

UNC hopes for upset redux

Offense needs big game to beat 'Canes

BY BRANDON PARKER
SENIOR WRITER

A few days before last year's matchup between North Carolina and Miami, then Tar Heel safety Gerald Sensabaugh gave sports fans even more reason to laugh at the seemingly lopsided affair.

"It's probably the most simple offense we've seen," Sensabaugh said, in reference to the Hurricane attack. "I have a lot of respect for them, but they can be beaten."

On the subsequent Saturday, the defensive back's bulletin board statement turned from a joke to a bold prophecy, as UNC defeated Miami, 31-28, in an epic battle.

Almost a year later, the Tar Heels enter their contest against the No. 6 Hurricanes with similar odds against them.

But with UNC possessing a stagnant offense that averages 18.2

points per game and has found the end zone just 12 times this season, and a kicker who has missed eight field goals, one might wonder what the Hurricanes think about their opponent's attack.

"They are probably saying we haven't done much of anything this season," said Tar Heel quarterback Matt Baker. "We're going to have to play our very best game of the year if we're going to beat them."

What a difference a year can make.

Last season, North Carolina posted an impressive 545 yards and four touchdowns to take down Miami.

This season, the Tar Heels' highest offensive output was 352 yards in a 31-17 win against Utah.

Last season, former quarterback Darian Durant never threw for fewer than 140 yards in a full

game. This season, Baker accumulated just 98 yards through the air in last week's 7-5 win against Virginia.

Fortunately for the Tar Heels, the defense has improved enough to overcome the lowly offense, as was shown against UVa.

But against an explosive Miami squad averaging 385 yards a game and posting almost 30 points per contest, a single-digit offensive output is not an option Saturday.

And Baker said he believes the key to increasing his unit's efficiency is limiting penalties.

"We definitely need to score in the 30s if we want to even stay in the game," he said. "Our offense needs more consistency and not to be in first-and-long situations as much."

"From a quarterback standpoint it's harder in those situations because ... then they can come at you and drop everyone back in coverage because they know a pass is

coming."

The subsequent transparency of the Tar Heels' offensive scheme shuts down the effectiveness of their running game and deep receiving corps.

"I can't and don't control the points that go up on the board because I don't call the plays and I don't throw the ball," said junior wide receiver Jesse Holley. "All I can do is run my routes and make plays when I get the chance."

With the exceptional play of the UNC defense, Holley and the offense certainly have gotten their share of chances. But if another upset is in order, both units must turn those opportunities into results.

"The whole team is one unit, so if the offense is playing well, it definitely helps out," Holley said. "The offense can't be the weak link because as the unit goes, we go."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Sophomores upset about distribution

BY NATHAN HEWITT
STAFF WRITER

Saturday morning, hundreds of students will line up in the cold for a chance to receive tickets in the season's first men's basketball distribution.

But a conflict with sophomore registration might keep some students from getting tickets.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, giving sophomores little time to wait in long ticket distribution lines, which begin at 7 a.m.

"We would prefer (the distribution) not to be at the same time as anyone's registration," said Carolina Athletic Association President Justin Johnson.

But he said the CAA wants to stay consistent with having distributions at 7 a.m. Saturdays.

"We have made things as efficient as possible and want to finish by 10 (a.m.)," Johnson said.

Clint Gwaltney, assistant athletic director for the Smith Center and ticket operations, said the ticket office was unaware of the conflict.

"We missed the fact that it was also sophomore registration and we regret that," he said.

Sophomores now are faced with the choice of registering early for the best class availability or being at the front of the line to wait for tickets.

"I'm a huge Carolina basketball fan, and if I hit the right numbers,

I'm likely to put off registration to ensure that I get those tickets," said sophomore Nick Long.

In order to get tickets, students must get a bracelet for the distribution lottery. Bracelets will be handed out from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.

The bracelet number results will be announced at noon Friday in the Pit.

University Registrar Alice Poehls said she had not anticipated the two events would coincide. But she said the situation should distribute students equally, so it might be easier for sophomores to register.

"If all those students were at their computers, they would not be able to get into the system anyway," Poehls said.

It would be difficult to schedule the distribution at a later date due to three home football games and 11 home basketball games in November, officials said.

Two years ago distribution and sophomore registration also occurred on the same morning. Some students said they feel this problem should have been corrected in the past.

"It seems like a public university with this reputation would be prepared for such big events," said sophomore Ashley Barbour.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

SPORTS CALENDAR FRIDAY

■ **MEN'S SOCCER**
vs. Duke, 8 p.m.
Fetzer Field

■ **WOMEN'S SOCCER**
at Wake Forest, 7 p.m.
Winston-Salem

■ **VOLLEYBALL**
at Virginia, 7 p.m.
Charlottesville, Va.

BLOGGIN'

■ **HOOPS PREDICTIONS**
Your all-seeing, all-knowing sports editors Daniel Malloy (the boss) and Derek Howles (the assistant) share their predictions for the 2005-06 UNC men's basketball season (which, incidentally, will prove remarkably accurate. Just wait and see). go to: <http://apps.dailytarheel.com/blogs/pressbox.php>

THE Daily Crossword

By Alan P. Olschwang

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ACROSS

- 1 French cleric
- 5 NBC classic
- 8 James of "Wall Street"
- 14 Clarified fat
- 15 London W.C.
- 16 borealis
- 17 Start of Evan Esar quote
- 19 Sort of street
- 20 Rebellion leader
- 21 Commutes
- 23 Uncle's wife
- 24 Wise
- 25 Afore
- 27 Up-to-date, for short
- 28 Part 2 of quote
- 33 Amen!
- 34 Actress Lupino
- 35 Composer Thomas
- 38 Tall stories
- 39 Florida component
- 40 Haas of "Witness"
- 41 "Mockingbird" singer
- 42 Singer DiFranco
- 43 Unassuming
- 44 Part 3 of quote
- 47 Abu Dhabi loc.
- 49 Very wide shoe
- 50 Aits in the Seine
- 51 Tool for evening
- 53 Turner and Cantrell
- 55 Pouchlike structure

DOWN

- 1 King of comedy
- 2 Lower California
- 3 Very dry, as champagne
- 4 Hall of famer Roush
- 5 of hand
- 6 Beats me
- 7 Attain also-ran status
- 8 Paulo
- 9 Kicked away
- 10 Vicinity
- 11 Bear's expectation
- 12 Muse of poetry

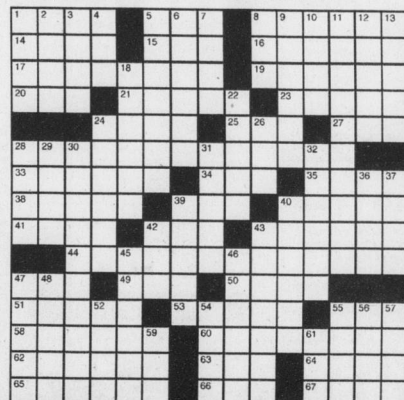
ALLEN CORE SHIP
NAILS ARAL LOLA
THROW IN THE TOWEL
IRAQ BOS PAGERS
ULEE CHIA
REPEAT CHA NCAA
EVENT ALONE ONS
GET THE LAST LAUGH
IRR ENDUE ANNIE
STOP DAS STATES
ASPS CHET
SPARTA SRO HIFI
PICKUP THE PIECES
INRE EVAS SMELL
NEER RAGS PASTE

13 Shot out beams

- 18 Complimentary
- 22 Rundown
- 24 Reaction to ragweed
- 26 Genetic letters
- 28 Italian wine region
- 29 Lamenting sound
- 30 Sailor
- 31 Connect
- 32 Some Middle Easterners
- 36 Writer Ogden
- 37 Como Usted?
- 39 Prepare to crawl

40 Most underhanded

- 42 Had lunch
- 43 Skin pigment
- 45 Pointer
- 46 Movies
- 47 Salary bump
- 48 Stag
- 52 Captures
- 54 Quickly please!
- 55 Rebuff
- 56 Land measure
- 57 Lincoln coin
- 59 Pamphlet ending?
- 61 Greek letter



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LOCATION: Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence (Graham memorial), Room 39

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