

Parker's Rushing Bursts Key Win

By BRAD BRODERS
Assistant Sports Editor

It was a perfect opportunity for a new star to step up. Coasting along with a precarious 10-7 advantage in the third quarter against Southern Methodist and with Kenan Stadium non-reactive in nervous anticipation, a new star emerged. Well, maybe a old star. Sophomore tailback Willie Parker, who rushed for 355 yards last season, began the 2001 season expected to be the team's starter. Instead, he faced a season, which up until Saturday's contest, which was stuffed with adversity and frustration. Despite rushing for 450 yards in nine contests this season, good for second on the team, Parker saw spurts of limited

playing time behind starter André Williams.

With Williams out of the game Saturday with a sore back, true freshman Jacque Lewis got the start.

Although Lewis got the start, Parker got the finish, tallying 75 yards and a touchdown in the second half on 11 carries.

"He just wanted the opportunity," said Darian Durant of Parker. "We always talk about if he's given the opportunity, what's he going to



Sophomore tailback Willie Parker rushed for 75 yards and a touchdown in the second half of UNC's 19-10 win.

do and I always tell him once you get that opportunity to capitalize on it and I think he's done that."

With Parker's efficient downfield cuts, the Tar Heels expanded their 10-7 nail-biter to a more comfortable 19-10 advantage by game's end.

"We made up our mind at halftime that we were going to run the ball no matter what," Parker said. "Coach told us we just got to make plays, and I was like 'coach, I'm ready,' and I just went out there and made plays in the third quarter."

With less than two minutes in the third quarter and UNC on the SMU 27, Parker juiced his defender left and and scampered 23 yards down the sideline.

Two plays later, Parker got a right-side pitch from quarterback Ronald Curry and went into the end zone untouched.

But then came a controversial flag.

Parker's enthusiastic jog into the end zone resulted in a 15-yard penalty for altered stride. "I wasn't high-stepping," he said, adding he never heard of the call.

But on this day, not even a unsportsmanlike penalty could halt Parker's production in the fourth quarter.

In a 12-play, 66-yard drive midway in the final frame, Parker piled up 47 yards on seven carries. Jeff Reed's field goal made the score 19-10, enough for UNC to push out the victory.

"Those were crucial plays," Durant said. "Everytime we needed a play he stepped up and made that play and that was big for us."

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Teasley's Run Helps Tar Heels Top ODU

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — Nikki Teasley scored the last 10 points in a late 14-4 run, and No. 24 North Carolina pulled away to beat 17th-ranked Old Dominion 95-85 on Sunday.

Teasley, a senior guard, finished with 27 points and junior guard Coretta Brown added 24 and eight rebounds for North Carolina (7-1).

Okiesha Howard led the Lady Monarchs (2-3) with 18 points. Lucienne Berthieu added 16 with seven rebounds and Tiffany Thompson had 11 points and 10 rebounds.

The Tar Heels led most of the way

until Sharron Francis hit two free throws to give Old Dominion a 76-75 edge with 6:18 remaining.

Layups by Brown and sophomore forward Chrystal Baptist restored North Carolina's lead, and then Teasley took over.

She made a layup and two free throws to give the Tar Heels an 83-76 lead, followed two free throws by Berthieu with a jumper and followed two more free throws by Berthieu with two free throws and a layup.

That gave North Carolina an 89-80 lead with 1:19 to play.

The Tar Heels open the ACC season Dec. 5 against Wake Forest.

Gell Finds Redemption With OT Goal

By OWEN A. HASSELL
Assistant Sports Editor

The North Carolina men's soccer team had six players with shots on goal Sunday against American.

But only one got to redeem himself for his missed kicks.

After his penalty kick was stopped in the 71st minute, UNC forward Mike Gell rebounded by scoring the game's lone goal in the 95th minute. The strike gave UNC a 1-0 overtime victory in the third round of the NCAA Tournament.

Gell had four shots on goal against the Eagles, including a first-period blast

that was knocked away by American goalkeeper Michael Behonick.

But he shook off the earlier misses and got open in the box during the overtime period. David Testo sent it into Gell, who then split two defenders and beat Behonick to the near post.

"I was just so happy for the seniors and to make up for the penalty kick, of course," Gell said. "It was great. I had so many chances, so it made me want to work that much harder to get it through the net."

After a handball by an American player in the box, UNC got a penalty kick. Gell said he looked around at his

teammates and saw most of them standing around, so he decided to take the shot.

Gell chose to hit it low and left, but Behonick guessed right and slapped the shot away.

It was Gell's first penalty kick as a Tar Heel, but the decision of who shoots them is one Bolowich said he has always left up to his players.

"I've always thought that you don't pick somebody and put the pressure on them if they're not ready," Bolowich said.

Tar Heel senior defender Danny Jackson liked Gell's motivation, but said he should have taken the penalty kick.

"From my standpoint, I was disappointed with myself on the penalty kick," Jackson said. "Mike Gell was very confident in going to take it, but as a senior and captain, I maybe should have pushed him aside and taken it."

Bolowich said Gell's resurgence after the penalty kick helped guide him to the game-winning goal.

Bolowich said, "He felt, perhaps, a personal responsibility to make up for it, although I would have never blamed him for it had we lost the game."

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Volleyball Looks to Bridge Gap Between Coasts

By AARON FITT
Staff Writer

Maybe there's something in the California water. Maybe it's the laid-back Hollywood mentality. Or maybe North Carolina volleyball just isn't on the same level as the West Coast powerhouses yet.

Despite a successful ACC season, the Tar Heels (24-9) lost on Friday night to a California team for the third time this season. No. 8 Pepperdine's 3-0 win against UNC in the second round of the NCAA Tournament ended a memorable season for the Tar Heels.

North Carolina played a difficult non-conference schedule that included match-

es against top programs like UC Santa Barbara and Santa Clara. The Tar Heels lost both matches, but they built upon the experience of playing tough competition.

"I think you have to play a lot of matches like that and get that experience to know what to do at that level," said UNC coach Joe Sagula. "What we want to do is keep playing teams of that caliber to help ourselves get used to these types of battles."

Though it still has work to do to catch up with the traditional volleyball powers, North Carolina is building a respectable program in its own right.

Graduating seniors Krista Buchholz and Melissa Higgins played in four NCAA Tournaments, advancing to the

second round in three of those four seasons and winning three ACC titles. Their success reflects the program's progress.

"Melissa and I were lucky enough to be on the winningest teams in Carolina history," said a teary-eyed Buchholz after losing to Pepperdine. "We've really watched this program come around, in the ACC especially. Now we're on the verge of breaking into the top teams in the nation, and I don't see anything but this program going up."

Indeed, the future looks bright for Sagula's squad. UNC will return five starters next year, including the dynamic outside-hitting duo of Nicole Reis and Laura Greene. Middle hitter Holly Strauss

and setters Eve Rackham and Malaika Underwood will also be back, giving UNC a talented and experienced core.

The Tar Heels will undoubtedly contend for the ACC title again in 2002, but it remains to be seen if they can improve upon their all-time record of 3-15 against teams from California.

The gap is narrowing, as UNC pushed Santa Clara to five games and had a legitimate chance to win the first two games against Pepperdine. But to bridge the gap altogether, those hard-fought losses must start becoming wins.

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MEN'S SOCCER
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The Tar Heels (18-4) had offensive opportunities throughout the match and outshot the Eagles (13-8-2) 16-5, but they struggled to capitalize against a scrappy American team that tried to pressure North Carolina throughout.

UNC kept the ball in its offensive third for most of the first half and had an early scoring chance, but American goalkeeper Michael Behonick stopped forward Ryan Kneipper's breakthrough.

Gell had two chances to break the tie later in the match, including a one-timer in the 36th minute that Behonick deflected with an acrobatic lunging save.

After halftime, the Eagles came out quickly and took more chances offensively, but nearly lost the game on a 71st-minute hand ball in their own box.

A diving Behonick stopped Gell's penalty kick to the lower left corner, and American lived to see overtime.

"A penalty shot is an unusual situation," Behonick said. "You've just got to choose one side and try to read the shooter a little bit."

The game-winner came after David Testo sent a floating ball into the box. Gell gathered it with his back to the goal, spun on Eagle defender Larry McDonald and fired a low, left-footed shot to the near post that beat a falling Behonick.

The goal set up a quarterfinal game between UNC and FDU, a Northeast Conference team that has beaten Boston College, Princeton and Seton Hall in the tourney.

"People call them upsets," said UNC coach Elmar Bolowich. "Sometimes I don't think they're upsets. They're setups."

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MORRISON
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moment in the Tar Heels' 83-77 win against the Yellow Jackets.

Morrison went 6 of 9 from outside the 3-point arc and scored a career-high 21 points. His hand became especially hot with 10:41 remaining in the second half. The sophomore knocked three consecutive treys in 2 minutes, 11 seconds to spur a 14-point UNC run.

"When he gets in his own, it's on," said freshman forward Jawad Williams. "There are days in practice that he hits

20 straight."

That kind of consistency has been lacking when Morrison actually takes to the court on game days. His shooting, at best, has been sporadic, and his passes are frustratingly spastic.

He said UNC coach Matt Doherty often berates him for his poor shooting decisions. Morrison often pulls up when he's still two or three steps behind the 3-point line. But fortunately for the Tar Heels, when Morrison looked to the hoop Sunday, it was all net.

"When your shot is on, you can just feel it," Morrison said. "But I'm not sure Coach felt the same. But I wanted the

you from both sides."

Despite the loss, the Tar Heels found a silver lining in their level of intensity. "There were opportunities tonight where they could have rolled over us, but we kept fighting back," UNC coach Joe Sagula said.

Said Buchholz: "I think the team went into this match knowing and believing we could win it. We went down fighting, and I think that's important."

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WOMEN'S SOCCER
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Joanna Lohman collected a pass from forward Heidi Drummond to sneak a groundier past diving UNC goalkeeper Jenni Branam. The Tar Heels entered halftime out of rhythm in a tied game.

"At halftime, I knew it would not be smart to panic," said senior midfielder Jena Kluegel. "We still had 45 minutes left to play so I decided we should just go out and have some fun."

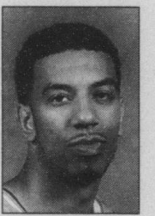
In the second half, North Carolina did just that. The Tar Heels (23-0) returned to their usual unbeaten form and nailed seven shots at Oleksiuk, who had four saves on the day. Penn State (21-4-1) never regained enough momentum to contest UNC's lead.

"It's extremely frustrating," Oleksiuk said. "Especially because I hated to lose on that goal. But Alyssa worked really

hard, so I wouldn't call it luck — it was unfortunate, but not lucky."

UNC will play Portland on Friday at Gerald Ford Stadium in Dallas. With a win on Friday, North Carolina will advance to the championship game to play for its 17th NCAA title. "We're obviously ecstatic to win," North Carolina coach Anson Dorrance said. "For a thousand different reasons. The final four — that's a party you don't want to miss."

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Senior forward Jason Capel shot 6 of 12 from the floor and pulled down nine boards against Georgia Tech.



Sophomore forward Alyssa Ramsey scored the Tar Heels' game-winning goal when the ball bounced off her.

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