

Terps down UNC in ACC quarterfinals

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
SPORTS EDITOR

Unlike last season, the North Carolina men's soccer team's season won't end in the ACC Tournament.

Unlike last season, the Tar Heels finish with a plus-.500 record and can look forward to the NCAA Tournament.

But that doesn't make Wednesday's 1-0 loss to Maryland in the ACC Tournament quarterfinals any easier.

"No. Absolutely not," senior Ryan Adeleye said.

MEN'S SOCCER
UNC 0
Maryland 1

"We want to win every game that we're in. So just because we may play another NCAA game doesn't make this loss any easier to take."

This was the Tar Heels' fifth straight loss — the longest streak in the program's 62-year history — and the second in six days to the Terrapins, who beat UNC 2-1 on Friday in the regular season finale.

"I think it's difficult to play the same team five days later, particularly after you've beaten them, with all of the emotions that goes into it," Maryland coach Sasho Cirovski said. "But I thought we played a very good game. Carolina is an excellent team that puts a lot of pressure on you."

Unfortunately for the Tar Heels, most of that pressure was absent for the first half.

After moving the team's second-leading scorer Eddie Ababio to the backline, where he played all of last year, coach Elmar Bolowich's squad couldn't finish offensively.

"Eddie, today, was good, actually, as an outside back," Bolowich said.



DTH/COLLEEN COOK

Maryland's Drew Yates dribbles away from UNC captain Mike Callahan. "They're a good team, they're tough to break down," Elmar Bolowich said.

"He generated a lot of offense in the back. He almost scored."

Ababio's shot, one of UNC's six in the second half, crossed the goal to the far post and looked about to equalize the game.

But Maryland's freshman keeper, Zac MacMath, was not to be reckoned with Wednesday. MacMath finished with six saves — UNC keeper Brooks Haggerty had one.

"He did his job," Bolowich said. Wednesday's was MacMath's sixth shutout of the season.

UNC and Maryland each registered three shots in the first half, but it was only Maryland who could convert.

At the 13:31 mark, Terrapins striker Jeremy Hall waited at the far post for a nifty cross from Rich Costanzo, and Haggerty was fooled by the pass. Hall slotted the shot for a goal, and

the momentum shifted. After the goal, UNC couldn't get into an offensive rhythm. Their shots were isolated, and the players weren't working together. "We were too spread out," Bolowich said.

Then, after halftime, the Tar Heels came out with new fire, and their challenges were better.

"It became a battle, which is what we expected it to be," Cirovski said. "Unfortunately, we could not capitalize on our chances to tie the game."

"If you don't score, you don't win."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

FOOTBALL

North Carolina to pull for Hurricanes tonight

Miami-VT is key Coastal matchup

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
SPORTS EDITOR

The North Carolina football team has been watching film of its next conference opponent for the past five days.

By now the players know the ins-and-outs of Maryland's offense, defense and special teams units.

But tonight they'll be watching two different conference teams — and they know where their allegiances lie.

"I don't know if I'm allowed to say this, but we'll be pulling for Miami," quarterback Cameron Sexton said Monday.

"Absolutely, we will be. I didn't know it was on Thursday night until the other day, so we're excited about that."

Miami takes on the Coastal division leaders Virginia Tech in Miami Gardens, Fla., tonight, and the Tar Heels have more stake than usual in the matchup.

North Carolina needs a Virginia Tech loss to move to the top of the

ACC Coastal standings — because the Hokies beat UNC in September, VT has the head-to-head advantage if the teams have the same win-loss ratio.

Provided the Tar Heels win out, a VT loss would secure UNC's berth to the ACC Championship game.

So the road to Tampa Bay, at least this week, sits in the hands of Miami.

"(Offensive tackle) Mike Ingersoll said in the locker room that he wanted to take practice off and go and be the scout team for Miami so we can help them win the game," running back Ryan Houston said.

"Miami, I'm just praying for them to hopefully take out Virginia Tech this week."

Right now Virginia Tech, Miami and UNC all are tied at 3-2 in the conference. VT has the head-to-head against UNC, and UNC against Miami.

Friday morning the Tar Heels will go back to watching

"Miami, I'm just praying for them to hopefully take out Virginia Tech this week."

RYAN HOUSTON, UNC RUNNING BACK

Maryland. But Thursday night, as they do every week, they'll watch the college football game — and they hope that Friday they'll have a little more to play for when they head to College Park, Md., this weekend.

"We're definitely going to watch it," corner Kendrick Burney said.

"We watch every Thursday night game. We all get together."

"Of course everybody would be crazy if we weren't going for Miami."

"But we just want to see a good football game, and hopefully things will pull out our way."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Hansbrough 'extremely doubtful'

BY DAVID ELY
SENIOR WRITER

When the No. 1-ranked North Carolina Tar Heels open their season Saturday against Pennsylvania, it looks as though they will do so without the services of the reigning national player of the year.

In a statement released by UNC Athletics on Wednesday, coach Roy Williams said senior Tyler Hansbrough most likely will not play against the Quakers.

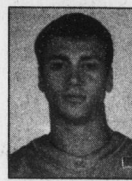
"We've made the decision to hold Tyler Hansbrough out of action a little longer," Williams said in the release.

"It's extremely doubtful that he would play against Pennsylvania, and I emphasize extremely doubtful."

"We will continue to evaluate him and have more information when it becomes available."

Hansbrough has been sidelined since the last week of October when it was discovered that he had a stress reaction — a precursor to a stress fracture — in his right shin.

If he misses Saturday's game, it will end a streak of 108 consecutive games in which Hansbrough has played at UNC.



Senior Tyler Hansbrough likely will not play in the Tar Heels' first game on Saturday.

The No. 1-rated class was Williams' second since taking the reigns of his alma mater.

He also brought in the top-rated class in 2006, when Brandon Wright, Ty Lawson, Wayne Ellington, Deon Thompson, Alex Stepheson and Will Graves signed with the Tar Heels.

Not to be outdone by her male counterpart, North Carolina women's basketball coach Sylvia Hatchell inked a top-notch class Wednesday, as well.

The four signed seniors are Krista Gross of Concord, Waltia Rolle of Nassau, Bahamas, Cierra Warren of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., and Nyree Williams of Ellicott City, Md.

Gross, a 6-foot guard, highlights the group and is a four-time all-state performer.

"Krista is the best senior in North Carolina," Hatchell said in a release.

"She has tremendous versatility and can play all over the court."

"She can shoot the three and post you up, and she is a very accomplished student."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Top recruits sign with UNC

On the first day of early signing for high school basketball prospects, Williams landed one of the biggest recruiting hauls in the nation.

The Tar Heels signed five players to National Letters of Intent, giving North Carolina the top-rated class in the country according to Rivals.com.

The five include John Henson from Tampa, Fla.; Leslie McDonald from Memphis, Tenn.; Dexter Strickland from Rahway, N.J.; David Wear from Huntington Beach, Calif.; and Travis Wear from Huntington Beach, Calif.

"We are very excited about this class," Williams said.

"All five do a great job both in the classroom and on the basketball court."

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