

**FOOTBALL**

FROM PAGE 14

— running back Toddrick Pendland and wideout Quinten Lawrence.

Lawrence racked up 73 receiving yards on just four catches and tacked on a 70-yard punt return for a touchdown.

Pendland was just as impressive. The junior tailback rushed for 85 yards and caught six passes for 60 yards.

"That's probably one of the fastest teams that we've played," Marvin Austin said. "That little 6 (Lawrence), and 22 (Pendland), they're not the biggest guys, but they definitely play fearless and some of the fastest guys I've ever seen."

UNC's defense eventually did find some success, most notably from E.J. Wilson. The junior defensive end registered eight tackles, three for loss.

"When a play needed to be

made, I felt like it was my obligation," Wilson said. "Whether the coaches depended on me or not, it was my obligation to go in there and make that big play and get the defense stirred up."

While McNeese State found success with its option offense, UNC struggled for much of the game. Six of UNC's nine nonscoring drives lasted three plays or fewer.

Part of the Tar Heels' struggles was rooted in an inability to establish any type of running game. Again and again Greg Little was swarmed by four, five or even six defenders at the line of scrimmage as MSU stacked its defense against the run.

Little carried 14 times for just 37 yards, an average of 2.6 yards per carry.

"We kept being hard-headed," Davis said. "Trying to establish the run, trying to get some momentum at the beginning of the season."

It wasn't until the passing game had already done its damage in the

form of a 57-yard bomb to Tate — giving UNC the lead at 21-20 — that running lanes started to open for Tar Heel backs.

Backup running back Shaun Draughn scampered for a 13-yard score in the fourth quarter to extend UNC's one-point lead to eight and give UNC a much-needed cushion late in the game.

That score, followed by a Little rushing touchdown five minutes later, put the game out of reach.

But despite the win, UNC's pre-season hype took a serious hit.

"It's the media's job, and it's the fans' job to deal with predictions and expectations," Davis said. "And it's the coaches and players job to deal in reality."

"And the reality is you better look yourself in the face tonight and find out what it's going to take to play much better."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

**TATE**

FROM PAGE 14

"That guy, he earned his scholarship tonight. Trust me."

This weekend earning his keep meant helping UNC to a victory in its season-opener — and the first back-to-back opening victories the program has seen since 1996-97.

As the game wore on, the Cowboys altered their game plan and introduced a new strategy with regards to Tate: If you can't beat him, just stay the heck away from him.

Of seven punts and kickoffs in the second half, only one was even sent within the same area code as No. 87. And Tate took that one back for 22 yards.

"I noticed toward the end of the game, about the second half, they stopped kicking it to me," Tate said. "I felt really good about that

because I wasn't tired anymore. I could play offense after that."

Tate had one final chance at the all-time ACC record in the game's final minute. He took a reverse and broke free, but with the end zone in sight, the last defender made a shoestring tackle that left him 14 yards short of Wake Forest tailback John Leach's 1993 total.

"My eyes got real big," Tate said. "But when he hit my feet, I just tumbled over. I was mad."

When all was said and done, Tate's performance earned him the game ball and made a mark on his teammates and coaches.

"I'm glad I was there to witness that," defensive end E.J. Wilson said. "And I'm glad he was playing for us and not anybody else."

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**HOCKEY**

FROM PAGE 14

Daivids for the 2-0 lead.

But a two-goal deficit was not enough for the 2007 undefeated national champions to put away the rallying Hawkeyes for the next 23 minutes.

"I think it's just this mental thing when you've won and you're waiting for them to come back at you," Forward said. "I think that's one thing we did, as opposed to taking it to them and scoring another goal and taking the air out of their sails."

Iowa's Caroline Blaum passed the ball to Caitlin McCurdy, who shot from three yards past junior goalkeeper Brianna O'Donnell.

O'Donnell and Jackie Kintzer — who faced only one shot in the first half — platooned at the position for UNC.

Ebbing away at North Carolina's lead, Iowa quickly claimed the lead in the last three minutes of the game.

With 3:04 on the clock, a scramble for the ball ensued in front of North Carolina's goal when Hawkeye Katie Naughton grabbed a rebound and shot from in front of the goal to tie the score at 2-2.

And with just 1:17 to go, the duo that had given Iowa its first goal secured its second win of the season.

As the Tar Heels took off their gear and prepared to cool down, the players were quiet, slowly coming to terms with their first loss since 2006.

"I don't know what their reaction is just yet," Shelton said. "I'm hoping we learn a valuable lesson."

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**SCHEDULING**

FROM PAGE 14

Gwaltney said.

"We host 60,000 people here seven Saturdays a year. We want it to be one of the best experiences that they ever have."

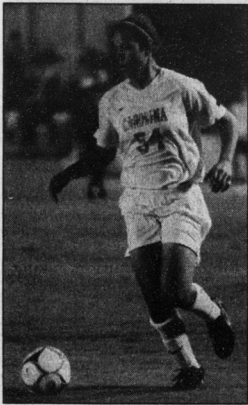
Gwaltney said the increased revenue from these tickets will go to the bottom of the athletic department budget and be redistributed to any program in need during the spring, when they run the numbers before the next academic year.

From the marketing side, the program requires more than a loyal fan base at home. In order to become a national player on the college football scene, UNC must explore space travel — satellite broadcasts, of course.

ESPN beams football games into orbit and bounces them back into production centers all across the country.

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**WOMEN'S SOCCER**



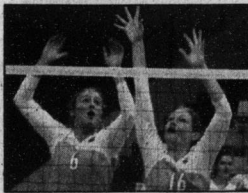
DTH/ERIC VELARDE

FROM WIRE REPORTS —

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS — No. 2 North Carolina saw a two-goal lead disappear in the second half, but a score by freshman forward Courtney Jones in the 83rd minute proved to be the game-winner for the Tar Heels as they defeated No. 13 Texas A&M 3-2 Friday night before a crowd of 5,642 at the Aggie Soccer Complex. It was the first of four games this weekend in A&M's Weekend Invitational. The Tar Heels improved to 2-0 on the season while the host Aggies fell to 2-1.

Against No. 14 Tennessee, UNC got a goal from junior forward Nikki Washington 27 minutes into the match and made it hold up as the No. 2 Tar Heels shut out No. 14 Tennessee 1-0. The Tar Heels improved to 3-0 on the season with the win after beating back-to-back ranked opponents in College Station.

**VOLLEYBALL**



DTH FILE

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — North Carolina opened its season 0-3 after finishing the State Farm Illini Classic in Champaign, Ill. UNC lost to No. 11 Oregon and to No. 24 New Mexico State in a two Saturday matches.

Christine Vaughn and Suzanne Haydel finished with a team-high seven kills apiece against Oregon.

Vaughn earned all-tournament honors for her efforts through the weekend.

Next weekend UNC hosts the Carolina Volleyball Classic.

**AROUND THE ACC**

**FOOTBALL**

- USC 52 Virginia 7
- JMU 7 Duke 31
- Va. Tech 22 ECU 27
- BC 21 Kent State 0
- Delaware 7 Maryland 14
- Alabama 34 Clemson 10
- CSU 7 Miami 52

Dame team, when by game day it's facing a program in transition coming off of a 3-8 season.

And teams historically in the dregs could unexpectedly rise, as UConn or Rutgers have in the last couple years.

Fortunately for the University, these meetings come at a time when the administration has confidence in the football program.

"I think we're definitely on the right track," Gwaltney said.

"I think when you look at your out-of-conference schedule, you have to balance it to put yourself into a position to be able to win the national championship."

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**SOCCER**

FROM PAGE 14

over the head of Tar Heel teammates.

Mistimed chest traps led to balls scampering away from player's feet. Crosses sailed over the near post, nowhere near their designated targets.

When halftime rolled around, the 11 starters left the field resembled a funeral march. In fact, only two starters uttered any words at all.

And things didn't get easier. The next 45 minutes brought much of the same.

Like normally reliable scorers missing chances they usually bury. Like two yellow cards for badly timed tackles.

Like forwards standing behind an opposing defender in an off-

side position, killing attack after attack.

However, even with all these struggles, the Tar Heels kept coming.

They kept to their controlled style and continued looking for through balls to streaking midfielders in hopes of creating a goal.

And when senior captain Michael Callahan scored six minutes into overtime, they kept to their celebratory style of charging the stands.

After a weekend of such black-and-white performances, Lewis had a one-word summary for the team's performance this weekend: "Persistence."

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