

THE LOWDOWN ON SATURDAY'S GAME

Player statistics for UNC vs. Kentucky. Includes names like Kris Lang, Jason Cape, Will Johnson, Melvin Scott, Jackie Manuel, Keith Bogans, and Marquis Estill with their respective stats.

Game: North Carolina at Kentucky. Time: Saturday, 4 p.m. Location: Rupp Arena. Radio: 100.7 FM, WCHL-1360 AM. Television: CBS. Keys for UNC: Keep the turnovers to a minimum. The Tar Heels have improved in their last two games on intensity and shooting...

North Carolina (1-3, 1-0 in the ACC) vs. No. 11 Kentucky (4-1)

Prediction: Kentucky 80, UNC 70. COMPILED BY RACHEL CARTER

UNC Looks to Ground Pilots

By KELLY LUSK, Assistant Sports Editor

DALLAS - With an unbeaten record and a fierce grip on the No. 1 ranking in the nation, the North Carolina women's soccer team is the team to beat in the 2001 NCAA Women's College Cup. An all too familiar situation for the Tar Heels, who have won the NCAA Tournament 16 times. But at 5 p.m. today at Gerald Ford Stadium, UNC will face its biggest challenge of the season in the semifinal match against a formidable and unfamiliar opponent - Portland.



UNC coach Anson Dorrance leads his team against Portland in the semifinals at 6 p.m. Friday.

The Aggies scored early, but Portland rallied to score four goals and earn a trip to Dallas for the final four. UNC coach Anson Dorrance said that although he would like the Tar Heels to drive every opponent into the ground, the close tournament games have instilled in his team an automatic response to challenges. "There's a spin on everything, sort of like politics," Dorrance said. "If we had blown out every team, we would be riding a great wave of momentum. But since we've weaved in and out of playing well, we've learned to deal with adversity."

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

'Bama Cuts Football Scholarships

The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Alabama will cut 15 football scholarships in the next three years in response to NCAA charges of rules violations. The school said Thursday it had severed ties with three athletic boosters accused of offering money to high school stars and would cut back on recruiting. Alabama said it will not give up a postseason bowl or televised games. The self-imposed sanctions were part of Alabama's 750-page response to the NCAA. The documents showed the university admitted to some key violations - including that an athletic representative made "substantial cash payments" to a high school recruit in the mid-1990s.

But the university disagreed with other allegations, and it pointed the finger at rival Auburn for turning in the Crimson Tide five years ago on an alleged violation. The documents were in response to 11 major charges and five minor charges leveled against the university by the NCAA. The NCAA is expected to impose penalties of its own in January or February. The sanctioning organization could accept Alabama's self-imposed punishments in whole or in part or impose other, harsher measures. The university appeared before the NCAA Committee on Infractions on Nov. 17 in Indianapolis. The NCAA began investigating Alabama in April 2000 for alleged violations that occurred mostly under former coach Mike DuBose.

Many of the charges involved three boosters, four players and recruiting under DuBose and Gene Stallings, neither of whom was charged with wrongdoing. The NCAA allegations also do not involve new Crimson Tide coach Dennis Franchione and his staff. The university removed key names from the documents before making them public. But some of the situations described in the papers matched previous media reports on the allegations, making it possible in some cases to identify players and other people involved.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 NCAA Quarter Finals Men's Soccer vs. Fairleigh Dickinson 1pm at Fetzer Field Admission: \$12 adults \$6 students and seniors Hardee's SPORTS SHORTS

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