

Williams hit with technical Women's track wins ACC title

BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Maybe he was just mad at Rashad McCants for playing poor fast-break defense.

Maybe he was even angrier because his team was letting another big lead slip away in the second half.

Maybe his frustration was more intense because another player was having the game of his life against the Tar Heels on Saturday, something that seems to have become a weekly occurrence.

Or maybe it just might have been that Roy Williams was trying to release the beast within himself.

For whatever reason, North Carolina's coach picked up his second technical foul of the season, and his second in the past two weeks, when he slammed his hand into the scorer's table after McCants was whistled for a foul in the second half of Sunday's 78-71 victory against Florida State.

It was an uncharacteristic loss of composure for Williams during a game that was typical of his team's performance this season: a quick start, a squandered lead and an ugly finish.

But Williams' outburst wasn't just an uncontrollable spasm of

frustration. It was a demand for his players to get their act together, a move that seemed to work as his team held on in the final minutes to win a pivotal ACC game.

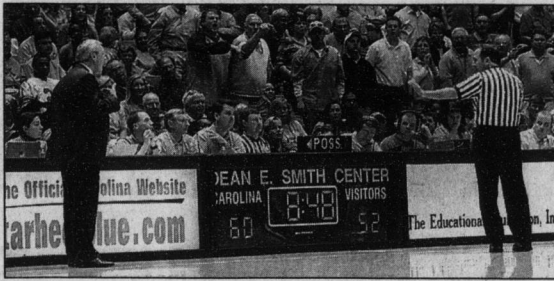
"I've had now 10 technical fouls in 16 years, and I was not mad at the officials," Williams said. "I was not mad at the officials. I was mad at (McCants) for stopping the fast break high. You should never stop the fast break high. You should sprint to the other end."

After the game, McCants admitted to his mistake but said that he was still taken aback by the technical foul.

"(The referee) missed the call," McCants said. "Coach was mad at me actually for stopping the break high. I think (the referee) kind of felt guilty about his call so he kind of took it out on Coach."

The entire season has been a test of patience for Williams, who has had to watch his team fumble leads and sputter through its conference schedule.

Although Sunday's technical foul came only a few games after Williams' meltdown at Georgia Tech, Jackie Manuel said he didn't think it was indicative of any developing pattern in his coach's personality.



DTH/ANDREW SYNOWIEZ

North Carolina coach Roy Williams (left) protests a technical foul assessed by official Mike Wood in the second half of UNC's 78-71 win.

"He's acting the same," Manuel said. "He's trying to make us better."

Melvin Scott also said that Williams has been a rock, but that he's been able to catch glimpses of a more animated version of his coach during the course of the season.

"He's getting funnier as time goes on," Scott said. "I didn't know he was that funny. He's real amped up at times, and sometimes that's funny."

Williams was willing to acknowledge such humor after Sunday's game.

"It was probably the silliest I've ever looked during a game," he said.

If the Tar Heels don't start to execute more consistently, the "amped-up" side of Williams could very well come out again.

And with tough games at N.C. State and Duke looming, it might be tough for the Tar Heels to protect their coach's sanity.

Said Williams, "If I die, it won't be because of any physical ailment."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

CLEMSON, S.C. — The North Carolina women's track and field team won its 15th ACC indoor team championship on Saturday with 124 1/2 points.

Laura Gerraughey won titles in the shot put and weight throw for the second consecutive year and Tatyana Kirichenko won the pole vault title to lead the women.

The UNC men placed fourth with 83 points. Freshman Nick Owens highlighted the weekend for the men with an ACC title in the weight throw.

In the women's pole vault, Kirichenko won her first ACC indoor title with a vault of 12-11 1/2.

Perruquet, Weeks win titles

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Seniors Jessi Perruquet and Kelly Weeks won individual ACC championships on Saturday as the North Carolina women's swimming and diving team placed second in the 2004 ACC Championships.

Virginia won the championship for the second straight year with

675 points while North Carolina moved past Florida State into second place on the last day of competition with 623.5 points.

Perruquet won the fourth individual ACC championship of her career in the 100-yard freestyle.

Weeks won her second successive ACC title in the 200-yard butterfly. Junior Jessie Brosch took the runner-up spot in the event.

UNC splits with Louisville

NORMAN, Okla. — The North Carolina softball team split a doubleheader with Louisville on Sunday at the OU/Nike Tournament.

UNC won against Louisville, 4-3, and lost game two, 13-3. Freshman Anna Evans and senior Emily Price powered the offense in the win, as Evans scored two runs and Price had two runs batted in.

Sophomore pitcher Crystal Cox started game one and pitched three innings, letting off two runs. Junior Ashley Allen relieved Cox and pitched four innings allowing zero earned runs and earned the win.

Mojzis and Cline fuel sweep Bunn rallies for crucial victories

BY HUNTER POWELL
STAFF WRITER

For the North Carolina women's tennis team, beating top-25 teams has been like stealing candy from a baby.

The Tar Heels, riding a five-match unbeaten streak against ranked opponents, dominated "Showdown Weekend," posting 5-2 victories against No. 19 Texas A&M and No. 7 Northwestern.

"It feels really good, just super sweet," said junior Kendall Cline. "We are a young team, and it's good to get the year off to a good start."

In the first month of the season, North Carolina (9-1) has flexed its muscles in singles and exercised its demons in doubles, overcoming an initial lack of chemistry by winning its last four doubles points.

"It gets the whole team amped going into singles, and it really eases up the stress because we know we only need three singles matches to win," Cline said.

This weekend, the Tar Heels' No. 1 team of juniors Cline and Aniela Mojzis won two big matches, including an 8-6 win against the nationally top-ranked doubles team of Cristelle Grier and Jessica Rush for Northwestern.

WOMEN'S TENNIS	
Texas A&M	2
UNC	5
N'western	
UNC	5

Senior Kendrick Bunn and freshman Caitlin Collins also pitched in two doubles victories this weekend, helping propel No. 9 North Carolina to early leads.

"(Bunn) matches up well with anyone," said Coach Brian Kalbas. "She's a good setter-upper and she has good hands. She and Caitlin played a little nervous on Saturday but today they looked so confident together."

"For us to come out and beat that team handily was a good sign." Still battling an injury, Bunn continued to give the Tar Heels a burst of energy, clinching the match against Texas A&M (3-5) by winning a singles match in which she came back from 5-0 first-set deficit.

"For us to have a fifth-year senior to go out there is invaluable to our team," Kalbas said. "She never gives up in a point, and she never gives up in a match."

Senior captain Lee Bairos also registered a huge win on Sunday, defeating No. 36 Jessica Rush.

"It feels great," Bairos said. "I think we feel strong as a team, and this match is going to build our confidence up because they are ranked ahead of us."

The seniors lead the Tar Heels. However, the sheer talent of the three freshmen makes a statement

in and of itself.

Freshman Sara Anundsen won both her singles matches easily, while Collins won a key three-set singles match against Texas A&M.

"They are awesome," Bairos said. "Each one is different and each contributes to the team differently. They are all great players on and off the court, and their personalities are awesome."

The Tar Heels are beginning to build the chemistry necessary to win critical matches.

"There are no hidden agendas, and no questions," Kalbas said. "I have had to take a few people out of the lineup, but they handle it with a lot of class."

"To me, the most important thing is having fun, and for them to show that when they are playing and there is so much pressure on the line, that is awesome."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

BY RACHEL SODER
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina women's tennis team's win against Northwestern would not have been complete without the dramatic finish that has come to be Kendrick Bunn's trademark.

After aiding UNC to victory the day before with a 7-6 (7-5) 7-6 (7-4) win against Anna Lubinsky of Texas A&M in her singles match, the sixth-seeded Bunn clinched the victory for the Tar Heels Sunday for the second straight day, winning 6-4, 6-1.

With the wins, Bunn clinched matches against the No. 19 Aggies and No. 7 Northwestern, 5-2.

"I just can't seem to make it easy on myself," Bunn said. "I just need to work on closing out matches while I'm ahead. It feels good to close them out, and I'm never going to give up until the last point."

This type of gut-wrenching performance and never-say-die attitude has set an example for her

teammates.

"To have a fifth-year senior out there who knows how to win and who has been in pressure situations, it's just incredible the way she just fights and competes," said UNC coach Brian Kalbas. "That can help younger players know that when things aren't going well, you just have to stay positive and keep working."

Bunn's influence was clear when she teamed up with freshman Caitlin Collins in the No. 2 spot to defeat Northwestern's Jaime Peisel and Alexis Prousis, 8-3, in doubles action on Sunday.

The combination of Bunn and Collins also closed out a tight match on Saturday against Helga Vieira and Anna Lubinsky of Texas A&M, winning 9-7.

"She and Caitlin complemented each other very well today," said Kalbas. "(Bunn) has a personality and style that can play with a lot of people. She's so easygoing."

Bunn's performance was nearly

flawless in earlier matches this year, when the team traveled to Madison, Wis., for the USTA/ITA Indoor Championships. There, she earned a last-minute victory once again, defeating Harvard's Cindy Chu, 7-5, 6-4.

The win, along with another singles win against Wisconsin and a 2-1 doubles record that weekend, earned Bunn the ACC Women's Tennis Player of the Week honors.

Despite clutch performances this year, Bunn remains modest.

"To tell you the truth, I don't really feel older and wiser than them," Bunn said. "I would say just in situations where there is a tight match or something like that, I've had experience with that before and know when to put the fight in."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

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The Daily Tar Heel is seeking students to serve on the panel that will choose the editor of the DTH for the 2004-2005 school year.

Applications for the seven at-large positions on the DTH Editor Selection Board are available at the DTH Office and the Carolina Union info desk kiosk.

Applicants must be available for an orientation meeting from 5-6pm Thursday, March 18 and from approximately 8:30am-4pm Saturday, March 20 to conduct interviews and make the selection.

All students may apply for at-large positions except current DTH news staff members. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Elyse Ashburn (962-4086, eashburn@email.unc.edu) or Chrissy Beck (962-0175, cmbeck@email.unc.edu).

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