at-large NCAA bid BY DAVID MOSES ASSISTANT SPORTSATURDAY

Henry wins her 1st collegiate meet

BY ALICIA JONES

Strong finishes by several North Carolina athletes at the NCAA Region III Championship sealed the women's cross country team's ticket to the NCAA Championships

in Terre Haute, Ind.
UNC finished third overall, behind Duke and N.C. State. The top two teams automatically quali-fied for the NCAA competition, and UNC received an at-large bid to the national meet.

Junior Carol Henry captured first place in the 6K race with a time of 19 minutes, 57.5 seconds, just ahead of senior Erin Donohue (20:07.4).

The victory was Henry's first career cross country win as a col-

She placed fourth at the 2001 NCAA Southeast Regional before sitting out the entire 2002 season with an ankle injury. Henry came back to place second in last year's regional meet.

I was pretty excited," Henry said. "I've never won a cross country meet, so this win ranks pretty high. Erin and I have been running together all season. We were out there to run hard and just get out there in front and run together."

Henry and Donohue took an early lead Saturday running almost side by side, a strategy the pair has used throughout the season to stay ahead of other runners and pace

"It felt almost like practice," Donohue said. "I know I felt real strong the whole way, and it went

right according to plan."

One thing that did not go according to plan was the team's strategy to tighten its pack and

ACC Championships and captured its first-ever conference title.

We had a tough time getting our number four and five runners in, so that's why we couldn't beat out Duke and N.C. State," Donohue

"But hopefully next Monday we'll be able to get everybody together and place a lot higher at NCAAs."

Three of Duke's top runners were notably absent at the meet, as they rested for nationals.

Shannon Rowbury, Sally Meyerhoff and Phebe Ko did not compete after contributing to the upset win against the defending ACC champion Tar Heels. Meyerhoff finished first, ahead of Henry and Donohue, at the confer-

"Going into the race, I was really disappointed that Duke decided not to really take the race seriously and put all of their best runners in

there," Donohue said.
"I think we were looking to show that we could compete with them and beat (Duke)."

Saturday's race might not have been a challenge for Henry and Donohue, but the team will reconvene with Duke's top runners as well as many other high-caliber athletes at the national competition Monday.

The Tar Heels plan to regroup

and take the same approach for the national competition it had for

"I think everything looks good for the team," Donohue said. "We just need to pull our pack up a little bit further and make sure they all are comfortable and have a good race, so we can finish high as a team."

> Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

UNC qualifies for | Tar Heel defense fails in 2nd half

The North Carolina men's soc-cer team went into halftime of its ACC Tournament semifinal against Maryland on Saturday with a scoreless tie and feeling pretty good about its chances to make it to the

After taking a 2-1 lead in the second half, things looked even more

promising for the Tar Heels.

That's when things fell apart for UNC, as Maryland netted three unanswered goals in a span of 11

"First half, I thought we were playing well, and I thought we were going to bring it into the second half and get the win today," senior Tim Merritt said Saturday. "It's disappointing to get four goals scored on us today.

With winds gusting up to 20 mph, Maryland played with the wind at its back in the second half, which seemed to give it a distinct

advantage.

Down 2-1, Maryland defender Kenney Bertz, who could easily throw the ball 25 yards, launched a long throw in into the box as Chris Lancos headed it past Tar Heel goalkeeper Ford Williams for the equalizer.

"(The wind) sometimes can be a factor on throw-ins," said UNC coach Elmar Bolowich. "Ford sort of misjudged that ball a little

The wind also seemed to play a factor in other aspects as UNC misplayed balls that held up in the

"That's what I said at halftime the ball will not end up where you think it will end up," Bolowich said. "It's going to get carried or get stopped. You have to anticipate that depending on the angle and the wind."

For the second consecutive game, North Carolina controlled play in the first half but was unable

to take an early lead.
"I don't know what it is,"

Bolowich said. "I have no answer for that. Sometimes it's frustrating to our team as it is to anybody

It wasn't just the wind that caused the UNC defensive collapse in the second half. Maryland brilliantly executed a series of long-balls to set up goals, and the Tar

Heels had no answer for Maryland forward Jason Garey.

With the Terps clinging to a 3-2 lead, Lancos served a ball at least 40 yards to Garey, who quickly trapped it and blasted his 19th goal of the season by

enter

collaboration.

Locations

across

the U.S..

and Europe.

Williams.
"The difference was that we could not deal with Maryland's quick execution of the long ball, and we got caught twice that resulted in goals," Bolowich

"We allowed (Garey) six shots on goal, and he scored two of those. He's a quality forward. We knew about him, we wanted to pay attention to him, but in the end he had the upper hand on us

With the Tar Heels set to play George Washington in the first

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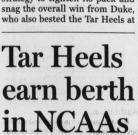
and who would be willing to participate.

round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday, UNC knows it must improve defensively in order to have a chance at making a serious

run at the title. "(We need to) make sure we are staying compact, not getting stretched out too much," Merritt

"Today we didn't make the right decisions in crucial parts of the field, and that led to some

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.



INDIANAPOLIS - Thanks to a 10-8-2 record against one of the nation's most challenging schedules, North Carolina has earned an at-large bid to the 48-team field of the 2004 NCAA Men's Soccer Championship, as announced Monday.
The Tar Heels, who are making

their school-record sixth straight postseason appearance, will host Atlantic 10 champion George Washington (9-8-4) at 6 p.m. Friday at Fetzer Field.

The winner will play a second round match at 16th-seeded Virginia Commonwealth on

Monday's selection marks the 13th NCAA Tournament appearance for the Tar Heels, who own a 15-11-0 record in the postseason. The Tar Heels are 9-4 in alltime NCAA Tournament play at Fetzer Field, but lost to Coastal Carolina, 3-0, in the second round

The Tar Heels are 0-1-0 all-time gainst the Colonials, who defeated

UNC 1-0 during the 1979 season. After a 1-8-3 start, George Washington is undefeated in its last nine games and defeated Temple 2-O in Sunday's A-10 title match to claim the program's sixth NCAA Tournament berth.

Golfers eliminated in Florida

HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, Fla. The North Carolina women's golf team was eliminated from the Hooters Collegiate Match Play Championship after losing to New Mexico in the second round, four matches to one.

The second round was completed Monday morning after play was halted due to darkness on Sunday. The event is being played on the Las Colinas course at the Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort.

UNC freshman Ann Laney was the lone victorious Tar Heel as she defeated New Mexico's Kailin Downs, 3 and 1.

New Mexico won the other four matches as Ashley Rollins defeated Katie Miller, 5 and 3; Christina Spence defeated Laura Caniff, 3 and 2; Christine Fernandez defeated Romi Irons, 5 and 4; and Giselle Claux defeated Shannon Boyle, 5

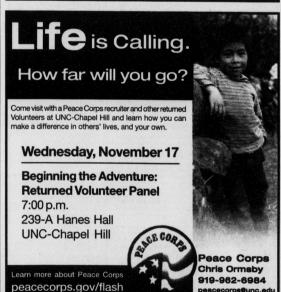
The Tar Heels lost a first-round match to Oklahoma State, losing three of the five matches to the Cowgirls. And after losing to New Mexico on Monday, North Carolina was sent home from the double-

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