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Flanagan gets 1st win of year

BY HUNTER POWELL
STAFF WRITER

CARY — The North Carolina women's cross country team is a mix of experience and youth — once those two become one, look out.

In the Great American Cross Country Festival, held Friday at SAS Soccer Park, the 9th-ranked Tar Heels finished second to N.C. State on the scoresheet, but first in their minds.

"(If) we score it as a dual meet, we win," said North Carolina coach Michael Whittlesey. "(If) we score it as an ACC meet, we win. If you put that meet at national championships, we beat everybody here — we just didn't do it today.

Defending national champion Shalane Flanagan ran away with the 5K, finishing with a time of 16 minutes, 44.6 seconds and winning by nearly 23 seconds. Teammates Carol Henry and Erin Donohue finished third and fourth, respectively, as the top three for the Tar Heels proved their ability to dominate the field.

"The plan was for the three of us to race up front together," Flanagan said. "We're always trying to work together and even though we weren't right next to each other, we were working towards each other. We were as close as we possibly could be."

The Tar Heels' top three all finished before any N.C. State runner crossed the finish line. However, the younger runners for North Carolina finished in the middle of the second pack, which allowed N.C. State to win the team competition.

Freshman Meghan Owen paced the second group of Tar Heels, finishing 18th.

"Meghan did a real nice job," Whittlesey said. "Her, (Megan) Kaltenbach and Kristin Stroupe ran our plan to a 'T' and they got stronger and stronger. What they're going to learn is when to make a stronger move in the middle of a race and to know how much more they have in their bodies. That just comes with experience."

Stroupe and Kaltenbach finished 29th and 32nd, respectively. "I'm really excited about what we can do," Owen said. "We didn't really rest up for this week, so once we rest and do some more workouts, we'll be a lot stronger."

For the Tar Heels, the keys are health and experience. The absence of two important runners, Alice Schmidt and Jessica Perry, hurt North Carolina on the scoresheet, yet gave the young runners valuable experience.

"We need to get five, six, and seven more together in order to be higher (in national rankings)," Flanagan said. "We are a top team if we pull it all together. Today, we were right about a ninth-ranked team."

With added experience and the eventual return of two of last year's key runners, North Carolina will have all the pieces together to move further up the rankings.

"In early races, it's tough for the younger kids to get used to the bigger competition," Donohue said.

"Hopefully, by the time we get through the ACCs and our big championship meets, we'll all be together."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

FIELD HOCKEY

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tried to clear the ball. It ended up bouncing off Naomi Weatherald's shin, resulting in an automatic penalty shot.

The Deacons' Claire Laubach finally put a chink in Tran's armor as she rifled in the free shot.

For the first time this season, UNC was down at the half. They had to stage a comeback against goalkeeper Katie Ridd, whose career 1.07 goals-against average is the best in Wake Forest history.

"We play in patches," Weatherald said. "In the first half, we were more reactive. In the second half, we knew we had to step in front of the girl and make the intercepts."

With just over seven minutes remaining in the half, the Tar Heels managed to tie the game on a broken play.

The ball bounced dangerously around the Wake Forest circle as the defenders tried to clear it. Karen Mann received the ball off of Kerry Falgowski's redirection near the Deacon net. The serendipitous play left Ridd out of position and Mann put it home.

UNC, however, looked lethargic as it took the field for the overtime period, and an enthused Deacon squad ran all over the Tar Heels.

Wake Forest's Kelly Doton, a senior All-American, squeezed the ball through Tran's legs with 5:29 left in overtime.

"I didn't take care of my job," said the tearful goalkeeper. "I lost focus for a second, and they took advantage of it."

Shelton said that her squad was fortunate to force overtime.

"Had their shooting been a little bit better, this game wouldn't have been close," she said. "What it told us is that we have a lot to work on if we want to play at that level."

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VOLLEYBALL

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Sauer. "I know I've never won here, and the seniors haven't won here either, so it's exciting. This is a hard place to play — (UNC is) an awesome team. This is real big."

The mood of the Tar Heels was considerably more somber.

Sophomore Dani Nyenhuis, who followed her 18-kill performance against the Seminoles with seven on Sunday, put the situation bluntly.

"Our focus now is just learn from the loss," she said. "We got our butts kicked."

Pyles, whose team-high 17 kills prevented a complete annihilation, called the competitive drive of some of her teammates into question.

"It was quite a disappointment to see a lot of the team not really wanting it as much as some other parts of the team," she said. "I felt like there were a lot of girls that went out and didn't understand what was needed to win the game."

"Whether that was something that us as teammates need to instill in them or the coach needs to instill in them, or in practice, we're not sure, but we're certainly going to go back at it this week."

Though Pyles said that the

blame does not lie solely with the team's more inexperienced players, the maturity of the Yellow Jackets, who had their team return virtually intact from last season, has allowed them to build a team chemistry that UNC lacks.

"The rest of the players (aside from Pyles and senior Aletha Green) were what?" Sagula asked. "Freshmen and sophomores. They have to learn how to step it up. And they will — I hope."

With this weekend kicking off the brunt of the ACC schedule, UNC better hope they step up fast.

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COTCHERY

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Amato emphasized the importance of Cotchery's half-opening TD in reversing the course of the game.

"The momentum was really on their side, and I felt that we had to come out and score," Amato said. "I told them to score slow; I think it only took him about 14 seconds to get down there, and that's about as slow as he said he could run. He almost went to a walk down there, trying to pick up his blockers."

Of course, Cotchery was free to virtually walk into the end zone because there were just no Tar

Heels even close to him.

How did the UNC defense forget to cover a guy who hauled in nine passes for 217 yards on the day?

Rivers said he wasn't surprised Cotchery was so open.

"I figured we had a chance, pre-snap, by the way they lined up," he said. "When Jerricho went in motion, nobody ran with him. It was kind of a zone coverage. I took a lot off of it because he was so wide open, and then he did a great job after the catch."

State wideout Brian Clark lined up on the outside and ran a deep route, clearing the UNC secondary in the area of Cotchery's 15-yard

out. Then Clark and tight end T.J. Williams made very good downfield blocks, springing Cotchery.

"Brian Clark, he plays the 'X' position," Cotchery said. "His job was to get the cornerback out of the way and he did a great job of setting that and getting the cornerback out of there. And no one else covered me. When I caught the ball, I had people hustling to get blocks for me, and fortunately, I was able to get in the end zone."

"First play, touchdown. That was real big."

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FOOTBALL

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UNC's first drive, the Wolfpack (3-2, 1-1) countered with three straight touchdowns.

On the first, Rivers completed five straight passes, then ran for a three-yard score. Rivers was nine of nine for 121 yards in the first quarter.

"Philip for president," said N.C. State coach Chuck Amato. "I mean, my goodness gracious."

The Wolfpack pinned the Tar Heels deep in their territory on their next drive. After an injury to John Lafferty, redshirt freshman David Woodriddle had to punt from his own end zone. But Pat Thomas blocked it and Manny Lawson fell on the ball for another State score.

"It was probably three or four yards ahead of what I usually kick from," Woodriddle said. "That really cut down the time I had to get it off, but I can put the blame on me. I should have gotten it off quicker."

After a UNC three and out, the Wolfpack drove 66 yards in six plays and scored on a two-yard run by Josh Brown. Brown finished with a game-high 95 rushing yards.

"That little son of a gun, he just is a tough little kid," Amato said. "Darts and twists and runs, and he picked up the slack for T.A. not being in there."

But instead of folding, UNC fought back.

Down 21-6, the Tar Heels had driven into State territory when quarterback Darian Durant was picked off. But a UNC false start negated the interception, and tailback Jaque Lewis capitalized, turning a screen pass into a 64-

yard score on the next play.

Durant and Lewis hooked up again, in a way, on UNC's next drive, when Durant fumbled on a controversial third-down sneak. The play appeared to be over when the ball popped out to the left of the pile, but Lewis grabbed the loose ball for first-down yardage.

Durant then completed his next seven passes, hitting Derrele Mitchell for a one-yard score and Willie Parker for a two-point conversion.

The two scores were sandwiched between an impressive goal-line stand during which the Tar Heel defense held the Wolfpack to a field goal after three tries from the one-yard line.

"At the goal line, you know what they're going to do," said UNC defensive tackle Chase Page. "It's a battle of wills. I know they're going to run the ball. I know I'm about to be blocked or double-teamed."

The Tar Heels cut the lead to 24-21 at halftime, but that's as close as the game got.

Rivers connected with a wide-open Cotchery for an 80-yard score on the first play of the second half. State also scored on its next two drives to open up a 24-point lead.

The Tar Heels continued to air it out despite the game seeming out of reach. Matt Baker entered the game in the fourth quarter and threw for 146 yards, including a late touchdown to Adarius Bowman.

But in the end, it all sounded too familiar. Another huge passing day for UNC (469 total yards). Another non-existent ground game (29 yards, excluding Durant's 66). Another disastrous defensive performance (615 yards allowed).

"One of these days we're going

to win a game," said UNC coach John Bunting. "I'm looking forward to that day."

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N.C. State 47, UNC 34					
UNC	3	18	0	13	34
NCSU	21	3	20	3	47
Scoring Summary					
First Quarter					
UNC	—	Omer 32 yd. field goal,	9:56		
NCSU	—	Rivers 3 yd. run (Kiker kick),	7:31		
NCSU	—	Lawson 0 yd. blocked punt return (Kiker kick),	5:16		
NCSU	—	Brown 2 yd. run (Kiker kick),	1:48		
Second Quarter					
UNC	—	Omer 37 yd. field goal,	13:47		
UNC	—	Lewis 64 yd. pass from Durant (Omer kick),	9:31		
NCSU	—	Kiker 23 yd. field goal,	2:31		
UNC	—	Mitchell 1 yd. pass from Durant (Parker pass from Durant),	0:07		
Third Quarter					
NCSU	—	Cotchery 80 yd. pass from Rivers (kick failed),	14:47		
NCSU	—	Brown 6 yd. run (Kiker kick),	10:08		
NCSU	—	Rivers 14 yd. run (Kiker kick),	4:52		
Fourth Quarter					
UNC	—	Holley 24 yd. pass from Durant (Omer kick),	2:06		
NCSU	—	Kiker 29 yd. field goal,	8:18		
UNC	—	Bowman 76 yd. pass from Baker (pass failed),	2:30		
Attendance — 53,800					
Individual Leaders					
Rushing:	UNC — Durant 10-66, NCSU — Brown 21-95,				
Passing:	UNC — Durant 25-42-1 323, NCSU — Rivers 23-30-1 423,				
Receiving:	UNC — Pollock 11-134, NCSU — Cotchery 9-217,				