

Outside shots fall late in win

BY JESSE BAUMGARTNER
SPORTS EDITOR

Roy Williams insists that his team's ability to shoot the basketball is not a concern after some early struggles in exhibition games.

"It doesn't bother me in the least," he said. "We're going to shoot the ball well."

His players, on the other hand, were getting anxious to see a few long bombs go through the net after struggling to hit any type of outside shot during the first half of Friday's game against Lenoir-Rhyne.

"I think we kind of noticed that at halftime — we didn't make any 3-pointers really," forward Danny Green said. "The second half we came out, and we kind of focused on it ... and tried to make a point to knock down open shots."

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Lenoir-Rhyne 52
UNC 107

After going just 2-17 on 3-pointers through the first three halves of exhibition play this season, the Tar Heels hit three of four attempts in the second half and corrected one of their only visible weaknesses in a dominating 107-52 victory in front of a sparsely populated Smith Center.

To be fair — and as Williams mentioned after the game — the Tar Heels had no real need to shoot the ball from the perimeter because of an overwhelming physical advantage in the paint. With Green and Tyler Hansbrough both posting double-doubles and contributing to a 50-24 rebounding margin, the night turned into a tip drill and free throw shooting practice for the Tar Heels.

But while it's hard to judge inside play against such weak competition, the Tar Heels showed flashes of the perimeter play that could be crucial to success this season.

Sharpshooter Wayne Ellington knocked down two second-half 3-pointers, and as last season showed, his ability to hit those outside shots makes it that much easier for Hansbrough and Co. down low.

Bobby Frasier, who hopes to see more time at the shooting guard position this year, was quiet during his first-half stint at the position but got the Tar Heels going with their first 3-pointer of the night early in

the second half when he pulled up on the right wing to swish a rainbow.

After two years of running the point, switching to that shooter's mentality is something Frasier is working on — he said after the game that he would have been hesitant to take that shot had he been playing point guard.

"Being the point guard, you wouldn't know who's back on defense, you wouldn't know who's on the rebound, but as a two you have a little more freedom."

Even Ty Lawson — known more for his full-throttle flashes to the basket — pulled up from 12 feet in the second half to knock down his lone jump shot of the game. But Lawson also said he wished he had used the exhibition games to work more on those jump shots instead of continually driving past the over-matched Lenoir-Rhyne guards.

While perimeter play will be an ongoing theme for this year's team, turnovers and inside defensive presence should also be on the things-to-watch list. Williams said he was unhappy with some of the team's 20 turnovers, in particular a couple by Marcus Ginyard. And with the loss of leading shot-blocker Brandon Wright, the Tar Heels are without that inside intimidator.

In addition to a ferocious right-handed dunk on Friday, Green blocked several shots in the lane and could contribute to a more team-oriented defense of the rim this season.

"I guess that's just another way of telling teams 'stay out of the paint,'" Green said. "Even though if Brandon's not here, we've still got some guys who can contest the shot."

And standing only 6-foot-6-inches, Green — the team's second-leading shot blocker last year — could surprisingly be that intimidating force for North Carolina.

"Guards can block shots just as well as big men," Green said. "It's just timing. It's not really much of height or how high you can jump, just timing and knowing where the ball's going to be at (and getting to the spot)."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Tar Heels give up late heartbreaker

Maryland scores with six seconds left

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
SENIOR WRITER

With six seconds on the clock, the North Carolina men's soccer team were sprawled across the field.

Junior Michael Callahan held his head in his hands, sophomore Eddie Ababio lay facedown on the grass, and goalkeeper Tyler Deric hadn't moved from the dive he had made to attempt to save a slammer of a shot from Maryland's Graham Zusi.

Meanwhile, Zusi was at the bottom of a Terrapin dogpile.

Entering the 70th minute with a 1-0 lead, the Tar Heels again had to watch it slip away after Zusi — who also scored No. 15 Maryland's tying goal — converted a give-and-go just inside the far post with six seconds remaining in the second overtime.

"The disappointment really doesn't end with this game," head coach Elmar Bolowich said. "The disappointment hangs with how we played our season."

The loss leaves the Tar Heels with a 6-7-5 record, the program's first losing record since 1997 and only the fifth in its history.

The Tar Heels have scored first and ended with a draw or loss five times this season, something senior Andre Sherard, who played his last game at home Friday, attributed to

the "simple things."

"It's been like this all season," he said. "It's the small things that get us in trouble — just simple stuff like getting back on defense and winning second balls."

Maryland brought the firepower early on, with three shots in the first two and a half minutes.

UNC was able to get on the board first, though, with a Joan Carvajal header to the lower right after a scramble in the box and assists from Ababio and attacker Bill Dworsky.

But Zusi had other plans, and he celebrated his fifth and sixth goals of the season after curving a free kick above the wall in the 70th minute and scoring during extra time.

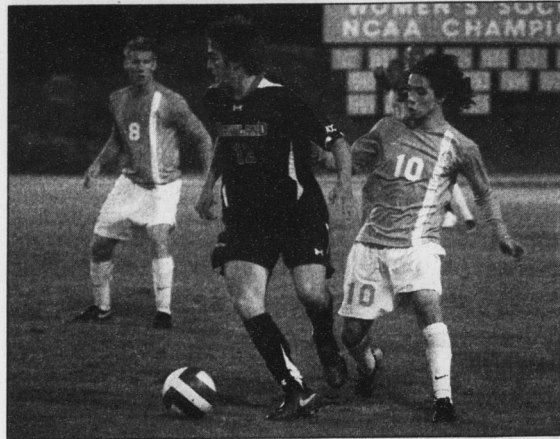
"They played hard here tonight, we were a little unfortunate on a few occasions, and they were opportunistic," Bolowich said.

"We had the lead and didn't hold on to it. They worked very hard to get back into the game, and they got rewarded for it."

Emotions ran high with ACC seeding on the line, and six yellow cards were awarded, including two to the North Carolina bench leading to the ejection of assistant coach Jeff Negalha.

The Tar Heels were outshot for only the fourth time this season, and UNC's five shots were the team's second-lowest output this season.

Callahan had two chances in the final minutes to nab the winner, but



DTH/SARAH RANSOHOFF

UNC junior Joan Carvajal works to defend Maryland's Drew Yates in the Tar Heels' 2-1 overtime loss on Friday. UNC is now 6-7-5 for the season.

both left UNC unable to convert.

His free kick in the 102nd minute hit the wall, but he slammed the rebound just wide of the goal.

Only 50 seconds before Zusi's game winner, senior Cameron Lewis went wide after he misplaced Callahan's cross.

"In overtime it's making a play or making a mistake — that's really what it comes down to," Bolowich said.

Callahan said the team now must focus on the ACC Tournament — the sixth-seeded team opens against Duke on Wednesday.

"Hopefully everyone realizes our season is at stake," he said. "That

was kind of the case for this game, but even more now.

"Everyone needs to find it in themselves and bring a little extra."

Bolowich also said ACC performances will be crucial — the team must win two games to be eligible for the NCAA Tournament — a cut they have not missed since 1998.

"We have nothing to lose anymore; we pretty much lost it," Bolowich said. "We can play a little more free and hopefully we can make run and not give up on it."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

UNC beats Va. Tech for fifth straight sweep

BY PENNY ELY
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina volleyball team coasted to its fifth straight sweep Saturday night with a dominant performance against Virginia Tech. UNC hasn't put together such a streak since 1999.

VOLLEYBALL

Va. Tech 0
UNC 3

The Tar Heels continued their winning ways as they took game one 32-30 and never looked back, winning games two and three without much difficulty.

Lauren Prussing led the way with 15 kills and 14 digs, her second consecutive double-double match. Head coach Joe Sagula said that

his team's focus on each match's game plan has been one of the keys to its recent success.

"We've also got people stepping up and playing well at every position at different times.

ONLINE
For more about Friday's 3-0 win on senior night, check out daily tarheel.com

Sagula also said the seniors' performance during the streak has given his squad a boost.

"It's great to see our seniors in Christie Clarke, Bekah Brinkley and Ashley Board play so well," Sagula said. "I mean that's what you want to see, finishing on a high note. The rest of the team is rally-

ing behind them."

Brinkley had difficulty pinpointing the key to the recent success but agreed that more attention to game plans has been critical.

"We really don't know. It's been a total team effort I guess, just buying into the coach's philosophy and really going with that 100 percent."

The match was the last the three UNC seniors will play in Carmichael Auditorium, but Brinkley has little time to reflect on her Tar Heel career as the team now faces an important four-game ACC road trip.

"It's still not the end of the end, so we just are going to let the emotion stay there and once the season's really over it'll really kick in for all of us,"

she said. "We're going to come in and surprise some teams in the end."

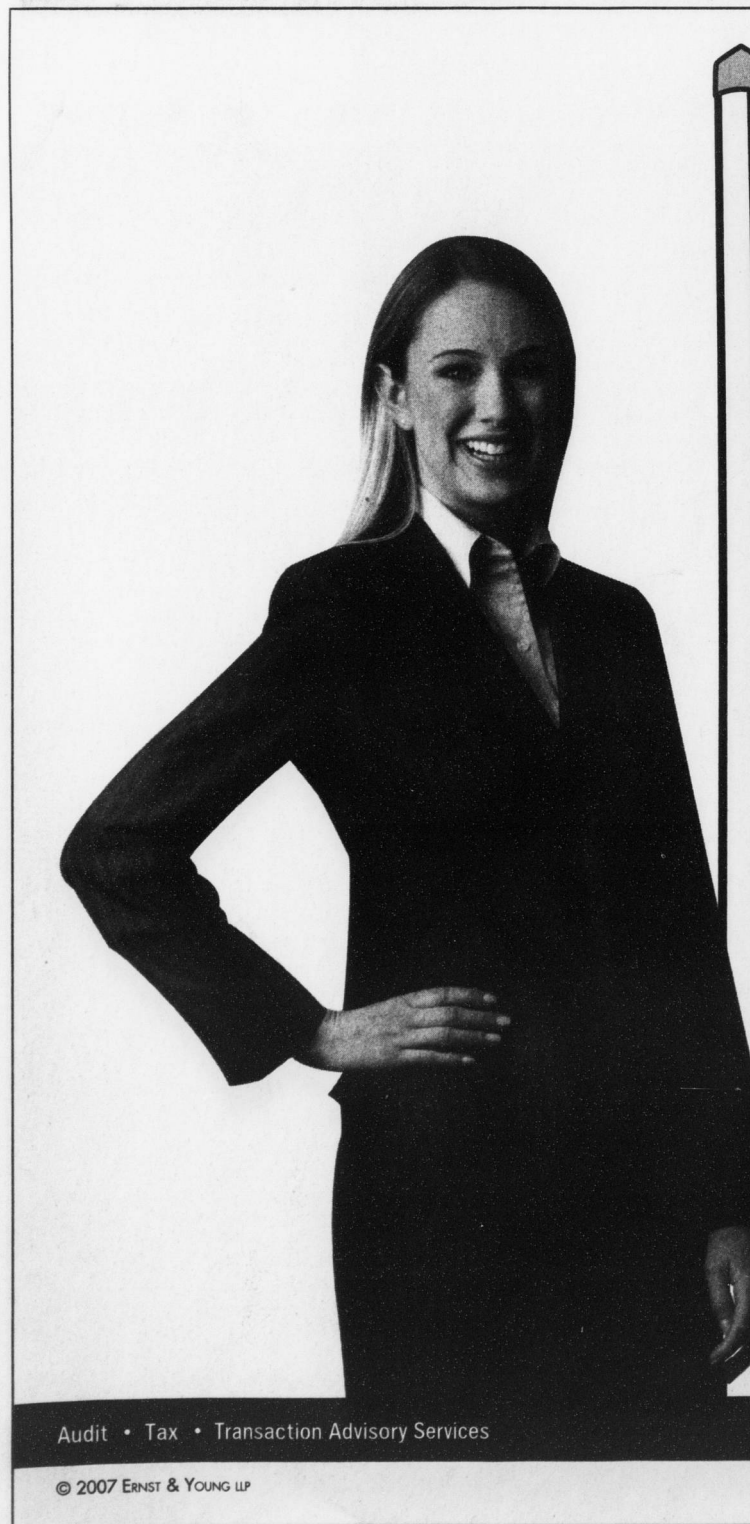
Sagula emphasized the importance of not focusing on the streak. The upcoming four-game stretch will be critical for his team heading into the ACC Tournament.

The coach said the Tar Heels must take it one match at a time.

"We knew that last weekend would be really important and it gave us some really good confidence. The dangerous thing is that we can't sit back."

UNC returns to action Wednesday with a trip to Wake Forest.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.



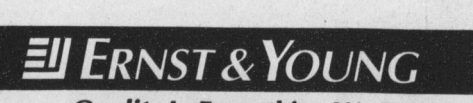
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