaturday Editor

Listening to her coach and teammates talk about the things Malaika Underwood does well for the North Carolina volleyball team is a lot like hearing a salesman rattle off the features of a product on a television infomercial. She passes. She hits. She blocks. She sets. And even more notable: She does it all at a fairly new position.

Before the season, the junior from San Diego played primarily as an outside hitter. But the team turned to Underwood in the preseason when it needed a setter to back up starter Eve Rackham.

"On August 7th, we said to her, 'You need to become a setter,'" UNC coach Joe Sagula said. "She took that challenge and has gone with it, and that's unbelievable."

Underwood's conversion from outside hitter to setter has proven an extremely timely one, as Rackham, the 2000 ACC assist leader, has been sidelined this season with an ankle injury.

"They needed a backup setter, and there was no backup setter to Eve," Underwood said. "So they trained me, starting this preseason, and just in time, because Eve got hurt."

"I just had to step in and be a setter. Even though I'm an outside hitter, you got to do what you got to do."

What Underwood has done in Rackham's absence is play in consistent fashion. Since taking over the starting job, she has paced the Tar Heels attack with 8.14 assists per game.

On the defensive side, the scrappy Underwood averages 2.51 digs and 0.8 blocks per game.

"Malaika shows relentless pursuit all

the time, and she's had a huge job with Eve being down," teammate Holly Strauss said.

With Rackham approaching full strength, where Underwood plays on the court will become an issue but not a controversy.

In fact, the team sees having two capable setters a potential strength.

"Malaika's got a different type of look and a different type of game (than Rackham), and it's going to be a huge benefit and advantage for our team," Strauss said.

Sagula said Rackham's recovery in no way means Underwood will be displaced from the lineup.

"I think Malaika's earning some good court time for herself," Sagula said. "She's more than just a setter for us right now, so I think that's the key thing."

When Rackham returns, Underwood sees herself returning to the outside hitter position she played at before.

"We're working on me playing right side, which is opposite the setter, where I would just come in and set when she couldn't," Underwood said.

"When (Rackham) gets better, she's going to be the starting setter. That doesn't mean I won't start either, it just means I'll rotate to another position."

Despite the positional changes, Underwood feels her function on the team has remained constant.

"My role on the team has pretty much been the same," she said. "Whatever Coach needs, I just have to step in. I've just been the person who has to do the little things."

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Junior outside hitter Malaika Underwood has paced UNC with 8.14 assists a game since starting at setter.

## Lineup Changes Pay Off for Field Hockey

By CURT KENDALL  
Staff Writer

Kent State did more than defeat North Carolina 5-4 in overtime on Saturday.

The Golden Flashes' five goals - the most the Tar Heels have allowed since surrendering six to Wake Forest in 1999 - forced UNC coach Karen Shelton to alter her lineup for Sunday's contest against James Madison.

Shelton moved seniors Abby Martin and Carrie Lingo into the backfield, joining Susan Hayes and Alison Stewart. Martin replaced freshman Carey Fetting-Smith at sweeper, where Martin played her junior year.

"It became glaringly obvious that we were too inexperienced in the backfield," Shelton said. "We needed some of

our veteran players back there."

Kent State capitalized on that inexperience, connecting on five of 11 shots while drawing nine penalty corners.

North Carolina allowed only three goals during its first five games, including shutouts of Connecticut and Virginia Commonwealth.

The lineup change paid dividends for the Tar Heels. They limited JMU to one late goal and six shots in the 3-1 victory.



Senior midfielder Carrie Lingo moved to back for Sunday's game against James Madison.

In fact, the Dukes didn't record a shot on goal until the 25th minute of the contest.

Lingo might be new to the UNC backfield - Martin played right back as a sophomore - but she doesn't feel out of place.

"Abby and Amy (Tran) and I have actually been playing back there together for the national team so it's kind of like getting back into old shoes," Lingo said.

Tran, a junior goalkeeper, benefited from the backfield's defensive pressure Sunday, needing to make only one save. The lone JMU goal came with 2:21 left after Alexis Suarez replaced Tran in front of net.

"It was a lot easier for me to do my job since I didn't face as many shots (on Sunday) because the defense was organized," Tran said.

Tran had recorded 23 saves and allowed three goals before Saturday's game, but she made only three saves and allowed five goals this weekend.

Lingo led the way on the defensive end, breaking up several plays inside the circle and tallying UNC's second goal in the 16th minute of the first half.

"(Carrie's) not only very talented, but she adds a physical presence back there, and then she can attack," Shelton said.

Shelton will need a strong defense if she and the Tar Heels are to reach their goal of advancing to their 13th final four in 16 seasons.

Said Shelton, "Defense wins championships."

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## Jordan Delays Announcement Again

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Michael Jordan kept his mouth shut and fax machine off, and the sports world spent another day awaiting official word of his return.

Jordan already has completed the paperwork to sell his share of the Washington Wizards, but the comeback announcement was delayed for at least one more day because of a licensing issue with one of his sponsors.

A statement from Jordan outlining the reasons for his comeback was being completed, and he is expected to make his first appearance in a Wizards uniform at media day in Washington next Monday - the day before training camp begins in Wilmington.

But before he can end his three-year

retirement, shoot his first free throw or run his first wind sprints, Jordan and legions of lawyers must fine-tune the fine print.

Jordan not only must sell his shares in the team, but he also will have to relinquish

his job as Wizards president of basketball operations. Those responsibilities probably will be turned over to general manager Wes Unseld and assistant general manager Rod Higgins.

Unseld and Higgins would be free to

consult with Jordan, but NBA tampering rules would prohibit Jordan from talking with officials from other teams.

Jordan ended his first NBA retirement in March 1995 with a fax simply stating, "I'm back!"

## 3 Players Earn ACC Honors

From Staff Reports

Three North Carolina football players have been selected as ACC players of the week for their efforts in UNC's 41-9 win against Florida State.

Center Adam Metts, the only senior on the North Carolina offensive line, accumulated seven knockdown blocks in the Tar Heels' 41-9 win against the Seminoles.

Defensive end Julius Peppers equaled his career high with 10 tackles and one sack. Peppers added one interception and paced the Tar Heel defense in yielding 224 yards for the game.

Quarterback Darian Durant went 9 of 16 for 115 yards and two touchdowns in against Florida State to earn Rookie of the Week honors. His 20-yard touchdown pass gave UNC its first lead against FSU since 1993.

Women's Cross Country Finishes 3rd

The UNC women's cross country team used top-10 finishes from Carol Henry and Liz Awtrey to finish third at the Great American Cross Country

Festival on Saturday at Winthrop Farm Meadows in Charlotte.

Henry finished the 5,000-meters run in second place with a time of 17:03.9, while Awtrey placed seventh with 17:23.4.

On the men's side, North Carolina finished in eighth place. Brian McGovern was the squad's top finisher in 31st place at 25:17.7.

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