

UNC tops Tribe to end regular season

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — The North Carolina field hockey team closed out the regular season Sunday afternoon with a 1-0 win against William & Mary at Busch Field.

The No. 4 Tar Heels are 16-4 heading into the ACC Tournament, which begins Thursday in Charlottesville, Va. The No. 14 Tribe fell to 12-5 on the season with the loss. The Tar Heels completed a Virginia sweep, as they also defeated No. 12 Old Dominion 4-2.

Freshman Rachel Dawson scored the game's only goal on a straight shot off a penalty corner 16:14 into the game. Juniors Katy Potter and Laura Douglas assisted on the play. The Tar Heel defense then held on to preserve the shutout, the ninth of the season for sophomore goalkeeper Katy Tran.

"This was a hard-fought game," said UNC coach Karen Shelton. "Overall it was a good weekend for

us, with two good wins that give us momentum heading into the ACC Tournament."

FSU downs UNC volleyball

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — North Carolina's volleyball team fell to Florida State 3-0 on Friday, as the Tar Heels failed to have one player record double-digit kills. Florida State won 30-21, 30-27, 30-25. Junior middle hitter Katie Wright led the way with seven kills and five blocks. UNC's record fell to 17-9 and 8-4 in the ACC, while the Seminoles improved to 13-12 and 3-8 in the conference.

Sophomore Dani Nyenhuis contributed six kills and five digs, while sophomore setter McKenzie Byrd led the team with 13 assists.

The Tar Heels will have to wait a full week to rebound from the loss as they play Maryland on Nov. 7 at Carmichael Auditorium.

UNC flat in home finale loss

BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Flashy footwork and solid defense weren't enough for the North Carolina men's soccer team Saturday night.

Despite outplaying Clemson for the majority of their last regular season game at Fetzer Field this season, the No. 6 Tar Heels couldn't generate any offense against their physical opponent, losing 1-0 in front of 2,624 fans.

It was North Carolina's second consecutive ACC loss and their first loss at home this season.

"We just didn't play soccer tonight," said UNC coach Elmar Bolowich. "That's the bottom line."

The loss dropped the Tar Heels (11-3-3, 2-3-1 in the ACC) into a fourth-place tie with N.C. State. The teams will meet in the first

round of the ACC Tournament later this month.

UNC paid the price for a slow start in the first half in its regular season conference finale.

After failing to capitalize on several chances earlier in the period, Clemson (8-7-2, 2-4) took the lead in the 37th minute when Charlie Roberts finished a perfectly placed corner kick by Brad Gibson.

The Tar Heels had several solid opportunities of their own in the first half, but were unable to crack the stingy Clemson defense for a score.

Clemson goalkeeper Phil Marfuggi thwarted the Tar Heels with two terrific saves in the first half. He stopped a 10-yard shot by UNC freshman Ted Odgers in the 16th minute.

Marfuggi then negated North Carolina's best chance of the half when he made a diving kick save to stop a shot by Marcus Storey three minutes before the intermission.

Bolowich said he wasn't happy with his team's effort in the first half.

"You can't play an ACC game if you only decide to play for 45 minutes," Bolowich said. "The game is 90 minutes, and in the first half, they wanted the game more."

"They played with more passion. They played with more enthusiasm, and they got the goal they needed to win it."

UNC controlled the pace of the game effectively in the second half, outshooting Clemson 6-1 in the period, but the Tiger defense was up to the challenge.

The Tar Heels had two excellent chances in the last five minutes of the game.

Freshman Jamie Watson was denied when Clemson was credited with a team save with seven minutes left in the game.

Michael Harrington got a shot off from the corner of the box in the 88th minute after juking his way through the Clemson defense,

but the ball sailed over the crossbar.

"We just couldn't really get anything together," Harrington said. "At times we were playing a little bit like individuals and not like a team."

Harrington also said he was surprised by the team's poor performance, especially after last week's 4-0 loss at Wake Forest.

"I thought after the big loss there, everyone was just going to come back and work even harder to get the win after having that happen," Harrington said. "We came out flat."

Despite all of his team's mistakes, Bolowich was willing to give credit to Clemson's physical style of play.

"It's difficult to break them down," Bolowich said. "You need to have a certain amount of luck, skill and opportunities."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Tar Heels place 8th at ACC Championships

BY JEREMY BORDEN
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — Dust and the distant image of N.C. State's red uniforms were all North Carolina and other runners saw at the ACC Cross Country Championships on Saturday.

The Wolfpack led for the duration of the race and came away with their third ACC Championship in a row and their seventh in the last eight years.

The powerhouse's black and red dominated the winner's platform, placing five runners in the top 10. State's Andy Smith took the overall title with a time of 24 minutes, 13 seconds.

Smith led the Wolfpack to a strong 48-point performance. Florida State came in a distant second with 104 points. Virginia, Clemson and Wake Forest rounded out the top five. North Carolina finished a disappointing eighth in the eight-kilometer race.

"It was a good race, definitely a

packed field," Smith said. "I was expecting to win, I'll come out and say that. There's no reason I shouldn't have gone out there today and won."

UNC coach Michael Whittlesey said that it wasn't that the Tar Heels had a bad day, but rather that the strength of the conference reared its ugly head.

"I'm surprised where we finished, place-wise," Whittlesey said. "I did not think during the race that was the way we were running."

Brian McGovern and Matt Sciandra were the Tar Heels' top runners on the day. McGovern finished 17th with a time of 25:12. Sciandra finished 34th with a time of 25:45.

"If we ran as well as we could, we felt like we could have been third," Sciandra said. "It's disappointing. We definitely could have raced better."

McGovern said the course was tough, with a lot of hills making the hot day even hotter for the

North Carolina runners. He still thought UNC had raced decently, though, and was severely disappointed upon hearing that the team had finished eighth.

"Are you serious?" the shocked junior said. "I guess we're not exactly satisfied with that. I know the guys worked hard. We're definitely going to have to work harder going into (the NCAA District III championship meet)."

And that is what they will do. Sciandra and McGovern said they are hoping for a good performance at the Nov. 15 race. They said that the flat 10-kilometer course is conducive to many of the Tar Heels' running styles.

"The district meet plays better to our forte," Whittlesey said. "We've done an awful lot of work and the guys are doing the right things. It just didn't come out today as we hoped it would."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Tar Heels looking to bounce back

BY DAVID MOSES
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina men's soccer team hadn't lost two consecutive games all season.

It hadn't lost at Fetzer Field since September 7, 2002, a span of 14 games.

Both of these streaks ended on Saturday as Clemson handed the Tar Heels a 1-0 loss.

In the last game in front of the home crowd for seniors Grant Porter, Sean McGinty and Jay Batt, UNC didn't come out strong in the first half and could not net the equalizer in a second half despite controlling most of the play.

In their first game since a 4-0 trouncing at the hands of Wake Forest, North Carolina coach Elmar Bolowich said he did not expect his squad to come out and give such a poor effort, and he could not pinpoint a reason for the team's flat performance on Senior Night.

"I was a little bit surprised because it was our last home game," Bolowich said. "We wanted to do well for our seniors, we want-

ed to send them off with a win."

With only the regular season finale against South Carolina left for the young Tar Heels before they begin play in the ACC Tournament, Bolowich said he is not concerned about whether his team will recover and bounce back.

"We cannot be worried about that — whatever happens, happens," Bolowich said. "We need to get back to what made us strong, we need to again find the passion for the game, the carefree attitude that the guys had in the beginning of the season."

With the loss, the Tar Heels will be seeded fourth in the ACC Tournament, and they will be matched against N.C. State in the tournament's first round. But Bolowich did not put much emphasis on the team's seed heading into postseason play.

"The seed really doesn't matter that much, I'm not so concerned with where we end up in the ACC," Bolowich said. "I'm more concerned with, do we get better right now?"

Freshman Michael Harrington said he thinks his team is very capable of shaking off its losing streak and having a strong showing in the postseason.

"I think we can (bounce back)," Harrington said. "We saw that we could play in the beginning of the season and we kind of dropped off. I think next weekend we can definitely come back and get a win and go on to the ACC Tournament with a good rhythm."

Most of the attention this season for the Tar Heels has been focused on their youthful roster.



In the midst of their first losing streak of the season, and facing the first signs of adversity, nobody knows how this young North Carolina squad will respond in two weeks. Bolowich is one of many who are very interested to find out.

"How do we bounce back? That's more what interests me now," Bolowich said. "We'll see if our team has character."


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