



**BRIAN MACPHERSON**  
NOT IN CHARGE

## Tar Heels prove DTH pick wrong

There was a fired-up team at Kenan Stadium on Saturday. Offensive linemen opened up huge holes and determined tailbacks made big plays. Defenders flew around the field and made big plays. Special-teamsers executed their assignments and made big plays.

An entire team showed the heart it needs to overcome setbacks and close out games.

The difference this time, though, was that North Carolina was that team.

Whoops.

Every week, at the end of a graphic analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of both the Tar Heels and their opponent, our football writers predict a final score. It's supposed to be our way of taking a shot at clairvoyance, and it's supposed to be fun.

Sometimes we're close, and sometimes we're not.

On Saturday, we were not.

I have no idea if the Tar Heel football players read that prediction or if they care what we think. I do have a sneaking suspicion, though, that they were aware that The Daily Tar Heel's prediction for Saturday's game was Wake Forest 45, UNC 3.

Whoops.

The Tar Heels showed more heart on Saturday than they've shown all season. They were just a week removed from a demoralizing loss to Maryland, a game that prompted freshman line-backer Larry Edwards to say, "Hopefully, in my time here, we'll never have a game like this again."

And after junior Chad Scott, a transfer from Kentucky just starting to come into his own, went down in a frightening collision with Wake Forest cornerback Eric King and left the field in an ambulance, the Tar Heels could have folded under the adversity.

A few weeks ago, they probably would have. On Saturday, they didn't.

Ronnie McGill had the best game of his young career, and the toughness he showed on the Tar Heels' final drive — fighting off tacklers for second-effort yards to earn four first downs in nine consecutive carries — proved he's going to be a mainstay in the North Carolina backfield for years.

The offensive line, led by Jeb Terry and Jason Brown, warriors who have fought through this season's struggles as valiantly as anyone, also had its best game of the season. The Tar Heels, as a team, ran for 328 yards, far and away their best total of the year.

The special teams blocked three kicks — much-maligned defensive back Michael Waddell took care of two himself — and recovered two fumbles to provide key momentum shifts and hand the offense great field position.

The defense gave up 562 total yards, but it came up with big stops when it had to, like Jocques Dumas' sack of Wake's Cory Randolph deep in North Carolina territory late in the fourth quarter.

Tommy Davis was so excited about the play, his congratulatory slap on the helmet sent Dumas to the ground.

The Tar Heels played with that kind of passion and desire throughout Saturday's game. The North Carolina defense, which has felt the criticism mount along with the team's loss total, stepped up with several clutch plays to give the offense a chance to win the game.

Given that chance, McGill and Darian Durant, who threw two touchdown passes, weren't about to let it go.

The Tar Heels won a game on Saturday they fully deserved to win.

Whoops.

Contact Brian MacPherson at brimac@email.unc.edu.

UNC 42 Wake Forest 34

# BLOCK PARTY

McGill runs for 244 yards in UNC's first win at Kenan since 2001



DTH/GREG LOGAN

North Carolina tailbacks Jacques Lewis (20) and Ronnie McGill (25) celebrate one of McGill's three touchdowns in Saturday's 42-34 win against Wake Forest. Lewis had 107 all-purpose yards and a TD. The victory was the Tar Heels' first at Kenan Stadium since Dec. 1, 2001.

BY RANDY WELLINGTON  
STAFF WRITER

**L**osing makes you grow up. It builds character. Losers have to endure.

But all winners do is celebrate. The North Carolina postgame locker room, so somber for so long, was full of revelry on Saturday as the Tar Heels broke a 10-game home losing streak with a 42-34 win against Wake Forest at Kenan Stadium.

"(The locker room) wasn't like that last year," said UNC quarterback Darian Durant. "It hasn't been like that this year. It's just a great feeling."

After the Tar Heels went up 35-13 in the third quarter, their fans showed a feeling of cautious elation. UNC (2-8, 1-5 in the ACC) had blown second-half leads of 34-17 against Syracuse, 28-24 against Clemson and 31-27 against Arizona State earlier in the season.

Appropriately, Wake Forest (5-5, 3-4) scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to cut the deficit to 35-27 with 9:27 remaining.

The UNC offense answered with three straight runs by tailback Ronnie McGill to the Wake 30. A penalty pushed the Tar Heels back to the 45. On the next play, Durant, after faking a handoff to McGill, hit Mike Mason on a hook-

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BY THE NUMBERS

244

Ronnie McGill's rushing total, ninth best in UNC history

10

Number of consecutive home losses before Saturday

3

Number of kicks blocked by UNC special teams

## Special teams key in victory

BY AARON FITT  
SENIOR WRITER

Don't let the score fool you. Wake Forest dominated the first half of Saturday's football game against North Carolina.

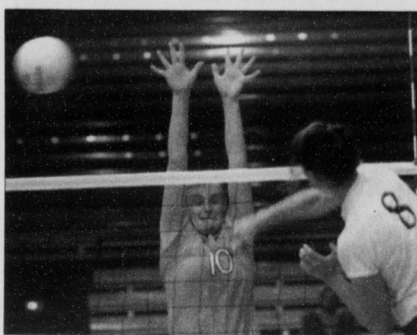
Total yards: Wake 303, UNC 117. First downs: Wake 18, UNC eight. Time of possession: Wake 19:00, UNC 11:00.

But the score was UNC 16, Wake 13. OK, so maybe the Demon Deacons didn't dominate every facet of the game.

Put a check mark in the Tar Heels' column for special teams play. They blocked three kicks in one game — two

SEE SPECIAL TEAMS, PAGE 7

## UNC crushed after loss to Virginia



DTH/GARRETT HALL

Junior outside hitter Molly Pyles (10) goes up for a block against Virginia. Pyles had 29 digs in Saturday's game.

BY JACOB KARABELL  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The looks on their faces said it all. Crushed. Stunned. Heartbroken.

After a stunning defeat of Maryland on Friday, the NCAA Tournament hopes of the North Carolina volleyball team suffered a crushing blow after a five-game upset loss to Virginia. The Cavaliers won the match 25-30, 30-26, 26-30, 30-26, 18-16 on Saturday in Carmichael Auditorium.

The loss means that, even if the Tar Heels (18-10, 9-5 in the ACC) win their final three regular-season games, they might need to win the ACC Tournament and secure an automatic berth in order to qualify for postseason play.

"We should have, by all means, beat Virginia," said middle hitter Katie Wright,

who had 12 kills and nine blocks in the match. "If we have two games, two nights in a row, we normally come out on fire. We need to find that same fire and stay consistent for the second game in a series."

The match started out perfectly from a UNC standpoint. The team honored seniors Aletha Green and Tammy Foxworth in a ceremony before the game, and the Tar Heels led Virginia for most of the first game en route to the game-one win.

The Cavaliers (23-7, 7-7), though, were able to win two of the next three games to set up a game five showdown.

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## Field hockey falls to Duke

Blue Devils win on penalty stroke

FROM WIRE REPORTS

CHARLOTTEVILLE, Va. — The second-seeded North Carolina field hockey team fell to third-seeded Duke, 4-3, on Friday in a semifinal game of the ACC Tournament at University Hall Turf Field.

The loss was UNC's second of the season to Duke and marked the sixth consecutive year that the Tar Heels, winners of 14 ACC titles, have been eliminated from conference tournament play in the semifinals.

"It was a heck of a game," said

UNC coach Karen Shelton. "I think our Duke 4 backfield found it difficult to contain Duke's

speed. Both teams played very hard and the game went back and forth, but they were a little better than us today."

The Blue Devils scored the game winner on a penalty stroke by Johanna Bischof with 12:54 to play in the game. It was Duke's second stroke of the game and the third by the teams combined.

Duke scored first, on a penalty corner just over 15 minutes into the game. Gracie Sorbello got the goal, assisted by Katie Grant and Bischof. The Tar Heels tied the game on a penalty stroke by junior Kerry Falgowski with 5:55 to play in the half. The stroke was Falgowski's first of the year and made the Tar Heels five for five for the season in penalty strokes.

The Blue Devils' Kim Van Kirk scored with 3:22 to play to give Duke a 2-1 lead at the break, but the Tar Heels quickly tied the score. Just 23 seconds into the second half, sophomore Karen Mann notched her sixth goal of the year to even the game at 2-2. UNC grabbed its only lead of the game eight minutes later on a penalty corner straight shot by freshman Rachel Dawson.

Duke tied the game on a goal by Grant with 15:40 to play, then went ahead for good with the penalty stroke. The Blue Devils, 17-2 and ranked No. 2 in the nation, reached the ACC championship game for just the second time, the first since 1990.

In Sunday's title game, Duke was defeated 3-2 in overtime by top-seed Wake Forest.

Senior Kelly Dostal had two goals for the Demon Deacons including the game winner in overtime. Freshman Lauren Crandall also scored for Wake, tying the game at 2-2 in the 54th minute.

Junior Chrissie Murphy had both of Duke's goals, scoring twice within four minutes early in the second half.

UNC's Dawson was named the ACC Freshman of the Year for field hockey and was also selected to the All-Tournament Team, along with fellow Tar Heel Mann.

North Carolina, 16-5 and ranked No. 4, will await the announcement of the 2003 NCAA Tournament field, scheduled for Tuesday at 8 p.m.

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