

# Runners place 3rd in Pre-National Meet

FROM WIRE REPORTS

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — The No. 8 North Carolina women's cross country team turned in a strong performance Saturday at the NCAA Pre-National Meet at Indiana State University, finishing third out of 37 teams in the 6K Blue Race.

Tar Heels Carol Henry and Erin Donohue led the way, finishing second and fifth, respectively, in the race, which featured nine teams ranked in the top 25.

UNC's Meghan Owen placed 30th with a time of 21 minutes 24.4 seconds.

Alice Schmidt and Jennie Sucher rounded out the scoring for the Tar Heels, with Schmidt finishing 45th in 21:39.7 and Sucher completing the course 47th in 21:39.8. Jessica Perry was the only other UNC runner in the Blue Race, crossing the line in 22:26.4, good for 127th place.

Four Tar Heel women ran in the Open 6K, led by a 10th place finish from Nicole Boykin.

The men competed in the 8K Blue Race and finished 35th in the team competition. Brian McGovern was the only UNC harrier to finish in the top 100, as his time of 25:13.2 was good for 99th.

## UNC wins close ACC match

CHARLOTTEVILLE, Va.

— The No. 2 North Carolina field hockey team jumped to a 2-0 halftime lead and hung on to the advantage to defeat Virginia 2-1 Sunday.

The Tar Heels are now 16-1, while No. 16 Virginia fell to 10-7.

Senior Kelsey Keeran opened the scoring with 19 minutes, 21 seconds to play in the first half with her second goal of the weekend. Keeran also scored in UNC's 2-0 victory against James Madison Saturday.

Junior Naomi Weatherald scored the winning goal on a penalty corner with 18 minutes left in the first half.

On the only UVa. penalty corner of the game, Erin Hayes scored to end the shutout and put the final tally at 2-1.

For the game, UNC had eight corners to the Cavs' one.

The Tar Heels held Virginia without a shot in the first half, but the Cavaliers got three in the second half.

## Volleyball loses two in Fla.

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — The North Carolina volleyball team dropped its third straight match to an opponent from the state of Florida on Sunday, as the Tar Heels fell to Miami in four games, 26-30, 30-27, 30-25, 30-28.

UNC (11-10, 6-3 in the ACC) dropped another ACC match Friday night in four games to Florida State, 30-27, 30-25, 27-30, 30-28.

Senior Molly Pyles notched 17 kills and 18 digs against Miami (10-6, 5-3), while junior Dani Nyenhuis added 15 kills and 15 digs. Senior Norma Cortez, who was a junior-college national champion at nearby Miami-Dade Community College in 2001 and 2002, got the start at setter and led UNC with 33 assists.

Miami took over the momentum in game three, using its strongest offensive effort of the day to win the game 30-25.

The Hurricanes hit .333, as four different players hit .375 or better while UNC again had trouble finding offensive consistency and registered a match-low 14 kills.

Early in game four it looked as if Miami would roll past the Tar Heels to win the match, as the Hurricanes quickly jumped out to a 5-1 lead. But UNC responded, tying the match at 12.

From there on the teams matched each other point for point before Miami broke the deadlock to take a 27-25 lead.

North Carolina clawed back to 29-28, but could not regain the lead and dropped the game.

# Tar Heels shut out No. 7 USC to build win streak

## UNC gains 1st consecutive wins in '04

BY LAISEE RINTEL  
STAFF WRITER

While most students used Fall Break to relax, the North Carolina men's soccer team was willing to work.

The Tar Heels beat No. 7 South Carolina 2-0 Saturday, proving they were not in a break frame of mind.

The win gave UNC (5-6-2) its first two-game winning streak after defeating Elon 3-1 Wednesday. The Tar Heels also handed USC (8-3-1) its second shutout of the season.

The sophomores dominated the scoreboard Saturday as Ted Odgers passed the ball to Michael Harrington, who chipped it to Corey Ashe for a one-timer in the box. Ashe's goal gave UNC the lead halfway into the first half.

"I feel like the offense is trying to get some combinations going," said senior Marcus Storey. "We are starting to get comfortable with each other."

Even with the confidence and momentum gained by Ashe's goal, it looked as though the goal could be the only one of the game.

"The goal gave us confidence, but then again, this year we have had a little problem with scoring and then taking our foot off the

pedal," said senior Ray Fumo. "We kept telling ourselves we needed to get the next one. We couldn't be satisfied with one."

Ashe's early goal forced USC to attack more, leaving the Tar Heel offense with more room to maneuver.

"The early goal by Corey was big time," said sophomore Jamie Watson. "We were more open than if it would have been 0-0 or 1-1. It showed that their defense was so stretched out that we were able to run in behind them."

The Tar Heels capitalized on this change in positioning when freshman Andre Sherard lobbed the ball over the Gamecocks' defense. Watson received the pass and gathered the ball on the left side, pounding the ball past South Carolina goalkeeper Brad Guzan from about 15 yards out.

"Andre couldn't have put a better ball," Watson said. "It was just perfect. I just had to run onto it. I didn't really want to put it on my left foot, but it kind of went there."

Both sides of the field proved strong for UNC.

"I thought the defense played outstanding," said Coach Elmar Bolowich. "They have gotten progressively better from game to

game." Fumo said the shutout was impressive against a strong team like USC.

"They are a very good team, and for us to go out and keep a zero on the board was huge," Fumo said. "(Goalkeeper Ford Williams) came up big again for us in the back."

Senior captain Tim Merritt said it was probably the first time the defense played a full 90 minutes.

"We played well, we played organized and we stayed together," he said.

As for the rest of the season, Bolowich said there is still a long way to go.

"It was just a step for our team in the right direction, never mind the (postseason)," Bolowich said. "We needed to beat a ranked team. We always felt like we could do it, but other than Virginia, we have not really done it all season long."

Bolowich said he hopes the win will boost the team and allow the Tar Heels to continue adding to their win streak.

"To come up with a win at home, I think it changed, a little bit, the momentum for our team," he said. "And I hope it did something for us."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

# Ute offense steamrolls UNC

BY JACOB KARABELL  
SPORTS EDITOR

SALT LAKE CITY — Five minutes and 54 seconds.

That's the total time it took Utah's offense to score on its four first-half touchdown drives — three of which covered more than 80 yards of Rice-Eccles Stadium field turf.

It was a sequence of events that could have been recorded from a video game, a textbook execution of Coach Urban Meyer's unique option schemes.

And for a North Carolina defense that ranked 112th nationally entering Saturday's contest, Meyer's offensive juggernaut was simply too much to handle.

"The option is a difficult offense," said UNC senior defensive tackle Jonas Seawright. "It's a pretty hard offense to defend. You really have to come prepared. You really have to come ready and you really have to have your game plan down to attack that type of offense."

Planning to contain an offense like Utah's is all the more difficult because of senior quarterback Alex Smith.

Smith has garnered national

attention largely because of statistics — he passed for 341 yards and ran for 55 Saturday — but the numbers do not demonstrate how efficiently he captains the Ute attack.

Pinned down by a David Wooldridge punt at the Utah 1-yard line with 1:55 remaining in the first half, Smith ran two consecutive quarterback sneaks to remove the Utes from their goal line, the second of which was a 19-yard scamper down the middle of the field.

Then, like a symphony conductor, Smith covered the remaining 77 yards to the Utah end zone with a seemingly nonchalant grace.

He completed passes on the next five throws for a combined 61 yards, a mix of quick sideline strikes and deeper throws across the middle of the field.

With the red-clad crowd rising in anticipation with 18 seconds left on the clock, Smith ran his trademark option keeper to the right side, gaining another 12 yards to the UNC 6.

And two plays later, he punctuated the drive with a short throw to wideout Paris Warren for a touchdown.

Ten plays and 99 yards later, the

Utes had extended their halftime lead to 20 with the offense set to receive the ball again to open the second half.

"We couldn't stop these guys," said UNC coach John Bunting. "We just didn't do a very good job. We failed miserably as a defense, and that's me and the staff and the players."

Bunting prepared his team during the week for Utah's atypical offensive formations. UNC started five defensive backs to attempt to counter Utah's four- and five-receiver sets, but the Tar Heels had no answer for Smith or the option attack, allowing a school-record 669 yards.

Utah also scored touchdowns on five of its seven trips into the red zone, keyed by Smith's rapid decision making and near-flawless execution, which made the Tar Heels' task all the more difficult.

"Everything moved fast, you know?" said linebacker Larry Edwards. "But that's how the game is. You just have to move and react."

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