

Tigers Claw Past UNC in Tourney

By TIM CANDON
Assistant Sports Editor

CARY — North Carolina defender David Stokes jumped to get a head on a Mike Gell serve that went zooming into the Clemson penalty area during the waning moments of Thursday night's first round ACC tournament match against Clemson at SAS Stadium.

Men's Soccer	
Clemson	3
UNC	2

Stokes got his head on the ball, but it went six feet over the goal, capping a second half filled with frustration as the third-seed North Carolina men's soccer team fell to sixth-seeded Clemson 3-2.

Although the scoring was confined to the first half, UNC's inability to finish in the second half was the demonstrative factor in its demise.

"That was identical to the game we had at Clemson," said UNC coach Elmar Bolowich, though the Tar Heels won that contest 3-1. "The difference was that the shots did not fall in our favor this time."

But they did for Clemson (12-3-3), which scored on its first three tries of the game.

Two minutes and 17 seconds into the game, Clemson forward Dimelon Westfield headed the ball into the open net, as UNC goalkeeper Jay Batt watched helplessly after getting beat on the restart that allowed Westfield to score.

Not to be denied, the Tar Heels (13-6-1) tied the game five minutes later, when forward David Testo intercepted a failed clear by the Clemson defense and went in one-on-one against keeper Doug Warren.

"The whole focus of our game is to pressure the defense," Testo said. "I saw

the opportunity to get a touch on the ball, I did. The one-on-one with Doug, it's kind of intimidating, but the ball happened to pop out for me, and I put it back in."

Testo and Westfield each scored another goal to push the score to 2-2.

Just as both teams were settling in to let the half wear out, Tiger forward Steven Rhyme netted the game winner with just more than four minutes to go.

Rhyme ran onto a loose ball bouncing around the edge of the UNC penalty area and blasted a shot by Batt, who never had a chance to make a move on the ball.

"What the hell's going on out there?" said Bolowich of Rhyme's goal. "We had the momentum then, a little bit. They had a loose ball, and a guy took the opportunity. It was beautiful shot."

UNC peppered Warren with 13 shots in the second half, 22 on the night, but he didn't allow the equalizer.

"Clearly, the opportunities were there, we were just not fortunate to stick the ball in the net," Bolowich said.

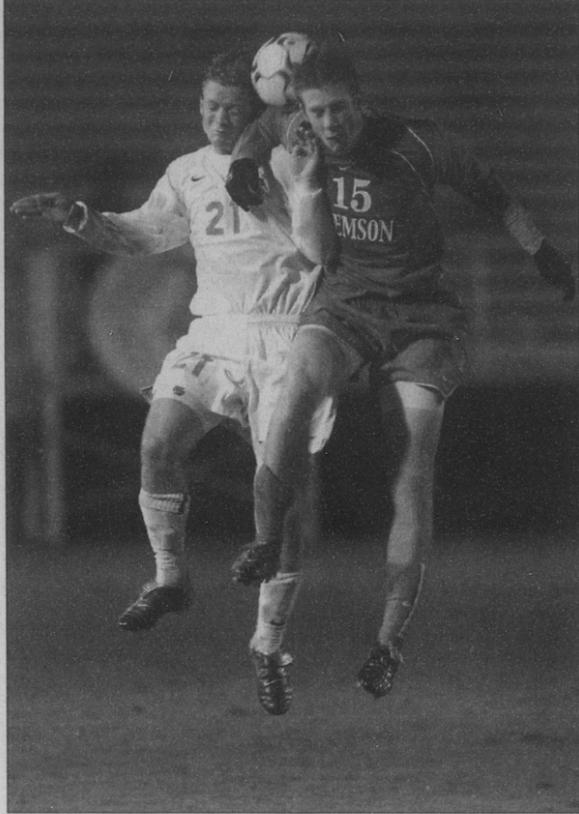
Clemson coach Trevor Adair denied his team was lucky to leave with a victory.

"We came here with a plan. ... I don't care if they had 100 shots. We had three (goals), they had two. And that's what counts."

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Senior forward David Testo tallied two goals in UNC's loss in the first round of the ACC tournament.



North Carolina defender Grant Porter (21) and Clemson defender Brett Beranan leap for the ball in the first round of the ACC tournament Thursday.

Women's Soccer Chases 17th National Crown

By KELLIE DIXON
Assistant Sports Editor

For yet another year, the North Carolina women's soccer team will step onto familiar territory to open its first game in the NCAA tournament.

The No. 2 Tar Heels will play Radford tonight at 5 p.m. at Fetzer Field. UNC leads the series against the Highlanders, which started in 1981, 13-0, and has allowed five goals.

The match marks the 21st time the Tar Heels (17-1-4, 4-1-2 in the ACC) have qualified for a tournament seed and third time for the Highlanders (15-4-1).

In its 24-year-old varsity program, UNC has won 16 NCAA titles, 11 of which were preceded by an ACC title.

And this year seems to be progressing no differently. Despite having four regular-season ties — the most ever accumulated by UNC — the Tar Heels came alive during last week's ACC tournament. UNC shut out each of its three opponents and established a record for the largest margin of victory in tournament history.

The Tar Heels took this week to prepare, focusing more on technique than on physical exertion.

"We've tried to taper," said North Carolina coach Anson Dorrance. "Obviously, three games in a weekend is a lot of work. We're trying to get our legs rested, so we tried to make the practices a little shorter. We're just trying to get the girls tapered and excited to play."

For at least 16 Tar Heels, desire shouldn't be an issue. Last year UNC suffered its first loss in the title match, which was held in Dallas against Santa Clara. The 1-0

blunder is a nagging reminder — not of a poor season, but of a job left unfinished.

"It definitely gives us more incentive," said junior defender Catherine Reddick.

"We don't like to lose. We want to win obviously, but we want to play as a team and gel as a team, and that's our goal — to become better than we were."

But for at least the first tournament game, UNC will play without freshman Lori Chalupny, who is still out with ligament damage. In addition, senior defender Leslie Gaston, who was voted MVP of the ACC tournament, sustained a knee injury in Thursday's practice. Her status was unknown as of Thursday afternoon.

Freshman Kasey White, anxious to contribute to UNC's performance in the tournament, said she's confident the Tar Heels will bounce back.

"We had a good taper going into the ACCs, and that ended up well," White said. "We're trying to do the same routine that we had, except I think we've had more of a focus even more so this week because this is the third section of our season, and it's the most important."

"It's do or die now."

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Junior defender Catherine Reddick will play in UNC's first NCAA game after a stint with the U.S. National Team.

Peppers Could Face NFL Suspension

Staff and Wire Reports

CHARLOTTE — NFL sacks leader Julius Peppers of the Carolina Panthers failed a urine test and could be suspended by the league if another test on the same sample comes back positive, a source told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The test was first reported on The Charlotte Observer's Web site.

A source close to Peppers, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that report and said that steroids were not involved.

The rookie defensive lineman should be able to play Sunday against Tampa Bay while the NFL continues its investigation.

"My understanding is he will be our starting left defensive end this Sunday and all of my focus — and his, too — is on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers," said coach John Fox.

Panthers general manager Marty Hurney, citing league rules, would not comment on Peppers' situation. Marvin Demoff, Peppers' agent, did not immediately return calls from the Associated Press.

A second test on the initial urine sample will be done in the next few days, and if that comes back positive, Peppers would have 10 days to appeal the findings.

Peppers practiced with the Panthers (3-6) on Thursday, but did not make himself available to reporters.

Panthers linebacker Mark Fields said Peppers told him he plans to appeal if suspended.

"It's not that serious, so we're not looking at it like it's that serious," Fields said. "We're playing Tampa Bay Sunday, and he's playing."

Peppers was the second overall pick in the draft out of North Carolina, and leads the NFL with 10 sacks.

If the league suspends him for four

games, it would cost him about \$235,000 from the seven-year, \$62 million contract he signed in July. Peppers is the highest-paid player in Panthers history.

Another Panthers defensive lineman, Brenton Buckner, was suspended Nov. 4 for four games for violating the league's policy on steroids and related substances.

George Mavrikes, Buckner's agent, said his client took a dietary substance in training camp to help him lose weight. It contained one of the substances now banned by the league.

"If we lose Pep, that would be a tremendous blow to our defense," Fields said. "The next guy would have to step it up. Would he be the same? Probably not."

Peppers' coach last year at UNC, John Bunting, said he supported his former player 100 percent.

"Julius would not do anything to jeopardize his family, himself or the Panthers' organization."

Tar Heels Aim to Correct Mistakes, Nix Penalties

Game and time: North Carolina at Florida State. Kickoff is at 3:30 p.m.

Site: Doak Campbell Stadium.

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

Records: North Carolina is 2-8, 0-6 in the ACC. Florida State is 7-3, 6-0.

Series: Florida State leads 11-1-1.

Personnel update: North Carolina — DE Will Chapman (wrist), DT Eric Davis (knee), QB Darian Durant (thumb), RB André Williams (back) and DB Michael Waddell (leg) are out for the season. DE Larry Jessup (neck) is questionable.

Florida State — TB Greg Jones (knee) is out for the season. OG Bobby Meeks and RB Willie Reid (shoulder) are out. LB Kendyll Pope (virus) and DT Brian Ross are questionable.

The key matchup: With North Carolina continuing on its downward spiral of a season, and Florida State reclaiming its dominance of the ACC this season, it's likely that the Seminoles will have a field day against UNC's offense, defense and special team units.

However, wide receiver Sam Aiken's single-season record breaking catch against Clemson was overshadowed by the Tar Heels' 42-12 loss against Clemson, and a quality performance from the senior All-America candidate will be UNC's only hope of getting on the board.

Fortunately for the Tar Heels, the Seminoles have the next to last pass defense in the conference, so Aiken should be able to shake their secondary for at least a touchdown.

Final Analysis/prediction: If North Carolina doesn't want Florida State to really run up the score, it will have to cease the mindless penalties it has been collecting in the last three games.

"We need to stop making little mistakes and play our best game," UNC coach John Bunting said. "It's mainly penalties."

Regardless of mistakes the Tar Heels

could possibly fix, Bunting said he and his team know what they are up against.

Which prompted injured Durant to dress out for practice Thursday. No, he's not taking the field Saturday. Durant came out and practiced with the team and even threw a couple short passes in hopes of motivating his fellow Tar Heels.

"That was a signal to the team,"

Bunting said. "It shows how much he cares."

But even with Durant's special appearance in pads to hype up UNC, Florida State will undoubtedly flip last year's 49-7 loss to the Tar Heels to an outcome in the Seminoles' favor.

Florida State 52, UNC 7.

— Compiled by Kelly Lusk

DTH Picks of the Week

The DTH Sports staff and one celebrity/personality pick the winners of the biggest college football games this weekend. Today, Dan Perry, a brilliant student at the Ivy League institution the University of Pennsylvania, will have his smarts tested against the sports-minded DTHers.

ESPN acknowledged that real football teams do exist in the Ivy League by sending College GameDay to Philadelphia for the Harvard-Penn matchup this weekend, so we thought we'd give the intellectuals some love of our own by inviting Penn student Dan "Mr. Perfect" Perry to show off his brain power.

James "Know-It-All" Giza continues to saunter through this Picks season with ease, and it looks as if he'll walk away with the 2002 title unless some serious upsets happen this week. However, Kelly "Smarty Pants" Lusk

is hoping that her superior math skills will give her an edge big enough to overcome Giza this week.

No trace of Kellie "Einstein" Dixon's early lead still exists, while her and Ian "Genius" Gordon fight over the statistics book to research their picks to improve their standings. Aaron "Factoid" Fitt pulled an all-nighter last week, going 6-6 and putting himself out of the race.

No amount of studying will help Tim "Pocket Protector" Candon and Adam "Nerd" Hill. Let the football IQ test begin.

	Aaron Fitt	Kelly Lusk	Tim Candon	Kellie Dixon	James Giza	Ian Gordon	Adam Hill	Dan Perry
Last Week	6-6	10-2	8-4	8-4	10-2	9-3	10-2	7-5
2002 Record	(72-48),600	(80-40),667	(70-50),583	(77-43),642	(86-34),717	(75-45),625	(70-50),583	(75-45),625
UNC at FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	UNC	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU
N.C. State at Virginia	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	Virginia
Maryland at Clemson	Clemson	Maryland	Maryland	Clemson	Maryland	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
Duke at Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech	Ga. Tech
Iowa St. at Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Iowa St.	Colorado
Iowa at Minnesota	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Minnesota	Iowa	Iowa	Minnesota	Minnesota
Harvard at Penn	Harvard	Penn	Penn	Penn	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Penn
Wash. at Oregon	Washington	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon
Ohio St. at Illinois	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.
Georgia at Auburn	Auburn	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Auburn
Alabama at LSU	LSU	Alabama	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU
Arizona St. at USC	USC	Arizona St.	USC	Arizona St.	USC	USC	USC	USC

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