Men's soccer splits weekend play

UNC goes 1-1 in preseason openers

FT. WAYNE, Ind. - The North Carolina men's soccer team split its opening weekend games with a win against Akron and a loss to Indiana at the National Soccer Festival.

Despite a 3-0 shutout by the Hoosiers on Friday, UNC rebounded with a 2-0 win against No. 12 Akron on Sunday afternoon. Senior forward Brian Shriver

scored twice in just over 11 minutes' for the win.

Shriver put UNC on the board with just 28 seconds remaining in the first half and added a second

score 10 minutes into the second period. Junior forward Eddie Ababio assisted on both goal

Senior goalkeeper Jacob Wescoe vent the full 90 minutes in goal to pick up the shutout. He did not allow a goal in 135 minutes of action on the weekend.

Despite Wescoe's first-half blank, No. 7 Indiana netted three secondhalf goals to score a 3-0 win against UNC in the Tar Heels' exhibition

Neil Wilmarth, Brian Ackley and Kevin Noschang each scored for the Hoosiers.

The teams each posted 12 shots position through the early games. on the night, and No. 24 North Three UNC first-years made Carolina held a 7-5 edge on corner kicks but could not find the back of the net.

Ababio and Shriver each had three shots for the Tar Heels.

In goal on the weekend, North Carolina split time between Wescoe

and Brooks Haggerty.

Haggerty, who missed much of last season with a knee injury, was recovering from a concussion at the

start of preseason training. Coach Elmar Bolowich said the starting keeper spot would remain open while he recovered, with Wescoe, Haggerty and first-year keeper J.P. Davis competing for the

their starting debuts against Indiana, including Chris Lebo, Kirk Urso and Sheanon Williams, all past members of the NSCAA/ adidas Youth All-America team.

Lebo contributed two shots, one on goal, and Urso added another. The Tar Heels open the regular season Friday against Florida International at 7:30 p.m. at Fetzer

Field in game two of the Carolina Nike Classic. Wake Forest and VCU open the event at 5 p.m.

> Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

I can't believe Dennis Rodman never did this

emember in high school when that referee with the pot belly and the glasses thicker than your biology textbook swallowed his whistle on a foul in the game's most important moment?

Do you remember what you wanted to do to that stupid zebra?

I'm sure the litany of typical reactions crossed your mind. Maybe you'd throw something. Perhaps you'd go through a five-minute, profanity-laced tirade in the locker room.

HOUSTON

any of the pop that allows him to run over defenders and eat up the

tough yardage.
"I don't think that he's had to give up any power or strength in the course of losing the additional weight," Davis said.

But I think what we've seen is his stamina, that he's able to play longer and harder."

It isn't just Houston's physique that changed with a year of experience playing college football. Houston also said his understanding of the offense and his vision. both have improved entering his

sophomore campaign.
"Last season I could see the holes, but I was still a freshman, he said. "I was thinking too much thinking about the scheme, and trying to do it all in the backfield before the play, and it would mess

my reads up.
"Now I know the system like the back of my hand, so I know the play I know the scheme.

"Right before the play, it seems like a short period of time, but as soon as I get back there, boom, I knew the defensive scheme, I know what the linemen are going to do. I can read them a lot bet-

With Greg Little as the featured running back in the North Carolina offense, Houston likely will be used this season in terms of the situa-

He might not be handed the ball on many first-and-10s, and he might not lead UNC backs in catches out of the backfield.

But he should be tops in the running back corps in bloody noses dished out. And when a third-and-short or a goal-line sce-nario arises, No. 32 likely will be in the huddle.

And he knows it.

"I know almost for a fact that third-and-short or if we get to the goal line, I'm going to get in there," Houston said.

"Coach Davis knows I have a nose for the end zone, so I believe going to help us on shor yardage.

Contact the Sports Editor



DANIEL PRICE

Either would have been perfectly acceptable modes of steam-

blowing.

But how about round housing the dude's bifocals right off of his

Porky Pig face?
I'm sure the thought was there. But you couldn't do that. No one could. You don't lay your hands (or feet) on an official. It's just not

Well now, thanks to Angel Matos, it is.

Matos, a taekwondo champion from Cuba, was disqualified for taking too much time in an injury timeout during Saturday's bronze medal match against Kazakhstan's Arman Chilmanov.

And instead of graciously accepting the ruling and taking a perfectly respectable fourth-place finish in Beijing, Matos put his mastery of

the Korean martial art to good use. After yelling at and pushing a judge, the 2000 gold medalist kicked referee Chakir Chelbat in

Classic:

I am not condoning what Matos did. He was banned from World Taekwondo Federationsanctioned events for life - and rightfully so. This kind of action is completely inexcusable and should be met with the harshest of penalties.

But be honest with yourself how awesome would it feel to take out that dumb ref who cost you the game?

Forget M.J.'s '82 jumper, Flutie's Hail Mary and Namath's "guarantee." Matos' "Referee Round House" has jumped right to the top of the list of sports moments I would pay good money to experience myself.

Now, of course I wouldn't want to deal with the whole being-kicked-out-of-the-sport-to-which-I-had-committed-the-better-part of-my-life thing. It's the sports moment - not sports career

that I'm seeking to live myself.

If I had to be Matos for a little longer, the lifelong ban situation could make the moment sting a bit.

Nonetheless, I still have spent the better part of my day trying to imagine how amazingly justified Matos felt after knocking the sense out of Mr. Chelbat.

I can't fathom a better feeling than Matos' sense of vindication when the one who wronged him was railing from a world-class head kick.

The next time the student official in intramural flag football calls pass interference when you were clearly making a play on the ball, don't do anything. Keep the emotion in. Don't yell. Don't curse. Do nothing — until

you get home.

Then go right to your laptop, head to YouTube and search Angel Matos.

> Contact Daniel Price at dhprice@email.unc.edu.



North Carolina's Johnny White had a whirlwind of a first season, going from starting tailback to defensive back as Butch Davis shuffled the lineup.

FOOTBALL

mean, you take some chances, field position-wise," he said.

"And that's a real concern this vear. We have no one that's ever kicked in a game before.'

That inexperience could prove a crucial weakness in what figures otherwise to be a high-octane offense for UNC.

Though the kicking position is undecided, the punter's spot is locked up. North Carolina coaches think they have found a solid punter in Terrence Brown.

despite his somewhat pedestrian average of 41.4 yards per punt last "If we just let him kick the ball,

I think he'd be in the top 10 in the nation, because he can absolutely murder the football," Davis said. We asked him last year to do an

awful lot of directional kicking, and kick it away from a returner, put it on the sidelines. "He sacrificed six, seven, eight,

10 yards sometimes per kick, just to try and compensate for the fact."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

SOCCER

her feet within five yards of the goal. The senior midfielder converted both times, and the Tar Heels also had goals from midfielder Yael Averbuch and forwards Katie Klimczak and

Courtney Jones, a first-year.

After blowing a one-on-one opportunity in the 17th minute when she gave the keeper an easy save, Jones scored her first career goal early in the second half off a corner. The ball sailed past the box on the initial hit, but Nikki Washington quickly lobbed it back and Jones headed it in from the left side aded it in from the left side

"I had that breakaway in the first that was horrible," Jones said. "I could not believe I missed that. And then I had another breakaway after.

"(The veterans) said it was OK. They said, 'You got there, so calm down, and don't do it again next time.' I was still frustrated, but they were like, 'You know, it's freshman Charlotte's lone score came off

penalty kick late in the first half. First-year Emmalie Pfankuch committed the foul in the box, and UNC goalkeeper Ashlyn Harris picked the wrong side as Charlotte's Hailey Beam hit the ball low to the left.

It took the Tar Heels only one game to pass last season's mark of goals scored off corners. Despite a plentiful number of opportunities last year (214 corners), UNC only converted one into a goal.

Against Charlotte, UNC had three

Jones' goal, which proved to be by Long and a header by Klimczak.

In her first game back after missing the entire 2007 season due to an ACL tear, redshirt sophat sports@unc.edu.

omore Ali Hawkins had an assist with a header on Long's second goal. Nicknamed "The Hawk" by Dorrance for her ability to fly above the crowd on headers, Hawkins was a crucial part of the national championship season two years ago. But the weekend's most heralded

return was the reunification of the ball with the back of UNC's opponent's net. The season openers the last two years were profoundly disappointing 1-0 losses, and the Tar Heels were grateful to avoid any inkling of a flashback.

"We were pleased with the way we were creating chance after chance after chance," Dorrance said. Five of the six first-year strikers,

who were specifically recruited to improve UNC's offensive output, played in Friday's game. Along with Jones' goal, newcomer Merritt Mathias tallied four shots. We were doing a great job of

finishing with our head," sophomore Rachel Givan said. don't know last year why we

couldn't put it away, but this year everyone's going after it." Contact the Sports Editor

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SCORING

five shots against Charlotte. "All you can ask for is chances in

a game," she said, "so as long as I put one away, I think it was good." eager to catalog all her opportuni-ties, cagey veteran Averbuch was

more excited by the finishing the Tar Heels displayed on those second half chances.
"I think the finishing has

ack," Averbuch said. "We're just creating chances, and on top of that, our finishing is better. So I think all around, it was

Averbuch, a returning All-America, created a chance of her own late in the second half when she nailed a ball into the upper right corner from 25 yards out in the middle of her stride. The senior was tied for third on the team with six goals last year.

Junior Allie Long led the Tar Heels with six shots and two goals, which takes her nearly halfway to her season total of five goals last

Most promising for the Tar Heels would be the fact that they converted on two corner kicks in the second half and created scoring opportunities from others — a significant contrast to last year's team, which struggled to find its rhythm from the corner.

"So only one aspect of our free kicks and set pieces was good last year, and that was our penalty kicking," Dorrance said.

"Everything else, I thought, was subpar: corner kicks, free kicks, et

cetera, et cetera. I can tell already corner kicks are going to be good (this year)." Dorrance was also complimen-

tary of Casey Nogueira's decision-making. The sophomore's only shot on goal led directly to a score off a The second half showed the

team's finishing potential, but if the Tar Heels are going to achieve their goal of regaining promi-nence on the national scene, they'll need to consistently get what they racked up Friday -

> Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.



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many opportunities to score, but did manage a goal of her own. Jones was second on the team with

While the first-year Jones was

improved this year, and our general attacking play is a lot better—we have a lot more variety in the

a lot better than last year."

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