

# Young Tar Heel squad growing week by week

## Yates and Austin show potential

BY MIKE EHRLICH  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Following two consecutive painful losses, some of the typical grumblings and doubts have begun to resurface about North Carolina football.

But UNC coach Butch Davis said the success of this football program will not be measured in the short term.

"Success is a byproduct of the things that you do to prepare to win — film study, practicing hard," he said. "It truly may not come on the week that you want it to. But it all lays the foundation for the successes that you want to have this week, next week, next month, in the future."

With a wildly inexperienced lineup of players and an offseason overhaul of the coaching staff, a rebuilding process could have been expected. And a project of this scale could end up taking longer than some Tar Heel faithful had hoped for.

"There's no shortcuts to being good," Davis said. "It's hard work."

The youthful UNC squad is going through a trial by fire as many players are being thrown into the heat of battle for the first time. And they will need this experience and more in order for UNC to turn the corner.

"We're playing the season with 51 guys that never played in a college game," Davis said. "And a high percentage of them had never even gone to a college practice."

"So they've got miles to make up, and you can't do it overnight."

Junior offensive lineman Garrett Reynolds said that the attitude in the locker room has remained optimistic, though.

"I don't think the confidence



DTH FILE/RICKY LEUNG

Quarterback T.J. Yates looks down the field for a pass while steering clear of Virginia's Alex Field. Yates recorded 339 passing yards Saturday.

has deteriorated," he said. "We've played to the last minute in both games we've lost, and we're going to keep playing like that the rest of the season. And we're going to start getting some wins."

### Yates impresses early

One of the bright spots in North Carolina's loss to Virginia was the aerial display put on by T.J. Yates.

The redshirt freshman amassed 339 yards — his second consecutive game above the 300 mark — and tossed three touchdown passes in the losing effort.

But it was not the accomplishments of his right arm that caught the eye of his coach; rather, it's been his display of mental toughness.

"Everybody's going to get upset and frustrated, but he doesn't allow the frustration to carry over to the next play," Davis said of Yates. "If

there was one characteristic that you would love about any athlete in any position is that once that play's over with, you can't change it, and you can't let it affect the next one."

### Austin makes presence felt

Another Tar Heel that has proved himself to be well ahead of the learning curve is true freshman Marvin Austin. The defensive tackle has logged three tackles, one for a loss, so far this season.

"He is mature, more so than maybe any freshman defensive lineman that I've been around, and I've had an awful lot of very, very good ones," Davis said.

"And just his maturity and his grasp of how to play the position — he's really, really good."

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu).

# Cheating across the board

Since the Patriots were caught filming the defensive signals of the New York Jets last week, Patriot haters everywhere have been fighting for the chance to pile shame on the New York Yankees of the NFL.

Some have invoked comparisons to Dick Nixon and Watergate. Others have said that this incident taints each of the team's three Superbowl seasons. Still others have called on the NFL to ban the Patriots from the NFL for the next two seasons. From the sound of things, it would seem as if the Patriots invented cheating.

Bending the rules in sports isn't anything new. When it wasn't steroids and stealing signals, it was spit balls and corked bats. But these days, cheating seems to take center stage in the sports world more often than ever before.

As it stands right now, major cheating scandals have rocked four major sporting events within the last three months. Let's recap.

NFL: Before Bill Belichick and CameraGate, there was Rodney Harrison and Human Growth Hormone. Harrison, the Patriots safety, was suspended four games for using HGH, a violation of the league's steroid policy. The good



JAMES DILLARD  
PUT ME IN, COACH

news for Harrison: With the full extent of Patriots' cheating still coming to light, he can sleep easy knowing he's not alone.

MLB: Everyone knows about the Home Run King, Barry Bonds, and the steroid controversy that will never die, but few people picked up on the story of Rick Ankiel. The Saint Louis Cardinals pitcher-turned-outfielder recently showed up on a list of a Florida pharmacy as having received shipments of HGH in 2004.

NBA: NBA players might play defense, but at least they don't cheat. Problem is, their referees do. In perhaps the worst sports scandal ever, referee Tom Donaghy didn't just break the most sacred code in sports, he broke the law. The veteran official, whose skills (legal and perhaps otherwise) presided over such playoff debacles as Game 3 of the Spurs-Suns series, allegedly

passed inside information to the mob and shaved points on games.

Cycling: Forget about the 2007 Tour de France, where four riders were caught doping. Authorities are still trying to figure out whether or not Floyd Landis cheated to win the 2006 Tour de France. Landis claims the test he failed was due to the incompetence of a French laboratory, but the arbitration panel that heard the case is still deciding. An announcement is expected within the next week.

And those are just the recent examples.

In the sports world these days, it seems everyone has adopted the unofficial Patriots motto, coined by Chargers running back and Patriots hater LaDainian Tomlinson: "If you're not cheating, you're not trying."

And Tomlinson would know. His Chargers got mollywhopped by the Patriots on Sunday night. Maybe they should've tried cheating ...

So why is cheating so in vogue these days?

Take another look at the Chargers. Linebacker Shawne Merriman (Tomlinson's teammate) was suspended four games last year for violating the league's steroid policy, but made the Pro Bowl anyway.

When it comes to cheating in sports, the message is clear: Crime does pay. There might be a fine or a suspension, but as long there are wins and stats, plenty of teams are willing to pay once the penalty is served.

Just look at Belichick. Despite all the negative press he received this week and with the ink barely dry on his check for the \$500,000 fine, the Patriots rewarded him with a multiyear extension to his current contract.

And they say cheaters never prosper.

Contact James Dillard at [jdillard@email.unc.edu](mailto:jdillard@email.unc.edu)

## THIS WEEK

### TODAY

**MEN'S SOCCER**  
vs. William & Mary  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Fetzer Field

### THURSDAY

**FIELD HOCKEY**  
vs. Appalachian State  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Henry Stadium

### FRIDAY

**WOMEN'S SOCCER**  
vs. Ohio State  
TIME: 5 p.m.  
LOCATION: Durham

### VOLLEYBALL

vs. Georgia Tech  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Carmichael Auditorium

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2. October 23, 2007 7:00 PM Union 2518B
3. November 14, 2007 7:00 PM Union 3515

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