

Bulls' quarterback to test UNC through air, ground

Game and Time: South Florida at North Carolina. Kickoff is at noon.

Site: Kenan Stadium.
TV/Radio: The game will be televised on ESPNU. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide radio coverage; the game can be heard on 1360-AM and 106.1 FM in the Chapel Hill area.

Records: North Carolina is 1-4 and 0-3 in the ACC. South Florida is 4-2, 1-1 in the Big East.

Series: This is the two programs' first meeting.

Personnel Update: North Carolina — WR Hakeem Nicks (ankle) is doubtful. QB Cam Sexton (concussion) will play. South Florida — none.

The Key Matchup: USF quarterback Matt Grothe vs. the UNC defense.

UNC's much-maligned defense faces a challenge this week with the Bulls' dual threat at quarterback.

Grothe, though he is only a freshman, has proven himself to be an able signal caller thus far, especially last week in USF's 38-16 victory against Connecticut. Grothe was 12-of-15 passing for 146 yards and picked up 82 yards and three touchdowns on the ground.

Tar Heel head coach John Bunting praised Grothe, comparing him to his beloved ex-quarterback, Darian Durant.

"There are some things (USF does) that we used to do with Darian that are designed specifically for quarterback runs," Bunting said.

"He scrambles to throw well, which is how I used to describe Darian. ... This guy is making a lot of great decisions. He is not throwing the ball away. He is throwing it to his team and throwing it very well."

Bunting's words mirrored those from the last time he faced a running quarterback — Furman's Renaldo Gray.

Though the Tar Heels picked up their only win of the season thus far against the Paladins, it was a 45-42 shootout in which Gray had his way with the UNC defense.

Though Gray himself wasn't particularly effective carrying the ball, he gave UNC fits running the option,

THE LOWDOWN ON SATURDAY'S GAME

South Florida vs. North Carolina

(4-2) Kenan Stadium, noon (1-4)

HEAD-TO-HEAD

UNC rush vs. USF front seven
In their last two outings, the Tar Heels have rushed for 54 and 58 yards. Now USF isn't Clemson or Miami, but the offensive line still has a lot to prove in opening up holes for the ground game. **Edge: USF**

UNC pass vs. USF secondary
Quarterback Cam Sexton is on the mend from a concussion and will be without wide-out Hakeem Nicks, who injured his ankle last week. For a unit that struggled while healthy, that's discouraging. **Edge: USF**

USF rush vs. UNC front seven
The Tar Heel run defense showed signs of life against Miami. Take away one complete breakdown — on Javaris James' 62-yard touchdown — and UNC held the Canes to 82 rushing yards. **Edge: UNC**

USF pass vs. UNC secondary
South Florida QB Matt Grothe is a speedy threat to run or pass. The last time UNC faced a dual-threat quarterback, Furman's Renaldo Gray threw for 310 yards. No doubt USF has been watching that tape. **Edge: USF**

Special Teams
UNC's kickoff coverage unit is tops in the nation. P David Woodridge and K Connor Barth have been near flawless. Andre Powell's special teams have been an unquestioned bright spot thus far. **Edge: UNC**

The Bottom Line — South Florida 24, North Carolina 20

COMPILED BY DANIEL MALLOY

and when he wasn't scrambling he managed to throw for 310 yards.

USF's spread offense relies on speed — "hockey on grass," as Bunting called it — which has been the Achilles' heel for the Tar Heels so far.

If Grothe is able to exploit the Tar Heel defense as most other quarterbacks have this season, it could be a rough afternoon for the home fans in Kenan Stadium.

Final Analysis/Prediction: The Tar Heels took a step forward, at least defensively, last week in their 27-7 loss at Miami. Of course, it would be tough to take a step back after the debacle in Clemson.

A home game for the first time in four weeks is a welcome development for Bunting's squad, but

an early start and an obscure opponent might result in a lot of empty seats Saturday.

But don't confuse obscurity with a lack of talent. The Bulls lost to undefeated Rutgers after a failed two-point conversion attempt in the final minute that would have sent the game to overtime.

UNC is desperate for a win, but USF's solid defense — which hasn't allowed more than 22 points yet this season — and rapidly maturing quarterback mean that the Tar Heels will have to wait at least another week for their first Division I-A victory.

The Bottom Line: South Florida 24, North Carolina 20.

— Compiled by Daniel Malloy

ACC seedings on the line vs. Wake

Men's soccer preps for final home match

BY MATT BROOKS
SENIOR WRITER

When you're the No. 3 team in the nation, you expect to get every team's best shot.

When you travel to Buies Creek to play Campbell in their biggest game of the season, you've got to be prepared for a dog ... err, Camel fight.

Tuesday night, the Tar Heels got a fight, and courtesy of an own goal, the Camels (7-5-1) slew Goliath in their biggest win since another victory over then-No. 3 North Carolina in 1988.

Tonight UNC will face a more expected challenge when it hosts No. 5 Wake Forest (11-2-1, 2-2-1 in the ACC) at Fetzer Field.

At practice Wednesday, one might have expected to find a frustrated, angry team trying to figure out how to rebound.

The vibe was anything but. The Tar Heels (10-3-2, 2-2-1) looked loose and joked with one another

as they blasted penalties at freshman defender David Rodriguez.

"We don't want to overreact," senior forward Ben Hunter said. "Credit to Campbell, they're a good team. They played well, and that's their biggest game of the year. And it's probably a good wake-up call for us heading into the ACC tournament and the NAAs."

The message from UNC head coach Elmar Bolowich on Wednesday was simple: Relax.

"Our personnel is right, the chances are there and we dominate most of the games, even against the tougher opponents," he said. "We just don't get the desired results."

"Maybe we're trying a little too hard, and we're getting a little too

uptight. I think in front of the goal we just need to find the right balance to concentrate, relax and really have a killer mentality and attitude."

With ACC and NCAA tournament seedings on the line, Bolowich and his team fully understand the importance of tonight's match.

"It's the ACC, it's getting tight now," Bolowich said. "It's a matter of who's going to finish at the top and who's going to finish at the bottom."

"Tonight is also senior night, and it marks the final regular season home match for seven seniors."

"It's our senior night, and they're going to come in and try to ruin that for us," Hunter said. "That's enough motivation for any of our seven senior starters."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Tar Heels boast bounty of top preseason wrestlers

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEWTON, Iowa — The Tar Heels find themselves with four standout wrestlers ranked among the top 20 in their respective weight classes in the Wrestling International Newsmagazine 2006-07 preseason NCAA Division I rankings, which were released Wednesday.

Senior heavyweight Spencer Nadolsky is rated as the No. 6 heavyweight, while 133-pounder Evan Sola checks in at the No. 7 spot.

Senior David Dashiell is ranked 15th at 197 pounds, and sophomore Vincent Ramirez is 16th at 141. Nadolsky, Sola and Ramirez are each the highest-ranked Atlantic Coast Conference wrestler in their classes, while Dashiell is second.

Nadolsky went 42-7 last season, while Ramirez (37-9) and Dashiell (33-13) were second and third, respectively, in victories. Sola went 5-1 in limited action

and received a sixth-year of eligibility from the NCAA due to a shoulder injury.

The Tar Heels (16-8-1, 3-2-1 in the ACC in 2005-06) have won back-to-back league championships under fourth-year head coach C.D. Mock.

As in previous years, the W.I.N. rankings are based on who are currently the best individuals and tournament teams.

Teams are not ranked on dual-meet strength. The rankings are compiled after receiving feedback from the collegiate wrestling coaches.

The committee then takes that information and looks at the team and individual performances from past years to come up with the final rankings.

North Carolina opens the 2006-07 campaign Nov. 12 at the Michigan State Open and faces Maryland on Jan. 13 to begin conference play.

National and World News

British citizen pleads guilty to bomb plot

LONDON (AP) — A British man identified by U.S. officials as a senior al-Qaida figure pleaded guilty Thursday to conspiracy to murder in a plot to bomb high-profile targets in the U.S. including the International Monetary Fund headquarters and the New York Stock Exchange.

Prosecutors said the plot involved targets in both Britain and the United States. Other alleged targets included the World Bank headquarters in Washington, the Citigroup building in New York and the Prudential building in Newark, N.J.

Barot, a British citizen who was raised a Hindu before converting to Islam, was arrested in August 2004 amid a heightened security alert for financial institutions in the United States. Seven other men are due to face trial next year.

Politicians question airspace regulations

NEW YORK (AP) — A day after the fiery plane crash that killed Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle, politicians expressed shock that, five years after Sept. 11, small aircraft still are allowed to fly right up next to the New York skyline.

"I think everyone is scratching their head, wondering how it is possible that an aircraft can be buzzing around Manhattan," said Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., who has been lobbying for rule changes since 2004. "It's virtually the Wild West. There is no regulation at all, other than, 'Don't run into anything.'"

The single-engine plane that carried Lidle to his death was flying over the East River, which separates Manhattan from Brooklyn and Queens and is lined on the Manhattan side by the United Nations and scores of other skyscrapers.

Landis posts title defense

(AP) Floyd Landis took his case to the public Thursday with an online presentation that included key elements of his defense against doping charges. Exhaustive as it appeared, his attorney said, "This is by no means everything."

Landis is scheduled to go before an arbitration panel in January or February and formally appeal doping violations that could cost him his Tour de France and give him a two-year ban. Rather than wait several months to present his defense in a public forum, portions of it were posted on his Web site, www.floydlandis.com.

Nations differ on Korea plan

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States introduced a new draft resolution Thursday in the Security Council to punish North Korea for its reported nuclear test and said it wants a vote on Friday.

Russia urged the U.S. not to rush the vote, saying Moscow still had differences and the U.S. should wait for the results of a flurry of high-level diplomacy. China backed Russia's call, saying Beijing would welcome more talks so the Security Council can send a united, forceful message to Pyongyang condemning the test.

Militia kill 11 at TV station

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Suspected Shiite militiamen, some dressed as police, broke into a television station and gunned down 11 Iraqi executives, producers and other staffers Thursday — the deadliest attack against the media in this country, where at least 81 other journalists were killed in the past three years.

The station, Shaabiya, had not started full broadcasting. It had aired test programming of nationalist songs, including ones against U.S. military presence, which might have led Shiite militia to suspect it of pro-Sunni ideology.

Late goals lead to ACC win

BY SAM ROSENTHAL
SENIOR WRITER

It wasn't pretty. It wasn't exhilarating. It wasn't memorable. But it was a win.

And for the North Carolina women's soccer team, it was another game in which they remained the only unbeaten, untied team in the ACC by beating the Boston College Eagles 3-1 at Fetzer Field Thursday.

With only three games remaining in the regular season and a 7-0 conference record, UNC (15-1, 7-0 in the ACC) controls its own destiny.

But every game in the ACC presents a challenge. B.C. (8-5-1, 2-3-1) proved that by hanging with the Tar Heels for almost the entire game.

After a sloppy first 10 minutes that included an own goal by Boston College and an equalizer by the Eagles less than a minute later, the game remained tied at 1-1 for the next 70 minutes.

UNC pressured the Eagles in the second half, but they could not break through until midfielder Nikki Washington received a pass from sophomore Yael Averbuch in the 81st minute and dribbled between two defenders and into the box before feeding the ball back to Averbuch for a tap-in goal past the goalkeeper — a give-and-go that Roy Williams would be proud of.

"That was an absolutely magnificent goal, tactically," head coach Anson Dorrance said. "And I credit certainly Nikki and Yael's effort to get to that spot 'cause that basically won the game for us."

In the 89th minute, senior star Heather O'Reilly added an insurance goal on a penalty kick after B.C. goalkeeper Sarah Buonomo tripped O'Reilly on a breakaway. O'Reilly had split two defenders and would've easily scored, but

Buonomo came out and grabbed O'Reilly's legs; the fact that the card produced by the referee was the color of mustard, not ketchup, incensed the crowd.

Not because they were hungry. "I think everybody in the crowd knew that was a guaranteed goal, 100 percent," O'Reilly said. "That's what a red card is for."

That play was one of a few controversial calls during the game that could have resulted in harsher punishments, but the referees decided to let the play remain rough.

In the first half, B.C.'s toughness and tenacity equalled the Tar Heels', but UNC came out with renewed vigor in the second half and took control of the game. After being outshot 5-4 going into halftime, North Carolina took seven second-half shots to Boston College's one.

"We played passionless soccer in the first half," Dorrance said. "This is a contact sport. You can't play a contact sport without passion."

But the Tar Heels turned that around after halftime.

"It basically was a decision to play with passion," Dorrance said. "And I



DTH/LARRY BAUM

UNC midfielder Yael Averbuch fights for possession during the Tar Heels' 3-1 win against Boston College. Averbuch scored the game-winner.

really felt that's what happened in the second half."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

SPORTS CALENDAR

TODAY

Men's Soccer
vs. Wake Forest
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Fetzer Field

Field Hockey
at Penn State
Time: 5 p.m.
Location: University Park, Pa.

Men's Lacrosse
Alumni Game
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Chapel Hill

Volleyball
at Georgia Tech
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Atlanta, Ga.

Women's Tennis
ITA Regionals
Time: All Day
Location: Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center

Men's Tennis
USC Fall Invitational
Time: All Day
Location: Columbia, S.C.

Women's Golf
Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championships
Time: All Day
Location: Knoxville, Tenn.

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