

# Tar Heels triumph in OT McGill returns to revamp run game

BY DAVID MOSES  
SENIOR WRITER

For the last 45 minutes of Tuesday's game, it looked like the North Carolina men's soccer team would leave the field with another disappointing outcome.

Until Dax McCarty got his chance.

With three minutes left in the second overtime, McCarty blasted

a free kick from just outside the penalty box that

bounced off the right post and

into the goal giving the Tar

Heels (8-1-1) a 2-1 victory over

Elon.

"They were kind of leaving the

far post open because that's where

the keeper usually stands," McCarty

said. "I just wanted to hit it with

pace and accuracy and luckily it

went in today."

After suffering its first loss of the

season to Virginia on Saturday, No.

4 UNC avoided losing two straight

in a very tough game.

"Although the score doesn't

reflect it, I'm very comfortable with

the way we played," UNC Coach

Elmar Bolowich said.

The Tar Heels jumped ahead of

Elon in the first twenty minutes

of the game off a Scott Campbell

goal.

Campbell took a cross from Ben

Hunter and one-timed it past the

Elon goalie from only four yards

away. The goal was Campbell's

team-leading fifth on the season.

Elon (5-5-2) tied the game early

in the second half when Kiki Willis

blasted home a free kick from just

outside the penalty box.

"The guy hit a nice shot on a free

kick and it gave them a little bit of

wind," Bolowich said. "(It) made it

a little harder for us because it is

easier for them to pack it in and

play with 10 guys behind the ball."

After Elon knotted the game

at one, the Phoenix looked as if it

wanted to escape Chapel Hill with

the tie.

Elon brought all but one man

back on defense and didn't take a

shot on goal in the last 20 minutes

of regulation or in either overtime

period.

"Anytime a team doesn't want

to win, they will pack it in,"

Campbell said. "It's very hard to

get through. It looked like high

school soccer ... They were play-

ing for the tie."

Despite the fact that Elon

brought almost its entire team back

to play defense, UNC still had a

number of chances to win the game

in regulation and in overtime.

Campbell had two excellent

scoring chances, but he put it over

the net both times.

"Two (scoring chances) I was

pretty disappointed with," he said.

"Just shot it right over the right

post twice."

UNC seemed frustrated with its

inability to score in the second half,

but the Tar Heels didn't let their

lack of finishing phase them.

"It's really tough playing against

teams that pack it in like that,"

McCarty said. "We're winning and

everything is going fine. They get

a goal and there's nothing you can

really do about that.

"We don't capitalize on all the

chances we have, so we put our-

selves in a harder situation. Finally

one of us has to step up and take a

shot and put it in. Finally that was

me today."

After being shutout by Virginia,

UNC needed a solid game to get

the team back on a roll.

"(The days after the Virginia

loss) were the worst three days of

our season so far," Campbell said.

"I think winning is what gets us

back on track. I'm glad we got the

win."

Contact the Sports Editor  
at sports@unc.edu.

BY JACOB KARABELL  
SENIOR WRITER

When Kyle Ralph heard team-

mate Ronnie McGill scream dur-

ing a June weight-lifting session,

he assumed the running back was

cramping.

But as the day went on, the

senior offensive guard and his

teammates started to realize the

magnitude of McGill's injury.

McGill, slated as the team's start-

ing running back, had torn his left

pectoral muscle — an injury that

threatened to end his season.

That prognosis proved prema-

ture, however. The junior tailback

practiced full-go Tuesday, and North

Carolina coach John Bunting expects

him to play between 20 and 25 snaps

in Saturday's game at Louisville.

"You can't really explain your

first time (practicing) from injury

after waiting four months," McGill

said. "It wasn't really odd like I

thought it was going to be. I didn't

have to adjust as much as I thought

I was going to have to."

The addition of McGill comes at

an opportune time to boost UNC's

floundering ground attack.

Thus far in 2005, the backfield

duo of Barrington Edwards and

Cooter Arnold has averaged 3.5

yards per carry. And in last week's

win against Utah, the Tar Heels

mustered just 85 rushing yards on

39 carries.

Enter McGill, who averaged 5.2

yards per carry during his first two

years in Chapel Hill.

In his freshman year, he led the

team in rushing, including a 244-

yard effort against Wake Forest.

And though he struggled with an

ankle injury last season that caused

him to miss five games, McGill still

finished with 419 rushing yards.

"He's got a lot of power," Ralph

said. "Barrington's a really fast

back, but there's an incredibly

fast back, but there's an element

that Ronnie's got and they don't

have. Ronnie loves contact and

loves hitting people."

But that hitting concerns

Bunting. McGill will wear a brace

to prevent his left arm from becom-

ing overextended, and it remains to

be seen whether he will be able to

handle the contact that cannot be

fully recreated in practice.

McGill's return also begs the

question as to how the Tar Heels'

backfield rotation will be altered.

To this point, Edwards has

received twice as many carries as

Arnold. Bunting also has said he

would like to give sophomore Justin

Warren some touches.

"I've thrown that out there to the

staff, and I don't expect an answer

nor do I need one until Thursday

or Friday," Bunting said.

"Right now, I think it's just

important for (McGill) to go out

and practice and continue to gain

some confidence."

Contact the Sports Editor  
at sports@unc.edu.

**MEN'S SOCCER**

Elon 1

UNC 2

FINAL 2 OT

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