

Sports

Youth breeds success for soccer

By DAVID HALL
Staff Writer

DURHAM — With Sunday's firm dismissal of Duke in the first round of the NCAA tournament, the UNC men's soccer team has finally begun to consistently demonstrate the talent and fortitude that could carry them far in the NCAA championships.

The 2-0 victory over the perennially powerful Blue Devils, the Tar Heels' first ever in Durham and their seventh consecutive this season, marked the culmination of a brilliant recruiting and coaching effort by UNC head coach Anson Dorrance and his staff. As the season has progressed, the Tar Heels began to fulfill their immense promise.

"The team has definitely begun to play well, but I believe that they could be performing so much better," UNC assistant coach Elmar Bolowich said. "In the (Duke) game they started out very slowly; there were a lot of early lapses on defense. The team was perhaps too hyper. After that first goal by Buffin, they began to settle down and gain a lot of confidence. They played and won with a lot of intensity."

The first goal, scored 38:14 into the contest, was scored by sophomore midfielder Marc Buffin, whose recent strong play is symbolic of the Tar Heels' success as of late. In addition to his offensive heroics — Sunday's score was his third goal in three games — Buffin was also a crucial part of a defense that shut out the defending national champions on their home

field, hardly a small feat.

"Without a doubt, the size and physique of our defenders is a very intimidating factor," said Dorrance. "It helps a lot to have the big blonde guy (6-3, 195-pound team captain Dave Smyth) and two big black guys (the 6-foot, 176-pound Buffin and 6-2, 195-pound junior Donald Cogsville) in the backfield. Their quickness and strength create a lot of mismatches against smaller opponents."

This sheer juxtaposition of raw athletic ability and intelligent decision-making has been the key element in Dorrance's attempt to build a men's soccer power at North Carolina.

"In the past, it has been extremely difficult to compete against the established soccer powers in recruiting the top players," Dorrance said. "Thus we had to find excellent natural athletes in order to compete on the field."

The defensive backfield, with 5-9, 170-pound senior Steve Dragisics and the aforementioned Smyth, Cogsville and Buffin, is a microcosm of this recruiting effort.

"This team has its share of players with excellent soccer skills, such as (freshman forward Derek) Missimo and Smyth," Dorrance said. "The key is to use such players in positions so that their decision-making will be important and to use the natural athletes in situations where they can exhibit their quickness and strength. It represents an excellent balance."

Recent Tar Heel recruiting efforts have focused on acquiring both of these types of players. Among the team's sophomores are starters Buffin, John Cocking and Chad Ashton. UNC's current freshmen include Missimo and key reserves Tom

Boykin and Jim Gourlay. Both recruiting classes were considered to be two of the nation's best.

"Without a doubt, the strength of this program lies not only with its leadership, but also in its wealth of abundant young talent," Dorrance said. "We've recruited extremely well for the last two years and this season we are beginning to reap the dividends from our efforts."

However, all of this talent that Dorrance has so meticulously procured would have been meaningless save for the excellent teamwork and senior leadership that has guided the Tar Heels thus far. When asked if his team could win it all, Dorrance cited the Tar Heels' mental toughness as a huge edge that few other teams possess.

"This team has faced, and won while playing, an extremely difficult schedule," he said. "In addition, several of these victories have been in situations where defeat seemed unavoidable, particularly against Clemson and State in the ACC tournament. Few other teams have played in as many different game scenarios, game situations as this one. These experiences have forged a deep sense of confidence and purpose in this squad that could carry them very far."

Given the team's recent success on the field, it appears that all of the complex components of Dorrance's scheme are finally falling into place. The UNC men's team is an immensely talented squad whose major advantages are its diligence and inability to accept defeat. Other programs must now be compelled to accept the arrival of a burgeoning force in collegiate soccer.



ACC Tournament MVP Derek Missimo (l) is a key component in North Carolina's youth movement

Offensive breakdowns beat UNC

Chris Spencer
Down the Line

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Well, now it's over. For the third time in four years, the UNC football team must close out its regular season knowing that it will be going home, and not to a bowl game, for the holidays.

Here Saturday, the Tar Heels played themselves right out of bowl contention. Representatives from the All-American Bowl, played in Birmingham, Ala., were at Scott Stadium and would likely have extended a bid to the Tar Heels if they had finished the season 7-4.

But Virginia quarterback Scott Secules' passing barrage in the last four minutes of the game Saturday beat North Carolina, 20-17, and shattered those postseason hopes.

The frustrating part is that UNC shouldn't have lost the game at all. The Tar Heels had plenty of chances to put Virginia away, to make the game a rout and thereby leave the ACC's leading passer without a chance to work his magic.

But they didn't and he did. "This is the most frustrating loss of them all," said Tar Heel senior quarterback Mark Maye, who went 7-of-19 for 143 yards and three interceptions against the Vahoos. "I know you have to give Virginia credit for fighting back, but we just didn't execute, didn't do the things you have to do to win."

"We've had five losses this season,

and some of them are difficult to accept — Auburn, Clemson, this one. But to be a great football team, you have to win those games. We've had the opportunities to win them, to be a great team."

After last Saturday, though, UNC is a .500 team.

The first Tar Heel drive of the day gave an indication of the offensive problems to come. After the UNC defense smothered Cavalier punter Fred Carter at his 14, Maye probably felt confident that he would quickly get UNC on the scoreboard.

But on second-and-nine, Maye threw for Eric Lewis at the goal line, only to watch the ball hit the senior wide receiver in the hands and fall incomplete.

From the shotgun formation on third down, Maye fired again, this time to Randy Marriott, but Cavalier cornerback Keith McMeans stepped in front of the pass and picked it off.

On their next possession, the Tar Heels quickly moved from the Cavalier 49 to the 24 thanks to a Virginia late hit. Two Eric Starr runs picked up a first down at the 14.

On second-and-seven from the 11,

Maye threw over the middle for Daryl Parham at the 10, but the big tight end dropped it. Out of the shotgun on third down, Maye dumped a pass off to fullback James Thompson. Amazingly, Thompson dropped the ball, too. Kenny Miller's ensuing 27-yard field goal put the Tar Heels on the board, but a three-point lead could have easily been 14.

The Tar Heels took the second-half kickoff with a 10-7 lead. From their own 8, they moved out to the 40 on Eric Starr runs and a personal foul call against the Cavalier defense. On third-and-17, Maye threw over the middle for Quint Smith, but the sure-handed wideout dropped the ball.

On UNC's next possession, Maye hit Marriott from the shotgun at the Virginia 35. The wideout broke free of cornerback Jason Wallace's grasp and raced into the end zone for a 51-yard score. But from there, the Tar Heel offense went south.

UNC moved from its own 20 to the Virginia 39, thanks to a 26-yard sideline by sophomore tailback Torin Dorn, who picked up 116 yards on 25 carries. But the Tar Heels self-destructed again. On the next play, Maye threw over the middle for Smith, only to see Virginia linebacker Phil Thomas step in front of the aerial and intercept it.

On the Tar Heels' final drive before Secules rallied the Cavaliers, the North Carolina coaching staff went almost exclusively to Dorn. Starting from his own 23, Dorn picked up five off the left side.

The 6-1, 200-pound sophomore picked up a first down on a five-yard gain to the right and then netted 10 more yards on a draw, but that's where the drive ended.

On first down from the Cavalier 49, the Virginia defense closed the sideline and Dorn lost five on a pitch. Maye then bobbled the second-down snap, losing one yard. Faced with a third-and-16 play, the Tar Heel coaching staff elected to throw short to Dorn, but he only picked up seven.

In the second half, the Tar Heel coaches inexplicably went to the run at an almost three-to-one ratio, putting a great deal of pressure on the UNC defense, a pressure under which the defense crumbled down the stretch.

"I think any loss is hard to take, and this one hurts, too," Tar Heel cornerback Derrick Donald said. "We can't go out there and play it again; we got our only shot today."

UNC No. 3 in preseason poll

From Associated Press reports

Syracuse, which has three starters back from the basketball team that came within one point of the national championship last season, was the overwhelming choice Monday as preseason No. 1.

The Orangemen will open their season Saturday in Springfield, Mass., against third-ranked North Carolina. The Tar Heels received 974 points in the balloting, including three first-place votes. Purdue, one of three Big 10 teams in the Top 10, garnered 975 points to edge out UNC for the second spot.

Syracuse, which lost to Indiana 74-73 in the NCAA title game last April, received 32 of 64 first-place votes and 1,177 points from a nationwide panel of writers and broadcasters. It was the first-ever No. 1 ranking for the Orangemen.

Duke and Georgia Tech joined UNC in the rankings to give the ACC three Top 20 teams. The Blue Devils came in at No. 15 and the Yellow

Jackets were ranked 18th. Pittsburgh, like Syracuse as a member of the Big East, was fourth with 946 points, while Kentucky edged Indiana for fifth. Kansas and Missouri, both members of the Big Eight, had 852 and 811 points, respectively.

AP Top 20

1. Syracuse (32)	31-7	1,177
2. Purdue (6)	25-5	975
3. North Carolina (3)	32-4	974
4. Pittsburgh (5)	25-8	946
5. Kentucky (6)	18-11	918
6. Indiana (6)	30-4	914
7. Kansas (3)	25-11	852
8. Missouri (1)	24-10	811
9. Michigan (2)	20-12	797
10. Wyoming	24-10	569
11. Iowa	30-5	510
12. Temple	32-4	509
13. Louisville	18-14	499
14. Florida	23-11	434
15. Duke	24-9	430
16. Georgetown	29-5	368
17. Arizona	18-12	353
18. Georgia Tech	16-13	296
19. Oklahoma	24-10	227
20. DePaul	28-3	147

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Field hockey to host finals

From staff reports

North Carolina's top-ranked field hockey team will host the Final Four this weekend at AstroTurf Field, but the men's and women's soccer teams will be on the road for their matches, the NCAA announced Monday.

Coach Karen Shelton's stick-wielders will bring an 18-1 record into Saturday's semifinal game against 10th-ranked Massachusetts. The contest with the Minutemen, 13-5-3, will begin at 12:30 p.m.

The other semifinal will be played

at 3 p.m. and matches No. 6 Iowa (17-3-2) against No. 2 Maryland (16-4-1). The Terrapins handed UNC its only loss this season back in early October in College Park. The championship game will be at 2:30 Sunday afternoon.

The women's soccer Final Four, however, will be held this weekend in Amherst, Mass., home of the University of Massachusetts. The top-ranked Tar Heels, 16-0-1 and going after their sixth national title in the last seven years, will play California-Berkeley at 11 a.m. Saturday in McGuirk Alumni Stadium. Massachusetts plays Central Florida in the other semifinal.

While the women head north, the men must head to Columbia, S.C., for a rematch with the second-ranked South Carolina. The 18-4 Tar Heels, ranked No. 8, will meet the 16-1-3 Gamecocks at 1 p.m. Sunday.

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The Daily Tar Heel

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lost and found

FOUND: A RED NCNB BANKING CARD. Last name on card is McCarthy. Found last Thursday night, 11/15 on 5th floor of Hamilton Hall. Call 967-7665.

MAN'S BLACK LEATHER ZIPPER GLOVE (Right hand). Found outside Hanes Friday around noon. Call Stephanie at 933-1931 to claim.

HELP! LOST Friday 13th on Franklin St.: TWO N.Y. I.D.'s belonging to Sherry J. Miller. If found please give me a call at 933-4246. Thanks!!

LOST: LONG DENIM JACKET with many pins on front. Lots of sentimental value. Any information, please call 933-7811. Will offer reward.

LOST MEN'S GOLD WATCH with leather band. Probably lost in Davis library. Please call 933-1568 or return to APO, pretty please.

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