

<b>NFL Football</b>	Pittsburgh 39	Cincinnati 44	Minnesota 49	N.Y. Giants 23	L.A. Rams 31	Cleveland 29
	Denver 21	Houston 21	Tampa Bay 20	Atlanta 16	Seattle 10	Phoenix 21
Philadelphia 24	Detroit 7	New Orleans 20	Buffalo 23	N.Y. Jets 44	Indianapolis 16	Washington 20
Dallas 23	Kansas City 6	L.A. Raiders 6	New England 20	Miami 30	San Diego 0	Green Bay 17

# SPORTS MONDAY

Air Jordan flies to 23 points over Hornets, p.10

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## How sweet it is! UNC finally wins



North Carolina football coach Mack Brown gets a joyous victory ride following the Tar Heels' 20-17 victory on Saturday

## Tar Heels survive late rally, hang on to beat Tech, 20-17

By LANGSTON WERTZ  
Staff Writer

For six weeks in his inaugural season as head coach of the Tar Heel football team, Mack Brown had been holding his breath for that elusive first victory.

After six weeks without a win, Brown's face was beginning to turn about the same color as the light blue jerseys that his players wear on the field.

But in Week 7, UNC's homecoming, Brown let out a big, blue sigh of relief.

Bolstered by a rushing attack that gained 205 yards against the nation's eighth-ranked defense and true freshman Todd Burnett's 130-yard passing performance in his first start at quarterback, the Tar Heels toppled Georgia Tech 20-17 Saturday afternoon in Kenan Stadium.

"I'm proud of our young men for hanging in there and fighting back," said Brown, whose team moved to 1-6 overall and 1-2 in the Atlantic Coast Conference. "I'm so happy for our team. Our fans are unbelievable. I told our team to celebrate (Saturday night), but be looking forward to Maryland in the morning."

The Tar Heels' win was their first at home since the 1987 season opener, when they beat Illinois. It was their first win, period, in their last 10 outings.

Looking forward to anyone else would've been a difficult task for the Tar Heels Saturday. Win No. 1 came the hard way. As a matter of fact, the first one almost didn't come at all.

After North Carolina drove 76 yards in nine plays, scoring on a Kennard Martin sweep with 11:48 remaining to regain the lead at 20-17, Georgia Tech (2-5, 0-5) threw a severe scare into Tar Heel victory hopes.

First, the Yellow Jackets drove to the UNC 15 with under three minutes to go. But on second-and-two, Tar Heel linebacker Antonio Goss caused Tech fullback Nate Kelsey to fumble. Willie Joe Walker recovered as the Tar Heels dodged that bullet.

"They were running an off-tackle play, and the back was pretty close to the blocking back," Goss said. "He tried to get outside, and all I could do was reach out and try to grab on to something. I just lucked out and got the ball."

After the UNC offense went three plays and out, Scott McAlister boomed a 45-yard punt, giving the Yellow Jackets one last shot with 37 ticks remaining. Tech quarterback Todd Rampley had his first two passes tipped away by UNC defensive

UNC 20, Georgia Tech 17		
	GT	UNC
First downs	15	20
Rushes-yards	35-229	57-225
Passing yards	115	130
Return yards	80	8
Passes	14-25-0	13-23-1
Punts	6-37	6-42
Fumbles-lost	2-2	2-0
Penalties-yards	5-27	3-27
Time of possession	35:55	32:05
Georgia Tech	3	7
North Carolina	3	7

UNC — FG Gwaltney 39  
GT — FG Palmer 44  
UNC — FG Gwaltney 42  
GT — Malone 54 interception return (Palmer kick)  
UNC — Thompson 2 run (Gwaltney kick)  
GT — Edwards 4 run (Palmer kick)  
UNC — Martin 14 run (Gwaltney kick)  
A — 42:00

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS  
RUSHING: Georgia Tech — Mays 20-157, Kelsey 8-53, Scollon 2-12, Edwards 2-5, Merchant 1-(-5), Rampley 2-(-15), North Carolina — Martin 19-82, Don 22-76, Thompson 8-32, Bennett 5-11, Merritt 1-3, Burnett 2-(-11)  
PASSING: Georgia Tech — Rampley 14-25-0-115, North Carolina — Burnett 19-22-1-130  
RECEIVING: Georgia Tech — Mays 6-36, Stigall 4-53, Weston 1-8, Davidson 1-4, Lester 1-5, Kelsey 1-3, North Carolina — Merritt 4-67, Don 3-25, Bourne 2-12, Keller 1-9, Thompson 1-8, Martin 1-4, Green 1-4

backs Doxie Jordan and Dan Vooletich, respectively.

Faced with a third-and-10, Rampley found Alonzo Watson over the middle for nine yards. On fourth-and-one from the Tech 46, UNC drew a penalty for pass interference, allowing Rampley to set up the Techsters from the Tar Heel 39. Two passes later, Tech was at the UNC 31 with two seconds left.

The Jackets' Thomas Palmer then came on to attempt a 46-yard field goal that would've tied the game.

"I was on my knees praying, 'Miss it, miss it,'" said Martin, who accounted for 92 yards on 19 carries Saturday.

Palmer's kick sailed wide left, and the Tar Heels raced on to the field, giving Brown his first victory ride of the season.

UNC's win overshadowed a brilliant performance by Georgia Tech running back Jerry Mays, who rushed for 157 yards on 20 carries.

"Jerry played well for us today," Yellow Jacket coach Bobby Ross said. "But you've got to give (UNC) credit. It was a good win for them. They did some good things with their running game, and we didn't play too well."

"(North Carolina) did a good job, and they've got to be happy and excited."

UNC got excited very early Saturday, getting the early break that had eluded them in the first six weeks of the season.

That came courtesy of defensive end Roy Barker, who recovered a

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## Players rejoice following first win

As Georgia Tech placekicker Thomas Palmer lined up to attempt a 46-yard, game-tying field goal with two seconds left in Saturday's ACC matchup with North Carolina, the Tar Heels had visions of all their efforts going for naught, of remaining winless for yet another week.

"Please don't let him make it. Please don't let him make it," defensive tackle Roy Barker muttered to himself. "We've worked too hard for it."

The moment was more than wide receiver Randy Marriott could handle. "I didn't even watch it," he said. "We had already determined we were going to carry coach (Mack) Brown off the field." Running back Kennard Martin tried his best to think positively. "I was on my knees and I just said, 'There's no way he can hit this. He just can't hit this.'"

And then the ball was snapped and Palmer laid into it. The kick wasn't a very strong one, but it seemed like it could just have enough distance to sneak over the crossbar. The 42,000-plus fans, players and coaches in

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Kenan Stadium waited anxiously.

"It seemed like that ball stayed up there for 45 minutes when he kicked that field goal," UNC's Brown said.

But, alas, this Tar Heel story had a happy ending. The field goal missed wide to the right as time ran out, giving North Carolina a 20-17 victory. It was the Tar Heels' first win since a 27-14 triumph over Maryland midway through last season, and their first home victory since last year's opener against Illinois.

"There's no word to describe the feeling," linebacker Antonio Goss said. "You have to be out there to really know what it's like."

Goss may have single-handedly prevented disaster when, with 2:39 to play and the Yellow Jackets on North Carolina's 15-yard line, he caused Georgia Tech's Nate Kelsey to fumble. That strip ended what seemed like

a fatal scoring threat.

"It's the greatest feeling in the world," strong safety Dan Vooletich said hoarsely. "We've been catching everything from everybody outside the program, and now we can just keep our heads up and keep working because we know that we can win a game."

The victory unleashed so much pent-up frustration that some players were feeling a sudden burst of confidence.

"I think it's a good sign for the future," said Martin, who led the Tar Heels with 92 yards on 19 carries and scored North Carolina's final touchdown - a 14-yard scamper around right end early in the fourth quarter.

"Clemson lost, N.C. State's rolling and if we win the last couple games we may be in the hunt. You never know."

Defensive tackle Cecil Gray added, "It's probably as important as anything that's happened since I've been here, because we were down and it was about time to turn it around."

"With the things that went on in

the league today, we feel we've turned it around and we can still be in the picture."

The Tar Heels are now 1-6 overall but just 1-2 in the ACC, so they could conceivably still be in the picture. But realistically, with Maryland, Duke, Virginia and powerhouse Clemson left on the schedule, UNC's season could turn out to be a mediocre one at best.

Saturday's victory was perhaps sweetest for Brown, who as a winless first-year coach at UNC could feel his popularity dropping with the fall temperatures. The players, in fact, gave Brown the game ball for his perseverance.

"It was about time we gave him something," Goss said. "He stuck by us for a long time. He still had faith in us."

The only Tar Heel not enjoying the victory, it seemed, was Marriott, who sat quietly in front of his locker, repeatedly shaking his head.

"I've got a headache from hollering so loud," he said.



UNC's Jose Coirolo (left) and Tom O'Connor battle N.C. State's Henry Gutierrez for possession

## Buffin scores overtime goal to lead soccer past Wolfpack

By BRENDAN MATHEWS  
Staff Writer

Campaigning hard in the closing weeks of the season, the UNC men's soccer team knocked off nationally-ranked N.C. State 2-1 in overtime Sunday. The win was the sixth in a row for the Tar Heels, who after a dismal 3-5 start are now 10-6-1 and a legitimate contender for an NCAA tournament bid.

The game-winner came at 102:39 on Marc Buffin's first goal of the season. On a long throw-in from sweeper Rich Wachsmen, Derek Missimo headed the ball across the net. Buffin redirected the shot and rolled it into the right corner from in close to put North Carolina on top for good.

The play is designed to capitalize on Missimo's height and on Wachsmen's ability to make a throw-in seem more like a corner kick by bombing the ball to the front of the net.

Running the low post, there are few players who can mark against the 6-foot-5 Missimo and stop him from getting his head on the ball.

The hardest part is getting the ball from Missimo's head to Buffin's foot.

But on Sunday, the play went off like clockwork.

The win was the third in overtime for the Tar Heels in their last four games. "Our philosophy is if we get into overtime we're going to win," UNC coach Anson Dorrance said. "On the sidelines we didn't discuss any strategy. I just said 'It's overtime,' and they knew what to do."

The game gave the crowd at Fetzer Field a chance to see the new-and-improved Darren Royer. Or was it the old-fashioned Royer of last year? Whoever he is, he's the one the Tar Heels have needed all season.

Royer, the UNC goalkeeper, showed none of the hesitation that marred his play in the early stages of the season and landed him on the bench for a four-game stretch. Each save was like a reflex: thoughtless and immediate.

Midway through the first half, the senior picked up three saves in 2½ minutes. At 20:22 he pulled down a free kick, then went to the air to bat away a Chris Szanto blast and to the turf to stop a hot grounder at the corner.

"There's a saying that the bench

is a great teacher," said Dorrance. "Darren was sitting, watching his replacement, and he decided it wasn't for him. He started playing harder in practice, and it's showing on the field."

The only shot to get by Royer came at 69:52, on a free kick, after a yellow card was issued to UNC midfielder Chad Ashton. The shot by Dario Brose angled into the left side of the net, just out of reach for the diving goalie.

North Carolina's first score of the game came earlier on a similar shot. At 30:36 Ashton ripped a free kick from 19 yards out past the Wolfpack's Jim Cekanor. The goal ignited the offense, as UNC drove in close and kept the pressure on the Wolfpack defense.

UNC managed to maintain this intensity into the second half despite the scoring drought, and it spelled the difference in overtime as a worn-down State team went flat.

Scoring off free kicks wasn't the only trademark of Sunday's matchup. As with any time UNC and State

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