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## Dynasty is not what it used to be

It doesn't happen very often that a team loses a regular season game and garners more headlines than had it won a conference championship.

It's probably just as rare that when that same team doesn't win a national championship, it receives more media attention than had it plastered its opponent in the final.

But such is the case when you reside in the world of North Carolina women's soccer.

The program is the most successful of any sport ever played in the history of the NCAA. The Tar Heels won 14 of the first 16 NCAA titles ever contested.

The program has claimed every ACC Tournament title except two and prior to last season the Tar Heels were a fixture in all 22 NCAA final fours ever held.

Yet the Tar Heels have struggled these past couple of years, though keep in mind, when you talk about UNC women's soccer, you're speaking in relative terms.

UNC has one national title since 2000 and has had some recent notable losses. In October, the Tar Heels lost to Duke for only the second time in the history of their rivalry. Also, that loss was UNC's first in the regular season at Fetzer Field in more than a decade.

So what does this all add up to? The rest of the country is finally catching up to UNC — and it only took them about 20 years.

Though North Carolina still consistently nabs Olympic-caliber recruits, the popularity of the game has spread outward from Chapel Hill to places such as Portland, Ore., Santa Clara, Calif. and South Bend, Ind.

As the game has grown nationwide on the high school and club level, rival schools are finally getting their pick of an increasingly talented pool of potential players.

Even Friday night's opponent, Western Carolina, showed signs of life against a Tar Heel team that in the past would have run the Catamounts back to Cullowhee.

As far as Sunday's 6-2 rout, Virginia Commonwealth co-head coach Denise Schlite-Brown went as far as saying the Rams handled the Tar Heels at times.

"I thought we dominated for chunks of the game," Schlite-Brown said.

Legendary head coach Anson Dorrance won't be able to simply roll the ball out on the field and watch his Tar Heels plow through the opposition with ease.

Not to say that that's the way Dorrance ran his team in either the past or present — in fact, it's a testament to his brilliant coaching that his Tar Heels still are uber-competitive in this parity-laden age.

But there is no question that the coach with 601 career wins under his belt will find it a little tougher to squeak out wins in today's NCAA compared to when his teams rattled off a record 101-game unbeaten streak.

Ask Dorrance why teams such as Western Carolina and VCU can compete with the Tar Heels and he'll conjure up theories that would make Isaac Newton proud.

"In soccer there's a huge range of results that have nothing to do with the capacity of the teams to play the game at a high level," Dorrance said. "You ... have this incredibly bizarre aspect of our game that often doesn't deliver the superior team the victory."

If that were true, then how come Dorrance's Tar Heels didn't lose a game from 1990-94?

Though UNC's recent fall from grace has sent them tumbling from a perennial position as the nation's top team to No. 2 this year, in terms of where this program came from, that drop is pretty dramatic.

If the Tar Heels don't keep up their hot play, the program will be stuck on 18 championships.

But then again, that's a nice problem to have.

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MARYLAND 33 UNC 30

# SHELL SHOCKED

TWO LATE TERP TOUCHDOWNS, MISSED KICK SEND UNC TO OVERTIME LOSS

BY JACOB KARABELL  
SENIOR WRITER

As he ran toward the end zone, North Carolina safety Kareen Taylor held the ball in front of him with one hand — pointing it toward the end zone.

That ball might have been pointing toward Charlotte. Or Boise, Idaho. Or San Diego. Or any of the bowl games that could have extended invitations to the Tar Heels.

Taylor ended up being penalized for taunting because of his celebration after giving UNC a 10-point fourth-quarter lead, and Maryland came back to top the Tar Heels, 33-30, in overtime Saturday. Now, UNC will have to point toward a win at Virginia Tech if it wants its season to continue past Nov. 26.

"We have to learn how to finish until the last play — until the clock says 0:00," said receiver Jesse Holley. "We have to know how to finish. We've still got two games left, and we're going to grind them out. We're going to fight."

The Tar Heels (4-5, 3-3 in the ACC) did fight against the Terrapins (5-4, 3-3), but a series of fourth-quarter miscues allowed the Terps to leave Kenan Stadium with the win.

The first came on the series following Taylor's interception return, with Maryland facing a third-and-long in its own territory.

UNC defensive end Kentwan Balmer appeared to have quarterback Sam Hollenbach wrapped for a sack, but the signal caller escaped and found a streaking Jo Jo Walker for a touchdown.

And Hollenbach bested that 67-yard output on the Terps' next offensive play.

This time, the receiver was Danny Melendez, who froze corner Bryan Bethea on a double move and easily strode 80 yards to give Maryland the lead — though kicker Dan Ennis missed the extra point.

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Maryland running back Lance Ball (44), on his way to a 161-yard day, stiff-arms UNC linebacker Durrell Mapp during the Terps' 33-30 overtime win. DTH/RICKY LEUNG

## Baker plays with poise, precision

BY DAVID MOSES  
SENIOR WRITER

There was a controversial penalty call.

There was an interception returned for a touchdown.

There were two deep touchdown passes.

And lost in all the chaos, all the broken coverages and all the hooplah was North Carolina quarterback Matt Baker.

A senior who has sat the bench

for most of his career until this season, Baker had undoubtedly his best game as a Tar Heel on Saturday against Maryland.

"That probably was my best game," he said. "Like I said, I'll throw for less than 100 yards and no touchdowns as long as we win the ball game."

But Baker finished the game 25-for-40 with 335 yards and no interceptions.

What was most impressive

"Certainly the last two weeks (Baker) has really picked it up. I'm really proud of his efforts." JOHN BUNTING, UNC COACH

about Baker was his ability to lead the team in not one, but two fourth-quarter drives in an attempt to win the game for the Tar Heels.

Coming into the season, Baker only had seen limited action in 10

games, but he was thrown into the spotlight and for the most part has been delivering for UNC.

After taking a few games to get into the groove, Baker has

SEE BAKER, PAGE 11

## Penalty-kick thriller ends in heartbreak

BY DAVID MOSES  
SENIOR WRITER

CARY — It's been 220 minutes. For nearly four hours the North Carolina men's soccer team has played dead-even with Duke this season.

When they met in the regular season, the two played to a 0-0 tie. And they did so again Sunday in the ACC championship game.

But someone has to be crowned the champion, so the match went to a penalty shootout, where Duke defeated the Tar Heels, 5-4, in front of more than 4,000 fans at SAS Soccer Park.

The No. 6-seeded Tar Heels (15-3-3) recorded their 7th consecutive shutout in the loss, as fifth-seeded Duke (12-4-3) could not find the back of the net in 90 minutes of

regulation and 20 total minutes of overtime.

"It was just the game we anticipated it would be," said UNC Coach Elmar Bolowich. "It's the second time now that we have played for so many minutes in overtime and cannot find to score goal — either team."

After a slow first half, play picked up in the second half, with UNC having more clear scoring opportunities.

In a very physical game, Duke tried to take advantage of UNC's

SEE DUKE, PAGE 11



Duke defender Tim Jepson goes head-to-head with UNC midfielder Scott Campbell during the Tar Heels' ACC Tournament final loss Sunday. DTH/LARRY BAUM

### NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Tarpley nets hat trick in blowout of Rams

Team advances to round of 16

BY DANIEL MALLOY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Before each of this weekend's games, North Carolina coach Anson Dorrance gave roses to his seniors, on the off-chance they would be playing their final game at Fetzer Field.

But dominant NCAA Tournament wins against Western Carolina on Friday and Virginia Commonwealth on Sunday made the flowers a mere formality.

As a No. 1 seed, the Tar Heels will host tournament games until the final four — as long as they keep on winning.

"It's a huge advantage for all kinds of reasons," Dorrance said.

"A lot of things make it so much more comfortable for us."

And the Tar Heels felt mighty comfy all weekend.

Sunday's 6-2 victory, VCU came out swinging, putting long balls deep into Tar Heel territory and gambling against UNC's defense. The thing about gambling, though, is that you lose more often than not.

After that back-and-forth

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Lindsay Tarpley (25), who had a hat trick of her own, celebrates a score by Kendall Fletcher (4), the first in North Carolina's 6-2 win. DTH/WHITNEY SHEPTE

### NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Hoosiers hose UNC

Tar Heels out of NAAs

North Carolina carried with it a history of four national titles and 21 previous appearances in the NCAA Tournament.

Indiana carried zero. And zero.

But travel and tradition be darned.

The No. 5 Tar Heels came up empty in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday at Kentner Stadium, 3-2 losers in a season-ending game they dominated every which way but on the scoreboard.

SEE FIELD HOCKEY, PAGE 11

BY DEREK HOWLES  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

WINSTON-SALEM — North Carolina was playing just 80 miles down the road, in the familiar stadium of archrival Wake Forest.

Indiana had to travel almost 600 miles — and through five states — to get to the game.

### INSIDE

POINT GUARD EXHIBITION Frasier and Thomas battle for starting position. PAGE 11

DYNAMIC DEFENSE The men's soccer 'D' pitches its 7th straight shutout. PAGE 11



COMING TUESDAY WIDEOUT CLINCHES RECORD Jarwarski Pollock notched his 166th career reception Saturday, making him UNC's all-time leader. For more, see Tuesday's DTH.