



AARON FITT
LIKE A GLOVE

Red Sox, Goonies never quit

It looked like the end. They had come so far, they had evaded the Fratellis and a myriad booby traps, they were so close to finding the rich stuff and saving the Goondocks — and then they reached the bottom of a wishing well. The Goonies had a chance to give up their quest, to pack it in, ride up the well in the bucket sent down by the loathsome Troy and go home.

The Boston Red Sox — baseball's own version of the Goonies from the classic 1985 film of the same name — could have done the same last week, facing a 2-0 series deficit to the Oakland Athletics. But as Mikey Walsh repeatedly tells us, "Goonies never say die."

Neither do the Red Sox. When the Goonies were ready to give up on their adventure, Mikey rallied the troops.

"Our parents, they want the best of stuff for us," Mikey said. "But right now, they got to do what's right for them. Because it's their time. Their time! Up there! Down here, it's our time. It's our time down here. That's all over the second we ride up Troy's bucket."

The Goonies kept on, just as the Red Sox did, storming back to take the series three games to two. The similarities between Sox and Goonies are everywhere. The Goonies love a good adventure, and the Red Sox clearly do also. They can't win any game easily; everything's got to be a wild nail-biter, as evidenced by the three dramatic wins against Oakland and the heap of regular season wins in Boston's final at bat.

Then there's the parallel cast of characters. Kevin Millar plays the role of Mouth, the practical joker who keeps everyone on their heels. Manny Ramirez is Sloth, the dumb but loveable hulk who provides the brute force. Byung-Hyun Kim is Stef, the girl with the glasses, because both are, well, annoying.

Pedro Martinez is Data, because both are geniuses, and both always have a trick up their sleeves. When Data appears to fall to a deathbed of spikes, his "pinchers of power" rescue him, like a Pedro changeup with the bases loaded.

Nomar Garciaparra is Mikey's older brother Brandon. They're both kind of boring, but they are the backbones of their groups.

David Ortiz is Chunk, not only because of the physical resemblance but because of their shared heroism. Ortiz built an MVP campaign on saving the day when it's all on the line, and he did the same in the playoffs, tying the Oakland series with an eighth-inning, two-run double. It was reminiscent of Chunk swinging in on a rope with Sloth when the Fratellis were about to make all the Goonies walk the plank in the film's climax.

Mikey's dad is Grady Little, the incompetent Red Sox manager. Just like the Goonies saved Mr. Walsh's behind by finding the rich stuff in the nick of time, the Red Sox repeatedly bail Little out, finding ways to win despite his idiotic decisions late in games.

Mama Fratelli has got to be Yankees bench coach Don Zimmer. They look remarkably similar, and both are evil criminal masterminds. Fortunately, Pedro momentarily transformed into Super Sloth in Game Three of the American League Championship Series when the 72-year-old Zimmer charged after the Red Sox ace swinging a left hook. Pedro grabbed Zimmer's fat head and tossed him to the ground, like when Sloth threw Mama off the pirate ship at the end of the movie.

Then there's Mikey. He represents Red Sox Nation, because Sox fans share Mikey's intensity.

And his need to reach for his inhaler. The Red Sox always manage to leave us gasping for breath.

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UNC wins pair in tourney

BY MICHAEL CLARKE
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

GREENSBORO — The adidas/Spartan Classic this weekend was a tale of two entirely different games that both, fortunately for North Carolina, ended in the same result — a win.

The No. 3 UNC men's soccer team was the only squad at the tournament that finished the weekend without a loss, defeating Mercer on Friday 5-0 and Kentucky on Sunday 2-1.

The victory for the Tar Heels (10-1-2) against the Wildcats (7-4-1) was a battle that, at times, became very physical.

"I was very pleased that we kept our cool under such conditions," said UNC coach Elmar Bolowich. "Things got heated. Things got rough. They played very direct, and we had to battle really for the result."

In the 59th minute of Sunday's game, junior forward Tim Merritt rebounded a save made by Kentucky goalkeeper Andy Gruenebaum and put the ball into the

back of the net for the game's first goal.

The score didn't stay in the Tar Heels' favor for long, though. Less than three minutes later, Wildcat junior Olli Lehtimaki slipped a header by UNC goalkeeper Justin Hughes to tie the score at one goal apiece.

MEN'S SOCCER

Kentucky 1

UNC 2

UNC 5

Mercer 0

Following this goal, both teams began to play with an increasing intensity and aggressiveness that led to some rough play. On a break in the 74th minute, Tar Heel forward Marcus Storey was fouled hard inside Kentucky's goal box, setting up a Ray Fumo penalty kick.

Fumo, a junior midfielder, took a well-placed shot that got by Gruenebaum to put the Tar Heels ahead for good.

"It was a very, very hard-fought game," Fumo said. "Both teams had opportunities to score, and luckily we were able to

get two in on them."

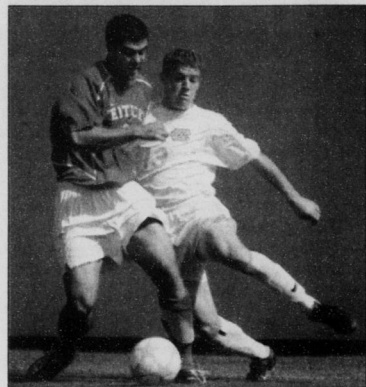
While Kentucky made several runs deep inside North Carolina territory late in the match, they simply could not execute to tie the score. The Wildcats put a shot over the crossbar of the UNC goal and had one goal negated by an off-sides penalty in the game's final two minutes.

Against Mercer (5-6) on Friday, the Tar Heels had little trouble scoring. Freshman Michael Harrington had an unassisted goal in the 12th minute that was the only score of the first half and turned out to be the game winner.

About 10 minutes into the second half, freshman forward Jamie Watson scored on a laser to the opposite side of the net after being fed the ball by Storey on a breakout.

The Tar Heels never looked back, scoring three more goals in the match including a stretch in which they scored twice in

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DTH/ALEX FINE
North Carolina midfielder Wes Shull (13) scored one goal in the team's 5-0 win against Mercer on Friday at the adidas/Spartan Classic.

UNC 28 ECU 17



DTH/JOSH GREER

Above: North Carolina wide receiver Mike Mason (88) celebrates his 34-yard touchdown catch against East Carolina. He added another catch to finish with 36 yards in UNC's first-ever trip to Greenville. Below: Running back Jacque Lewis (20), who ran for 66 yards, dives for extra yards in the Tar Heels' first victory of the season.

WINLESS NO MORE: TAR HEELS DOWN ECU

BY RANDY WELLINGTON
STAFF WRITER

GREENVILLE — The defense made stops when it had to. The offense ran the ball effectively. The freshmen announced their arrival. And most importantly, the zero in the win column became a one.

For that, North Carolina is grateful. The Tar Heels beat East Carolina 28-17 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on Saturday in a battle of winless teams.

"It's been very frustrating," said UNC running back Jacque Lewis. "To get this win is like a weight off our backs."

The game started slow — the two teams punted seven times in a scoreless first quarter. UNC (1-5) struck first, scoring on a 34-yard touchdown pass from Darian Durant to freshman Mike Mason early in the second quarter.

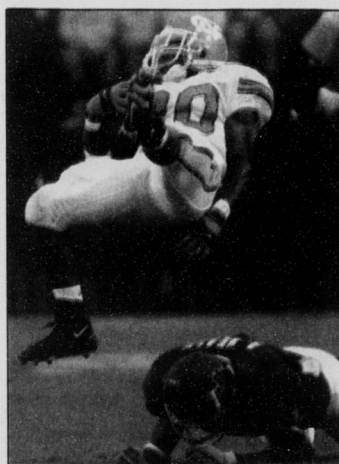
The Pirates, who had scored a field goal earlier, drove the ball to the three and faced third and goal. Quarterback Desmond Robinson took the snap, rolled left and threw back right to a wide-open Tutu Moye in the end zone. The Pirates (0-6) had a 10-7 half-time lead.

In a steady rain, UNC's only choice was to use its suspect rushing attack to get out of trouble.

"We need the offensive line to lead us each week," said UNC coach John Bunting. "That's the unit with the best combination of talent and experience."

The line didn't let him down. Up 14-10 in the third quarter, two runs by Ronnie McGill took the Tar Heels to their 15. A Lewis carry went for 30 yards. Chad Scott got three. Then Lewis broke free again for 39 yards down the left sideline.

But a yellow flag was lying on the ground at midfield. Chop block on the Tar Heels. Second and 20.



Two screen passes to Scott got a first down. The drive stalled, and kicker Dan Orner missed a 35-yard field goal. But UNC had flipped the field position, and on the next possession, the defense capitalized.

On third and one from their own 29, the Pirates handed to fullback Vonta Leach, who got the first down but fumbled the football. UNC cornerback Chris Hawkins recovered.

Two plays later, Durant found freshman tight end Jon Hamlett wide open in the right flat on a play-action pass. Hamlett trotted along the right sideline and into the end zone with the help of a stellar block from wideout Jarwarski Pollock. UNC was up 21-10.

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BY THE NUMBERS

322

Days since the Tar Heels' last victory before Saturday.

288

Total yards allowed by the UNC defense, a season low.

189

Total rushing yards for UNC, a season high.

12

Punts by both teams, including 7 in the first quarter.

Tailbacks break out in victory

BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

GREENVILLE — Chad Scott isn't used to getting many carries in North Carolina's offense.

In fact, none of UNC's tailbacks are used to getting the chance to carry the ball consistently.

It might not be a coincidence that the Tar Heels aren't used to winning, either. Scott and the UNC running game finally came alive Saturday, controlling the clock to grind out a 28-17 victory against East Carolina.

"We ran the football well," said UNC coach John Bunting. "We hadn't done that in a long time. Anytime you can run the football well, it's huge for your offense."

It was a particularly satisfying game for Scott, who had only been used in short spurts in previous games.

Scott ran for 43 yards on 10 carries, more than doubling his season totals in both categories. He was also UNC's leading receiver, catching three balls for 63 yards.

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