

Tar Heels slip past Monarchs

BY BRIANA GORMAN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Within the first five minutes of Saturday's women's lacrosse game, North Carolina found itself facing a two-goal deficit.

It looked like the Tar Heels might suffer their first consecutive losses of the season — but with last weekend's humbling 14-7 defeat to Maryland still fresh on the players' minds, UNC was able to squeak past Old Dominion by a score of 8-7 on Fetzer Field.

"We've had some pretty tough games this year coming down to wire," said UNC sophomore Jess Allen. "I think we held it well."

The Monarchs (3-12) jumped on the Tar Heels early, as Caroline Jacobs scored two quick goals to give her team the lead.

But the No. 9 Tar Heels (12-4) then went on a five-goal scoring spree to claim the lead at 5-2. Their dominance in draw controls contributed to the offensive success, as UNC won 11 of 17.

Still, North Carolina couldn't find a defensive answer to Jacobs, and she scored two of the Monarchs' next three goals. UNC's Chrissy Rude chipped in with a goal in the final moments of the first half to give North Carolina a 6-5 advantage.

"When they scored four unanswered around the crease by (Jacobs), I was concerned that we weren't adjusting to what they were doing," said UNC coach Jenny Levy. "I thought they were low-percentage shots, and we needed to buckle down as a team and play with more intensity and make some better adjustments."

UNC pulled starting goalkeeper Kristen Hordy during the break and replaced her with freshman Amanda Barnes, who had played in two games this season.

"Amanda has been playing well in practice," Levy said. "Hordy has done a great job for us all season, and she'll continue to be our starting keeper. But she was letting some stuff in that she knows, and we know that she can save."

But the keeper switch could not slow down Jacobs — after the break she scored another quick goal to tie the game at 6. For about 10 minutes in the second half, the score remained tied as both teams battled for control of the game.

UNC finally broke the tie when senior Allison Higgins fired a pass from behind the goal to sophomore Kelly Renzi, who found the back of the net for her second goal of the game. Eight minutes later, Allen scored the final goal of the game for the Tar Heels.

The Monarchs wouldn't give up without a fight, though. With a minute left, Jacobs scored her sixth goal of the game on a free position shot to pull Old Dominion within one.

But UNC held onto the ball and let the clock wind down for the win.

The Tar Heels will face Virginia Tech — who they beat 12-10 on April 12 — on Thursday in the first game of the ACC Tournament. The winner will play No. 1 seed Duke, who the Tar Heels defeated 12-11 earlier this season.

"This team needs to come out with the same emotion they started the season with and needs to focus on Virginia Tech and not look beyond it," Levy said. "We need to take care of business."

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GEORGIA TECH

FROM PAGE 16

"I thought we had the momentum," said UNC coach Brian Kalbas. "But I knew that they're very good in singles, and they came back (Friday against Florida State) after losing the doubles point. I knew that there was still a lot of tennis to be played, but I felt that having the momentum for us was critical."

The tide began to turn in the third-singles battle between Long and Ga. Tech's Kelly Anderson. Long had opportunities to snatch the first set, leading 5-4 and 6-5, but Anderson extended it into a decisive tiebreaker.

And with the tiebreaker knotted at eight, Long hit two unforced errors into the net, dropping the set. Anderson went on to quickly wrap up the match by cruising through the second set, 6-1.

"I think she just didn't give (Long) a chance," said Ga. Tech coach Bryan Shelton about the second set. "She just was rock solid, kept her composure and just stayed disciplined — stuck with her game plan and just executed."

The Jackets tallied two more points with straight-set triumphs. At flight one, Ga. Tech's Kristi Miller topped UNC's Aniela Mojzis 6-2, 6-1, and Alison Silverio defeated Anundsen 6-2, 6-2 at flight four.

"(Silverio) played better on the key points," Anundsen said. "I did

have a lot of chances, and so many games went to deuce. It was unfortunate I couldn't pull some more out."

With Cline having already won at second singles for the Tar Heels, the attention of the crowd focused on fifth singles between Collins for North Carolina and Lyndsay Shosho for Georgia Tech.

Shosho had roared back to win the second set to even the match, and she held a 40-love advantage while leading 4-2 in the third. But Collins saved the first two game points and appeared to even the game at deuce when she called a Shosho forehand long.

The chair official, however, saw it differently and overruled Collins' call to give Shosho a commanding 5-2 lead. She would go on to win the match, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, on a perfectly-placed cross-court passing shot.

"I was giving her too many easy points, setting up high forehands," Collins said. "I was just missing my shots. At this level, you can't miss your shots."

North Carolina will now await its NCAA Tournament fate, and the 13th-ranked Tar Heels will hope to host a tournament regional for the fourth consecutive year.

Before then, however, they will look to regain what disappeared around 11:45 a.m. Saturday — momentum.

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NFL

FROM PAGE 16

woke up Sunday.

"The draft is a humbling process," Brown said.

"There was a little doubt when I went to bed (Saturday), but when I woke up and prayed, God told me that He had this. He said it's not about everybody else's plan for me or the plan I had for myself because He had something better in store, and I'm not complaining because the Ravens are the best fit for me."

According to Brown, Ravens head coach Brian Billick admitted that he had not really scouted the Tar Heel center, but when he noticed that Brown was still available late in the draft, he was "too great a pick to pass up on."

Baltimore is certainly getting a bona fide prospect in Brown. During his senior season at UNC, he garnered All-American honors, was named first-team All-ACC and capped off an amazing streak of two consecutive seasons without allowing a sack.

Despite the long wait Brown had to endure, he said he knows that getting drafted is the easiest and least important step in making a career in the NFL.

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BASEBALL

FROM PAGE 16

Chad Flack provided more than enough insurance when he hit a seventh-inning home run over the screen in center field — a blast of more than 450 feet.

Woodard took the mound Saturday and scattered five hits across seven innings in the Tar Heels' 5-2 win.

Bard, who pitched Sunday, was hoping to rebound from two consecutive disappointing starts. He allowed five earned runs in 1 2/3 innings against Miami, and he lasted only four innings three days later against East Carolina.

But any glimmer of hope for the Blue Devils (12-30, 3-17) didn't last long, as Bard set down the side in order in the first.

"That's the first 1-2-3 inning I've had in about a month," he said.

Seth Williams opened the scoring in the bottom of the second, smacking a double into the left-field corner to score Flack and Jay Cox. Two batters later, Matt Spencer doubled to right field to score Williams and give the Tar Heels a 3-0 lead.

Bard took control from there, working quickly and allowing only two hits and striking out five.

"I was just trying to have quick

innings," Bard said. "Especially after we'd score, let them get in there and let them hit the ball."

But by the final inning UNC was up 7-0, and the only confusion remaining was whether or not Bard would complete what he started. He did.

"I needed that, just from a confidence standpoint," Bard said. "We've got (Matt) Danford out in the bullpen who would have shut them down for an inning, but I wanted that just to say I had a complete-game shutout this year."

Bard wasn't the only Tar Heel to benefit from the opportunity to build confidence and momentum.

The defense displayed improvement from its shoddy performance against Miami, and the hitters did what they needed to do to win.

With nine conference games remaining, North Carolina will need all the confidence it can get. Weekend series against N.C. State, Florida State and Georgia Tech will determine whether or not the Tar Heels can capture their first regular-season ACC title since 1990.

"The last nine games, it's all up to us," Fox said. "It's going to be nine tough games."

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FLORIDA STATE

FROM PAGE 16

Ned Samuelson. After dropping the first set, Janda had come from behind in the second to win in a tiebreaker and force a third.

Amid cries of "Here we go, Jiggy," Janda stayed strong and emerged triumphant, defeating Samuelson 6-4. Jubilant UNC players stormed the court in celebration.

"It's a great feeling," Janda said. "Senior year ... to finally get 'em, it's unbelievable."

With a historic win under their belts, the Tar Heels carried the momentum from their win against the Blue Devils into their match against the Seminoles on Saturday.

Despite losing the doubles point and two singles points at the No. 1 and No. 6 positions, both Boyd and

Porter won their matches to keep the Tar Heels in contention, as they were behind only 3-2.

Once again, all eyes turned to court five, where Janda was struggling to stage a comeback after losing the first set. Though he successfully forced a tiebreaker in the second set, he couldn't outlast Florida State's Jeff Groslimond and lost 8-6.

While he was disappointed that the team lost, Paul said he was proud of the Tar Heels' performance nonetheless.

"(They) fought hard," Paul said. "The good thing is now we've got three weeks to get ready for the NCAA Tournament. I think we're just now starting to hit our stride."

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