

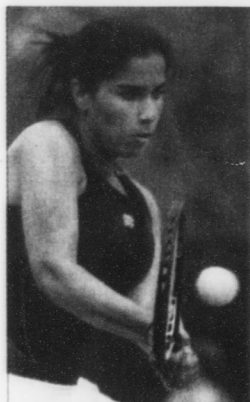
SCOREBOARD

WOMEN'S GOLF UNC 5th ACC Championships

WOMEN'S LACROSSE UNC 3 Northwestern 16

SOFTBALL N.C. State 1 UNC 3

SPORTS BRIEFS
WOMEN'S TENNIS



DTH FILE/ B YOUNG

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. — North Carolina sophomore Sanaz Marand defeated the nation's top-ranked singles player, but the fifth-seeded Tar Heels were unable to overcome losing the doubles point, falling to fourth-seeded Clemson, 4-2, Friday morning at Sanlando Park in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament.

Katrina Tsang was also a winner in singles for the Tar Heels, who will now await an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

MEN'S TENNIS



DTH FILE PHOTO

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. — On a hot Florida afternoon in the quarterfinal round of the ACC championships, the 25th-nationally ranked Miami Hurricanes outlasted the 11th-ranked North Carolina Tar Heels by the score of 4-3.

UNC was the only team among Friday's top four seeds that had to face a top 25 opponent in the quarterfinals.

The Tar Heels await an NCAA Tournament bid with a 19-5 record and a 12-5 mark against top-75 teams.

WOMEN'S GOLF

JAMESTOWN, Va. — The UNC women's golf team secured its fifth-place finish at the ACC Championship on Sunday afternoon after firing a 10-over-par 298 in the final, round, bringing its final total to a 40-over-par 904. Leading the way was junior Sydney Crane, who fired a three-over-par 75 for a six-over-par 222 final total.

TRACK & FIELD

ATLANTA — Junior Brie Felngale won a pair of events Saturday at the ACC Outdoor Championships as she helped fuel the Tar Heel women to a third-place finish. The UNC men on the back of Charles Cox finished fifth overall.

Virginia Tech and Florida State copied their conference indoor performance as the Hokie women and Seminole men captured the outdoor titles.

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY

BASEBALL
at Charlotte
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Charlotte

WEDNESDAY

BASEBALL
vs. High Point
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Cary

SOFTBALL
at Winthrop
TIME: 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
LOCATION: Rock Hill, S.C.

THURSDAY

WOMEN'S LACROSSE
ACC Tournament
TIME: TBA
LOCATION: Chestnut Hill, Mass.

TRACK & FIELD
at Penn
TIME: all day
LOCATION: Philadelphia

A SWEET SENIOR SEND-OFF

BY POWELL LATIMER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

North Carolina looked to be in danger of a third straight blown lead Saturday on Senior Day.

A resilient Hofstra squad had reeled off three goals in less than four minutes to trim UNC's early lead to only two by halftime.

But a little more than three minutes into the third quarter, junior Ben Hunt rifled a shot into

the back of the net. Less than a minute later, Bobby McAuley found a slashing Michael B. Burns in the middle of Hofstra's defense for another goal.

And just like that, No. 13 UNC had the momentum back and did not relinquish it, cruising to a 13-9 win.

A large part of UNC's success was the play of Shane Walterhoefer. The junior was unstoppable on face-offs, winning 20 of 25 and helping the Tar Heels maintain control of the game.

"Shane Walterhoefer is the best out there," senior Rob Driscoll said. "If he keeps playing like that, he'll make it a lot easier on us."

On the strength of Walterhoefer's play, UNC (8-4) won the first four draws, and Hofstra didn't advance the ball to UNC's side of the field until they were down 4-0.

While Walterhoefer took care of business on the face-offs, sophomore Gavin Petracca dealt out the punishment on the offensive end. Petracca led the team with four goals, and he scored or assisted on four of UNC's opening five goals.

"He's a great shooter, and we just have to get him free to shoot," Driscoll said. "Sometimes it's tough to get him open, and he was getting himself open today. He was putting the ball in the right spot, every shot."

Eventually, Hofstra's defense started to lock things down, and the UNC defense started to show some holes as the Pride came roaring back to close the half.

"We sometimes let teams back in the game, and that's our fault," senior Nick Tintle said. "We've just got to keep the pedal down and keep on going."

After Hofstra's second-quarter charge, UNC slowed things down and retook control, scoring five straight goals in the last eight minutes of the third quarter and the first half of the fourth.

"We just knew we had to possess the ball a little bit more and take a little air out of it," Driscoll said. "We were trying to score every time, and we just had to settle it down."

With UNC's offense racking up the goals, the defensive unit limited the Pride's scoring opportunities until the very end of the game. Grant Zimmerman continued his stellar play of late with 13 saves.

Just as important as Zimmerman's play between the pipes was the Tar Heels' ability to minimize mistakes. Hofstra (6-5) went 1-for-3 in man-up opportunities and took double-digit shots only in the fourth quarter after UNC's bench had been emptied.

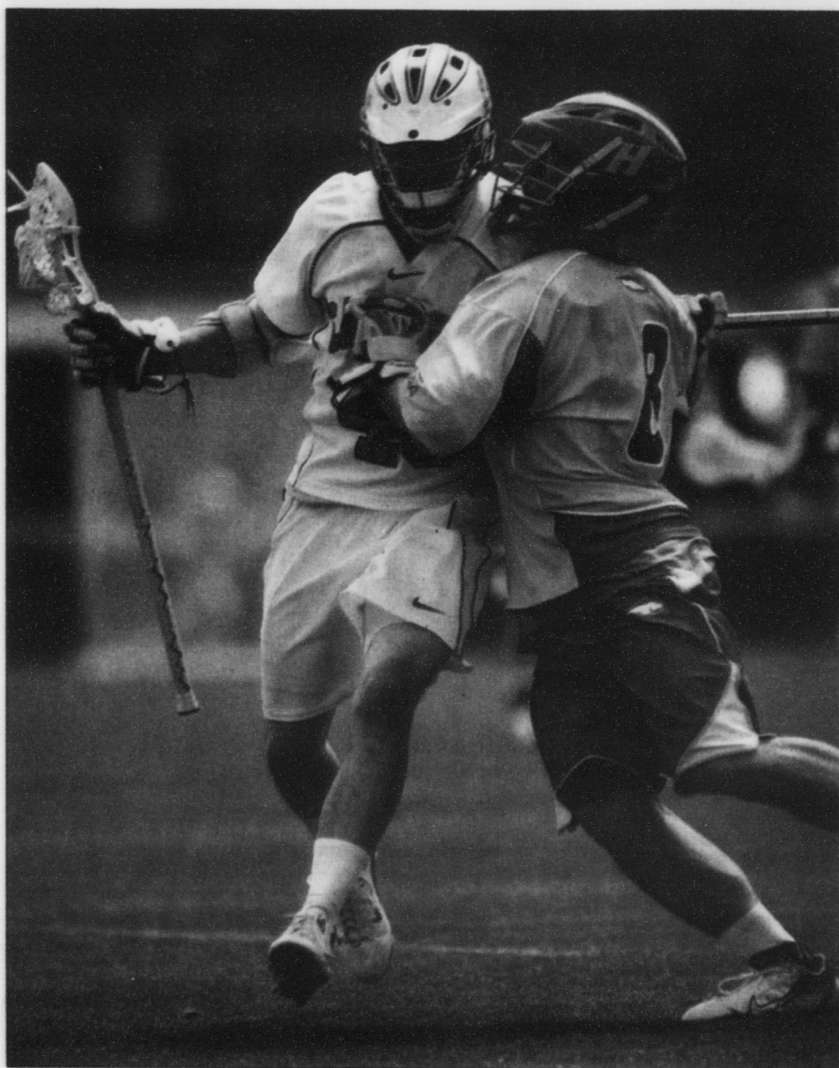
Despite the win, UNC was sloppy for most of the day, recording 15 turnovers.

"We need to be crisper; we need to be better," coach John Haus said. "In the last two games we've had far too many turnovers to compete at the highest level."

Haus' statements are particularly unsettling given that the ACC and NCAA tournaments lie just around the corner.

"We're going to be in two tournaments, and they're both do-or-die," Haus said. "You gotta be good. You can't screw up."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.



DTH/DAVID ENARSON

North Carolina junior Bobby McAuley powers past his Hofstra defender in the Tar Heels' 13-9 victory against the Pride. UNC finished the regular season with an 8-4 record, one win shy of its 2007 regular-season record.

Lacrosse's seniors show career improvement

Class of '08 has second straight winning year

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
SENIOR WRITER

Kenan Stadium seems to be a friend to the North Carolina men's lacrosse team.

In the last three years, the team's games there have led to three wins for the Tar Heels, including last year's monster upset against eventual NCAA champions Johns Hopkins.

Saturday's Senior Day match, a 13-9 stomping of No. 20 Hofstra, was no different. "We love playing in here," senior midfielder Rob Driscoll said. "We wish we could play here every game."

More important than that undefeated record for these seniors, though, is the work that brought them to such a feat.

UNC finished the season 8-4, not far from last year's 9-4 regular season, which culminated in a run to the NCAA quarterfinals.

But only two years ago, the seniors were underclassmen on teams that went 5-8 and 4-10 in their first two campaigns.

"In their first two years here, they weren't real successful, and it was disappointing for all of us," coach John Haus said.

"And now to see where we are and what



Senior Nick Tintle played his last home lacrosse game as a Tar Heel in Saturday's win.

that good," he said. "And so we've had a lot of playing time, so we've been in there a lot, and I think just the experience is showing."

It came in to play Saturday, at least, and nine of the team's 10 seniors saw time.

Midfielder Brian Connors notched his first goal of the year during the second quarter to bring the Tar Heels to 6-1.

Goalie Andrew Moss closed out the game for UNC, recording his second career save in the process, and defenseman Tim Kaiser led the backfield with five blocked shots.

And Tintle shone as well, leading the team with three assists to accompany his

SEE SENIORS, PAGE 11

Tar Heels streak past Eagles for weekend sweep

UNC off to best start since 1980s

BY MIKE EHRLICH
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

CARY — Only a year removed from two straight defeats in the College World Series finals and the loss of a talented core, most teams would need to struggle through a rebuilding year.

Instead, the North Carolina baseball team came back with a tie for its best start ever.

After dominating Boston College on Friday and Saturday at the USA Baseball National Training Complex, the Tar Heels had amassed a 33-7 record, which tied the 1990 squad for the program's best mark through 40 games.

That 1990 team lost its 41st game. The 2008 Tar Heels cruised to an 8-2 victory Sunday to sweep the series and increase their season-best win streak to nine games.

"It's a good accomplishment," sophomore Kyle Seager said of the 34-7 record. "But it doesn't mean

by any chance that we've arrived."

The Tar Heels outscored Boston College (19-21, 5-16 ACC) by a 26-5 margin in the three-game set, and no UNC relief pitcher allowed a runner to score.

Six North Carolina relievers appeared to throw a combined eight innings of shutout ball.

"It's been the strength of our team," UNC coach Mike Fox said. "We said it after the first couple of weeks: 'Whoa, our relievers are really throwing well.' And here we are in the eighth or ninth week of our season, and they've continued to really shine for us."

And it wasn't just the bullpen that shut down BC bats. Junior starter Adam Warren blanked the Eagles for seven innings in Saturday's 6-0 win, and freshman Matt Harvey fanned a career-high eight batters Sunday. Alex White picked up Friday's decision in the 12-3 win.

"I'm surprised that we've pitched as well as we have and as consistently as we have for 40 games," Fox said. "The coach in me keeps waiting for that to blow up, but I don't think that's going to happen."

UNC showed up swinging hot bats, as well. Four batters went deep in Friday's win, led by two nearly identical two-run bombs from

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 11

Softball shuts down State

BY JOHN DOUGHERTY
STAFF WRITER

Taking advantage of a record Anderson Stadium crowd, the North Carolina softball team used solid pitching and timely hitting to sweep N.C. State this weekend.

The three victories marked the first time North Carolina has come out victorious in a game against the Wolfpack (27-23, 8-10 ACC) since 2005. With the sweep, UNC set a school record of 16 conference wins in a year, surpassing last year's mark of 13.

The series was the last of the season for No. 15 North Carolina (45-8-1, 16-1) at their home

confines, and a record crowd of 1,251 was on hand to help the Tar Heels honor their seniors before Saturday's doubleheader.

"Having the crowd we had, I think that was great for our seniors," said UNC coach Donna J. Papa. "You're always going to have that kind of a crowd with State and Carolina. It's just the way that game is."

Until this weekend, however, N.C. State held a commanding 11-2 lead in the all-time series. In fact, the only UNC players who had any firsthand experience defeating the Wolfpack were the trio of North Carolina seniors who did it their freshman year.

"It's been three years coming," said senior Cassie Palmer after



DTH/KELVIN YEUNG

North Carolina second baseman Cassie Palmer takes a swing at an N.C. State pitch in the Tar Heels' 3-1 win Sunday against the Wolfpack.

the sweep.

Prior to this weekend, scoring in itself had proven to be a tough task for the Tar Heels in the recent past against N.C. State, as UNC had suffered four consecutive shutouts against the Wolfpack.

The dry spell persisted deep into Saturday's first game until Danielle Spaulding cranked a sixth-inning offering over the right-field fence to break what had been a scoreless tie. Spaulding followed up her smash by returning to the circle in the top of the seventh and retiring three straight batters to secure the 1-0 game one victory.

Saturday's second game was much of the same, and both teams struggled to score throughout the first three innings.

The game's only offense came in the bottom of the fourth inning.

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