

41  10

"There will never be a football game ever played that you can lose the turnover ratio as dramatically poorly as we did today and give yourself any chance to win." BUTCH DAVIS, FOOTBALL COACH

TAR HEELS PACKED IN

UNC coughs up six turnovers

BY MIKE EHRlich
SPORTS SATURDAY EDITOR

Defensive end E.J. Wilson could offer no explanation. He had none for the way his North Carolina team had just gotten outplayed, out-hustled — out-everythinged, really — by a supposedly inferior N.C. State team.

"I really thought against our rivals that we'd come out a lot more enthused and we'd play a lot harder than we did," he said.

"From the looks of it, it seemed like they wanted it a lot more than we did."

In truth, there are a lot of possible explanations for the 41-10 drubbing that the Wolfpack put on the Tar Heels Saturday — a game that ended UNC's hopes for the ACC Coastal Division title and prompted N.C. State coach Tom O'Brien to declare his program "the best football program in the state, without question."

There was the poor play of UNC's quarterbacks.

And the secondary was frequently caught napping on key plays.

And there was the ease with which N.C. State (5-6, 3-4 ACC) controlled the line of scrimmage.

But according to UNC coach Butch Davis, none of those reasons mattered in comparison to the one

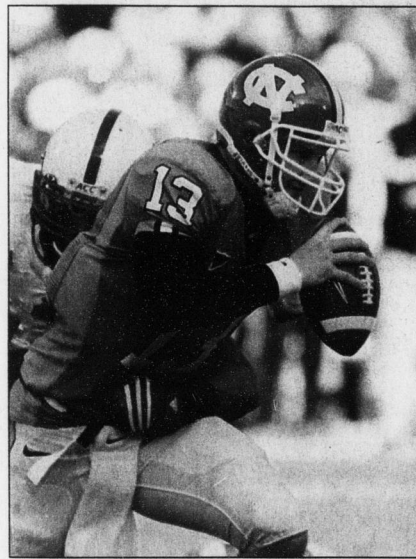
SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 9

DTH ONLINE: See a photo slideshow of the weekend's sporting events.



North Carolina's Ryan Houston rushed for the Tar Heels' only touchdown in the third quarter against N.C. State on Saturday. The Wolfpack stymied the UNC running game as the Tar Heels amassed a meager 56 yards on the ground on 26 rushes in UNC's fourth ACC loss.

Yates struggles in return to action



Quarterback T.J. Yates started after sitting out six weeks with an fractured ankle but couldn't get into a rhythm against N.C. State, completing 10 of 22 passes.

BY DAVID ELY
SENIOR WRITER

Saturday's game against N.C. State was supposed to provide a resolution at quarterback for North Carolina.

With sophomore signal caller T.J. Yates starting again, the Tar Heels looked poised to reclaim the offensive prowess it lost last week in an ugly defeat at Maryland. But instead of answers, UNC's quarterback situation just got more questions.

In his first start since UNC's third game this season, Yates looked uncomfortable in the pocket and connected on fewer than half of his 22 pass attempts. Coach Butch Davis benched Yates in favor of Cameron Sexton midway through the fourth quarter.

But Sexton did little to separate himself from Yates during his brief stint on the field. The junior finished the game 4-for-6 with two interceptions.

North Carolina's once-promising passing attack has devolved into a quagmire heading into the season's final regulars season game at Duke.

After the game, Davis addressed the play of his two quarterbacks, leaving the door open for another week of speculation about who will be his starter.

"As I've told the quarterbacks, you are always going to be the victim of how you have played," Davis said. "And in light of the fact that somebody's going to eventually ask this question, 'What does that mean for next week?' And the answer to the question for next week is that the quarterback that gives us the best chance to win that game."

Saturday against the Wolfpack, Yates didn't inspire people to believe he again was going to be that guy.

His first pass of the game sailed over the head of receiver Cooter Arnold, and later attempts skipped well in front of Hakeem Nicks and Brooks Foster. If there was any indication that the Yates who played against N.C. State didn't resemble the earlier version, it was on the few instances when he looked downfield.

On those attempts, Yates' passes didn't have his usual zip. The extra time allowed defenders to recover and turn would-be first downs into incompletions.

In all, Yates finished 10-for-22 with 116 yards and one interception. After the game, a dejected Yates attributed some of his struggles to his injury-induced layoff.

"I hadn't been out there in about a month or so," he said. "I definitely felt

out of sync." Yates' poor performance reached its end on UNC's final possession in the third quarter. On that drive Yates was 2-for-4 and was booed after a pass bounced near Nicks' feet.

"I wasn't surprised the way I was playing," Yates said.

Sexton, who watched all of that transpire, did his best to remain supportive after losing his job to Yates.

"I'm just trying to rally and just trying to be supportive of him," Sexton said of his sideline attitude. "Just trying to rally the team. It's just hard to see your teammates not play well."

Sexton insisted he wasn't upset about Yates starting, and that he has "no idea" if the job again will be up for grabs.

But if Davis' postgame demeanor is any indication, the position will be re-evaluated once the coaching staff reviews film.

"Every game for a football team is predicated on you wanting to win the game that's at hand — it's the only one that really matters," Davis said. "And that's how we will look at it this week."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Nogueira, UNC down Illini

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Illinois 0
UNC 3

BY JOE MCLEAN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

A year ago today, the North Carolina women's soccer team saw its season come to a close in only the third round of the NCAA tournament. Those Tar Heels were stunned as they took the earliest exit from the postseason in school history.

Sunday, the 2008 Tar Heels were all smiles as they cleared that hurdle with a 3-0 win against Illinois (12-9-2). UNC easily advanced to the round of eight with teamwork and a bit of luck.

With the game scoreless late in the first half, Tobin Heath found Casey Nogueira running into the

SEE NCAA, PAGE 9

DTH ONLINE: UNC got some unlikely help before the game. Check out dailytarheel.com.



Casey Nogueira scored her 23rd goal of the season Sunday in UNC's 3-0 defeat of Illinois. UNC has out-scored opponents 84-14 this year.

Hansbrough returns, Tar Heels take game

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UNC 84
UCSB 67

BY RACHEL ULLRICH
SPORTS EDITOR

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — It was a sight North Carolina fans, players and coaches had waited a long time to see.

Tyler Hansbrough, surrounded by three defenders under the basket, ripped down a dunk, complete with requisite double fist pump to cap it off.

After all, it had been a while — six months of off-season, two regular season games, 23 minutes and 32 seconds of Friday's match-up with the University of California at Santa Barbara, to be exact.

But aside from his second-half dunk, Hansbrough couldn't find his form in the Tar Heels' 84-67 win against a feisty UCSB team.

WATCH TODAY'S GAME

Time: 9:30 p.m.
Location: UNC vs. Chaminade
TV: ESPNU
See a pregame analysis at dailytarheel.com.

Hansbrough finished with 13 points — one of six Tar Heels who hit double digits in the game — but only four from the floor, and his dunk provided his only points of the second half.

"I mean, it felt good, but obviously everybody knows that I didn't play my best," he said after the game. "But I was just trying to come out there and get back in the groove of things."

And he didn't have much time to get used to the idea. Coach Roy Williams said he

SEE HANSBROUGH, PAGE 9

INSIDE ATHLETICS

Homes away from homes

UNC athletes have absentee holidays

BY JOE MCLEAN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

On Thanksgiving Day, while families across the country gather for their annual feast, members of the North Carolina sports teams find themselves confined by their teams' schedule and away from home.

Instead, they'll spend time with their other family — fellow athletes and coaches.

The women's soccer team holds its annual meal at 411 West Italian Cafe, where coach Anson Dorrance said the squad has "a tradition of a big Thanksgiving for everyone."

Dorrance's brother Pete is one of the owners of 411 West, so those with the team can cook their favorite dishes back in the restaurant's kitchen.

They let the restaurant's cooks handle the turkeys, though.

"The feast that we have is absolutely overwhelming," Dorrance said. "Everyone's in the kitchen."

The attendees aren't limited only to the current roster and the coaching staff as they're joined by family, former players and friends for the meal, which is held in the early afternoon.

Other Tar Heels will welcome the beginning of the holiday season on the road as games during the week of Thanksgiving take them away from North Carolina.

Both basketball teams will be spending time on sandy beaches, with the men's team in Hawaii for the Maui Invitational and the women in the Bahamas for the Junkanoo Jam.

The men will have wrapped up their games by Thanksgiving Day while the women play on Friday and Saturday.

Assistant athletic communications director Bobby Hundley said the women's team would do something special in terms of a group meal.

But for some of the teams whose schedules keep them in Chapel Hill over the break, Nov. 27 provides a chance for squads to bond over traditional Thanksgiving cooking.

The football team will have a catered team meal at the Marriott at Research Triangle Park after a morning practice, deputy athletic communications director Kevin Best said.

SEE THANKSGIVING, PAGE 9

ACC SCORES

NO. 25 BOSTON COLLEGE

24, WAKE FOREST 21

Backup quarterback Dominique Davis sneaked 1 yard for a touchdown with 1:12 remaining to lead Boston College past Wake Forest 24-21 on Saturday night and keep its Atlantic Coast Conference title hopes alive.

CLEMSON 13, VIRGINIA 3

Running back C.J. Spiller threw a 15-yard touchdown pass and Clemson scored all of its points off Virginia turnovers.

VIRGINIA TECH 14, DUKE 3

Sean Glennon threw for a touchdown and Macho Harris returned an interception for another as Virginia Tech defeated Duke 14-3 on Saturday.

FLORIDA STATE 37, NO. 22 MARYLAND 3

Florida State kept alive its hopes of advancing to the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game and buried Maryland's title hopes under a barrage of sacks and take-aways.

GEORGIA TECH 41, MIAMI 23