

Hurting Tar Heels prepare for 'Canes

BY DANIEL BLANK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Often, teams will use their bye week to get an extra seven days of preparation for their next opponent, especially when that foe happens to be ranked fourth in the nation.

But instead of getting in a lot of extra work to get ready for undefeated Miami, North Carolina used its open weekend just to heal itself.

Seven Tar Heels left their 46-16 loss at Utah on Oct. 16 due to injury, including quarterback Darian Durant and running backs Ronnie McGill and Jacque Lewis.

"It couldn't be as efficient or as beneficial as I'd like it to be because we had so many players hurt," said UNC coach John Bunting. "I think we accomplished some things in terms of introduction to all facets of Miami."

One player who will continue to see an increased role as a result of the rash of injuries is fullback-turned-tailback Madison Hedgecock.

The senior, who received his first carries of the year two games ago against N.C. State, will continue to run the ball because of the potential absence of McGill and Lewis.

"If you talk about a versatile player, he could probably kick if I asked him to," Bunting said. "He's done everything else besides that. Great team player."

Hedgecock is also a vital contributor on the special teams coverage units, which had their setbacks come in the form of injuries to Melik Brown and Lewis.

It won't help that the coverage teams probably will be facing their

most difficult task of the year — containing Devin Hester, Miami's sensational kick returner.

The sophomore is averaging 26.2 yards per punt return and has returned three for scores. Last week, he took the opening kickoff all the way against N.C. State.

"Devin Hester is a guy that you have to be aware of all the time. I think everybody's going to know where number 4 is," Bunting said. "You've got to take extreme precaution as to what you do with him."

But the Hurricanes have plenty of weapons beside Hester that the Tar Heels will have to handle.

In its last five games, Miami has scored at least 27 points and has topped 40 in its last two.

"Just like anybody else, I expect them to want to come and run it right down our throat first," Bunting said. "But they've got enough players that they can throw it any place anytime."

The man throwing the ball will be senior quarterback Brock Berlin. Heavily criticized earlier in the year, Berlin had strong performances in wins against N.C. State and Louisville.

But North Carolina strong safety Gerald Sensabugh has not been impressed by Berlin's midseason turnaround.

"He's not the best quarterback, but he's an all right quarterback," he said. "He makes the throws that he should be able to make. Basically, their offense is based on their receivers burning their guys."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

UNC easily defeats Davidson

BY RACHEL SODER
STAFF WRITER

Davidson took an early 3-2 lead in the first game of the North Carolina volleyball team's match Tuesday in Carmichael Auditorium.

VOLLEYBALL
Davidson 0
UNC 3

It was the last advantage the Wildcats would see. The Tar Heels came out all smiles as they pounded the Wildcats, taking the match 30-21, 30-17, 30-16.

"I thought that we weren't very well disciplined early," said Coach Joe Sagula. "We came into this match with the goal of learning something about ourselves, and we were pretty sloppy."

UNC (13-11) traded points with

the Wildcats (9-18) in the first game, and Davidson came to within one point at 18-17.

But after a quick timeout, the Tar Heels outscored the Wildcats 12-4 to close the first game.

The Tar Heels then knocked the wind out of Davidson early in the second game, winning 10 straight points, half of which were kills by Dani Nyenhuis.

The team did more of the same in the third game to close out the match.

"The third game was better," Sagula said. "We did enjoy the game, and I thought we made some better plays. Our blockers did better for the first two games and our middles were very slow to close the block on the left."

Although Sagula said part of

the strategy was to give Nyenhuis an easy match, the outside hitter managed 16 kills and a career-high .696 hitting percentage.

"I just told Norma (Cortez) to set the middle hitters, so I subbed Dani out and said, 'Let's see if you can set her on the bench,' because that's what I thought she would still do," Sagula said.

Freshman Christie Clark also came out strong in the match.

In her first career start as a Tar Heel, the middle hitter posted 11 blocks, a team high for the season.

"Christie hasn't had as much of an opportunity, but I think she did so well," said senior Caroline deRoock.

"When we were finally able to get her the ball, she was putting her hips down and getting great

blocks." Sophomore Emily Guerry added her own contribution with 10 kills and five blocks in the victory.

"Emily Guerry started slowly, but she finished really strong," Sagula said. "Our blocking picked up in the last game."

Defensive specialists deRoock and freshman Ashley Board were even shuffled up to outside hitters, displaying the Tar Heels' vast versatility.

"They are good volleyball players and great athletes who adapted real well, and I'm real proud of them," Sagula said. "It allows everyone to realize that they've got an important role on this team."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Alumni vie for attorney general position

BY AMY EAGLEBURGER
STAFF WRITER

This year's race for N.C. attorney general pits Tar Heel against Tar Heel, as alumnus Joe Knott takes on fellow UNC graduate Roy Cooper.

Cooper, the incumbent, was first elected to the office in 2000 after 14 years in the N.C. General Assembly.

"The attorney general is really proud of the way his office has fought crime, protected consumers and protected the environment," said William McKinney, spokesman for Cooper's campaign.

During his four-year tenure, Cooper has emphasized the use of DNA evidence to solve crime and has more than tripled the number of DNA analysts working in labs.

Cooper also supported the anti-spam "do not call" list and launched an initiative to battle identity theft.

Cooper's detractors say he is too focused on his political future and seeks to follow in his predecessor's footsteps. Gov. Mike Easley went on to become chief executive after serving eight years as attorney general.

McKinney said Cooper has no plans right now to run for governor. "He is focused on being attorney general. There is a lot to do there, and he will continue to focus on it in his second term."

Knott, Cooper's Republican opponent, said he was motivated to run because of what he views as increasingly partisan practices within the attorney general's office.

"My perception was that the office was being used for political purposes," said Knott, adding that Cooper's political ambitions hinder his ability to do the job well.

Knott has been a litigation partner of Knott, Clark, Berger & Whitehurst since 1985 and a member of the N.C. State Bar since



Democrat Roy Cooper (left) is squaring off against Republican Joe Knott to win a second term.

1980. He also served for four years as an assistant U.S. attorney.

"The attorney general is sort of the policeman for the other branches of government," he said.

"Your (political) career demands that you endear yourself to the people you are supposed to be policing."

This is what concerns Knott the most — the state's top cop pandering to politically powerful members

of the legislature.

He points to problems with the passage of a bill to further DNA testing, which he views as essential to fighting crime.

"I think using DNA is a very fine thing," Knott said. "However, (Cooper) has 20,000 files of DNA that have been sitting around his office unanalyzed because he did not get the money from the legislature."

Knott said he would take a more aggressive approach by mentioning representatives by name that refused to provide more funding, making them more accountable to the people.

He also said voters would not simply be trading one set of ambitions for another:

"I am not a politician. ... I have no (political) aspirations."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

2 candidates in running to be business arbiter

BY JAMES EDWARD DILLARD
STAFF WRITER

The secretary of state's office is the referee of North Carolina business, keeping the game flowing and ensuring that rules are enforced fairly.

And while the latest race to fill the post might not be the main event on Election Day, candidates say their victory would make a difference.

On Tuesday, incumbent Elaine Marshall will face off against Republican Jay Rao for the position in a race that boasts a pair of candidates from different backgrounds. While Marshall was reared in law, Rao's background is in business.

Despite this difference, both candidates see their experience as a strength.

"I'm actually uniquely qualified for this position," Rao said, adding that her detailed political and business background has provided her with the abilities to meet the vari-

ous challenges of being secretary of state.

Rao also said her life experiences, including her move to North Carolina from India at age 4, allow her to bridge the gap between government and business.

Marshall, on the other hand, sees things differently.

"As a lawyer, I've been a user of the secretary of state's office," Marshall said, stressing that a law background is almost a requirement for the position.

"I honestly can't imagine a non-lawyer running a very legal office."

While the candidates differ in their backgrounds, their goals are similar.

Both want to protect state jobs, help small businesses and provide the elderly with a financial education.

"The biggest issue for me and the reason I'm running is the jobs that



Democrat Elaine Marshall and Republican Jay Rao are to battle for the secretary of state position.

have been lost," Rao said, adding that the state's corporate tax rate of 6.9 percent hasn't helped.

Marshall said she wants to continue in her third term what she started in her first — keeping business services fast, accessible and free.

"I turned this agency around morale-wise," she said.

When Marshall arrived in 1997, she said even basic functions of corporations took six to eight weeks to complete. Now she said the office is a model of efficiency. "If we want to be viable and vital in the future, we need to reduce the cost of business."

The candidates also differed slightly on the issue of small busi-

nesses, with Rao claiming that the secretary's office needs to pay more attention to the community.

"I want to be a champion for small business," Rao said.

The race for secretary of state also is on the mind of prominent Republicans.

Senatorial candidate Richard Burr is the chairman of Rao's campaign.

While Marshall said the Democrats do not have the same web of support, she challenged voters to recall how drastically the office has changed since she took the reins in 1997.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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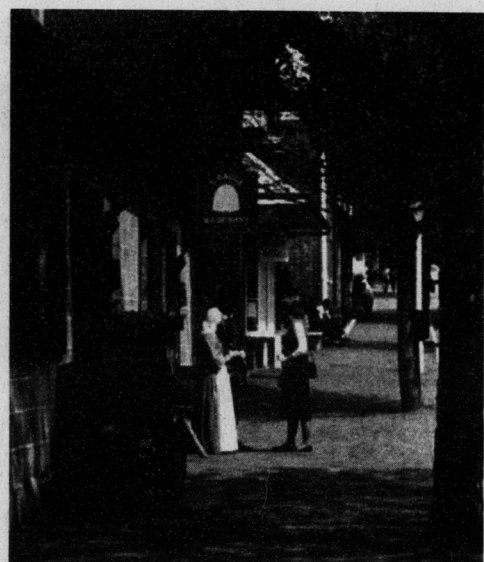
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