

Keeran's Return Sparks Tar Heels

By LAUREN RITTER
Staff Writer

The return of Kelsey Keeran helped bolster the North Carolina field hockey team to its third win of the season against an overmatched Radford team Thursday.

The ball didn't often venture far from Radford's goal. UNC (3-2) took 39 shots and 16 penalty corners to win the game 5-1.

Field Hockey	
Radford	1
UNC	5

The Tar Heel defense carried a light load, as Radford (1-2) took only two shots the entire game, but the Highlanders did manage to score in the closing minutes off a penalty corner.

Most of the game, though, was spent in Radford territory. UNC's leading scorer Kerry Falgowski netted two goals, putting her season total at seven.

Her first goal came five minutes into the game on a penalty corner. Falgowski notched her second goal with 19 minutes left in the second half off an assist from freshman Naomi Weatherald to give the Tar Heels a 4-0 lead.

And once the Tar Heels established a strong cushion, every player was able to get off the bench and gain some playing time.

Freshman Karen Mann scored UNC's second goal on a penalty corner, and Jana Facchini scored the final goal with a lit-

tle more than a minute left in the game. UNC coach Karen Shelton said she thinks her team is building up to a great season, even though it might not look like it so far.

"I know our record isn't as good as it has been in the past, but it's not how you start out, it's how you finish, so I feel good about the direction we're going," she said.

To make sure their record is better at the end of the season, Shelton said the team needs to work on not telegraphing passes and faking out defenders.

"We'll see a pass that we want to make, and sometimes we'll look at it," Shelton said. "You want to trick the defender into thinking you're going to do something else, so deception is the key for us."

But the presence of Keeran helped ignite the offense, which Shelton said had been lacking some flair the first four games this season.

"It's nice to have Kelsey back," Shelton said. "We were waiting for it patiently, and it felt good that she came back and played as well as she did."

"She brings energy; she brings an attitude; she brings a scoring threat. She's definitely a very strong player for us, and when she's not on the field, we're not as strong a team as when she is on the field."

Keeran broke her jaw when a ball hit her in practice about three weeks ago, and she has been chomping at the bit to come back ever since.

"When I first found out I was just hys-



North Carolina back Stephanie Fuller (12) looks upfield to make a pass in Thursday's 5-1 win against Radford at Henry Stadium.

terically crying," Keeran said. "I was like, 'Can you do the surgery tomorrow?'"

Doctors didn't perform the surgery the next day, but within a week Keeran had a metal plate inserted into her jaw.

For the next few weeks, she also has to wear a protective mask on her face to make sure her jaw is not reinjured.

The mask looks like it came from "Phantom of the Opera," except for the last-minute addition of a Tar Heel sticker. But even with the metal plate and her

mask, she's still just happy to be back.

"(Playing again) is awesome, because I've been gone about three weeks, and it just seemed like three months or three years," Keeran said. "It's so great to be back, and I thought tonight was a good game to play because it wasn't like an extremely tough game, so it kind of helped me ease into it more."

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

Cross Country Siblings Bring UNC Team Unity

By CHRIS GILFILLAN
Staff Writer

"Sons of Scotland, I am William Wallace."

It all began with William Wallace and David Stroupe.

At Watauga High School in Boone in 1996, Stroupe and his cross country team watched "Braveheart" the night before the state championship meet. The next morning, donning plaid Scottish kilts and blue face paint, the team recited the "Sons of Scotland" speech and ran the 5k, continuously screaming "Freedom."

Stroupe and his teammates captured the state title.

Now, Stroupe is a junior running for the North Carolina men's cross country team, and this year his sister, Kristin, joins the cross country mix as a freshman.

And apparently, she shares his sense of style. She was decked out at Watauga High the day before the 2001 state championship meet in a prom dress, sports bra and tennis shoes.

"The (high school) team would always do something goofy," said David Stroupe.

"We'd always get the strangest looks in the hall," he said. "But it was fun, and it showed we were a team."

Minus the plaid and prom faux pas, the pair will be running in the UNC Challenge on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Finley Cross Country Course.

Although David Stroupe wasn't rumored to be 7 feet tall, and Kristin Stroupe didn't have to win best dressed, the two have brought a superceding sense of unity and family competition to the cross country teams.

For one, David and Kristin Stroupe bring along the entire Stroupe clan to support their athletic endeavors, including parents and grandmothers.

"My family has been very supportive and has been to every meet, at least the ones it was possible to go to," said Kristin Stroupe.

"With the family there you have less pressure and that's when you can run just for yourself," she said.

A competition-driven vigor is something that runs in the Stroupe genes as well. Along with the two runners, their father was a member of the wrestling team at UNC.



North Carolina's David Stroupe rejoined the cross country team in 2002 after a two-year absence.

"The thing I liked the most about David was his competitive nature," UNC cross country coach Michael Whittlesey said.

"They are both game-day competitors," he said.

The eerie thing is that the two have finished around the same place in the races they each competed in.

In the Campbell Invitational last Saturday Kristin Stroupe finished second in her race and David Stroupe placed third in his.

"That's about the extent of our sibling rivalry," said David Stroupe. "We'd look at our results in races we both ran, and notice we always finished about the same places."

Despite the difference in class standing, the duo could run together for another two years because David Stroupe redshirted his sophomore year and took last year off due to shin stress fractures.

"The best thing I could do while I was out was go to the meets and watch them run," he said. "Watching the meets kept me hungry for the competition."

In his first season on the cross country team, David Stroupe was named the ACC Freshman of the Year after a 19th-place finish at the ACC Championship.

The Stroupes, now without the kilts and mismatched prom dresses, are looking to bring their competitiveness and unity to the Tar Heels, beginning with the UNC Challenge on Saturday.

"Every race David wants to see Kristin run a good race," Whittlesey said. "And every race Kristin wants David to run a good race. That's just how they are."



UNC freshman Kristin Stroupe finished second in her collegiate debut at the Campbell Invitational.

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UNC Faces Stiff Challenge Against Texas

Game and time: Texas at North Carolina. Kickoff is at 8 p.m.

Site: Kenan Stadium.

TV/Radio: The game will be televised on ABC. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide live radio coverage; its flagship station is WCHL 1360-AM.

Records: Texas is 1-0, 0-0 in the Big 12. North Carolina is 1-1, 0-0 in the ACC.

Series: Texas leads, 5-3.

Personnel update: Texas - none reported. North Carolina - DT Eric Davis is out for the season with a knee injury.

The key matchup: Although Texas coach Mack Brown's first return to Chapel Hill might be the most played-up aspect of Saturday's game, clearly the outcome of what will be the most-watched game of the Tar

Heels' season lies in the hands of North Carolina's still-developing defense.

UNC's defense has played better than some expected, holding its first two opponents to an average of 316.5 yards a game.

Against Miami (Ohio), the Tar Heels held quarterback Ben Roethlisberger under 50 percent passing for the first time in his career, and they allowed Syracuse just 71 yards passing.

Now unranked UNC will have to step up and take on the big dogs - starting with third-ranked Texas.

"I was pleased with the improvement last week; we are going to have to be better this week because Texas has some big offensive players," said UNC coach John Bunting.

Texas quarterback and Heisman-hopeful Chris Simms saunters into Chapel Hill with an armful of nationally touted wide receivers to throw to.

Texas returns the lethal trio of juniors Roy Williams, B.J. Johnson and Sloan Thomas. The three caught 167 passes for 2,206 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2001 and are arguably the nation's top receiving trifecta.

North Carolina might have more experience in the backfield this year, but if the Tar Heels want to shut down Texas' air game, the weight really falls on the shoulders of the defensive line.

If the Longhorns' offensive line, which gave up two sacks for six yards against North Texas two weeks ago, can hold off North Carolina's front four, Simms should have any easy day of touchdown target practice - a threat too challenging for UNC's secondary to contain. So the responsibility falls on senior defensive end Will Chapman, who has had six solo tackles and two sacks so far this season, and the rest of the Tar Heel front four to break through Texas' O-line and get to Simms before he finds his rhythm.

"Their offensive line is a lot bigger

than ours," Chapman said. "I've played against these guys before, and I know they come off the ball and hit you. They are really aggressive and strong."

Final Analysis/Prediction: Minus his shaky performance against Miami (Ohio), UNC quarterback Darian Durant is adept at keeping his composure in big games. His poise will keep the Tar Heels in the game early on.

And North Carolina found a surprise weapon on special teams in kicker Dan Orner, who might help the Tar Heels get some points on the board.

But when it comes down to it, Texas is just too deep for North Carolina to keep up.

Defensive end Cory Redding - who Bunting said reminds him of former UNC powerhouse Julius Peppers - anchors a quick, seasoned defense that will flush Durant out of the pocket and have him running for the sidelines.

And record-setting sophomore running back Cedric Benson leads a running game that is equally potent to the Texas' air show.

Brown and his Longhorns will inevitably show UNC what a real football school is.

Texas 41, UNC 10.

—Compiled by Kelly Lusk

The Lowdown on Saturday's Game

	Texas Longhorns at North Carolina Tar Heels	
(1-0)	Kenan Stadium, 8 p.m.	(1-1)

Head to Head

Texas' Rush vs. UNC's Front Seven: Texas' offensive line will hold off a smaller UNC front seven and open up plenty of holes for Doak Walker Award candidate Cedric Benson to charge through. **Edge: Texas.**

Texas' Pass vs. UNC's Secondary: With Texas QB Chris Simms throwing to the lethal tandem of receivers B.J. Johnson, Sloan Thomas and Roy Williams, UNC's emerging secondary will be overwhelmed. **Edge: Texas.**

UNC's Rush vs. Texas' Front Seven: Texas has a slightly inexperienced front seven this year, but UNC's rush will still have to get around All American DE Cory Redding to rack up any yards - an unlikely occurrence. **Edge: Texas.**

UNC's Pass vs. Texas' Secondary: Texas cornerbacks Rod Babers and Nathan Vasher will harass the likes of UNC's Sam Aiken and Jaworski Pollock and punish QB Darian Durant for any miscues. **Edge: Texas.**

Special Teams: UNC kicker Dan Orner had a breakout performance last week, but Vasher has the potential to run any punt back for a score. **Edge: Texas.**

The Bottom Line — Texas 41, UNC 10

COMPILED BY TIM CANDON AND KELLY LUSK

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