

Sports

UNC-Wake: Ties, whys and sighs

To tie or not to tie.
That was the question facing UNC head coach Mack Brown as the clock showed 1:35 at Kenan Stadium.

Trailing 17-16 after an exhilarating 90-yard touchdown drive led by senior quarterback Jonathan Hall, Brown decided to go for two against the Demon Deacons.

Hall rolled right, looking in the end zone for either freshman wideout Randall Felton or fullback Mike Faulkerson, but his pass for Faulkerson was easily batted away by Deacon defender James DuBose.

Everybody has an opinion on what play should've been called (To tell the truth, I liked Brown's call), but how anyone can question the decision to go for two (yes, some have) is beyond my comprehension.

To all of ye: Go kiss your sister. Twice.

Hall replaced freshman quarterback Chuckie Burnette, who will miss a few



Dave Glenn
Sports Editor

weeks after suffering a knee injury late in the third quarter Saturday. Burnette has played in all five games this year (starting two), completing 20 of 65 passes for 219 yards. Sophomore Todd Burnett, who was going to be red-shirted in 1989, will be ready to play Saturday at Virginia if Hall needs relief help.

Felton, a surprise starter at flanker Saturday, caught five passes for 77 yards in the best performance by a North Carolina receiver so far this year. His diving catch — one of his four

grabs on UNC's last-minute touchdown drive — to set up the Tar Heels near midfield was one for the highlight film. The 6-1, 180-pound Felton, who played for Durham Jordan High School a year ago, now leads UNC with nine receptions for 147 yards on the season.

Felton said he was open in the back of the end zone on the failed two-point conversion attempt. "But there was a big crowd between me and Jonathan," he said. "It had to be tough for him to see."

Brown on Felton: "Randall Felton is our starter now at flanker. We felt like early in the year we probably alternated too many receivers because we didn't know enough about them, and Randall and (freshman split end) Julius Reese played most of the game today. A lot of people are double-teaming Julius because of his numbers coming out of high school. That has helped the running game and it also leaves Randall open."

With Eric Blount missing in action Saturday with a shoulder injury, senior tailback Aaron Staples had the best game of his collegiate career. The 5-foot-10, 196-pound senior gained 117 yards on 20 carries to throw his name back into the never-ending chase for the number-one tailback slot.

Staples, who is used to seeing eight defenders at the line of scrimmage on most plays, said a few UNC completions early in the game made his job a little easier against Wake Forest. "It was a good passing attack, and that made the defense back up a little bit," he said. "I love running the ball, but I know you have to pass it well to be able to run it with success."

UNC senior defensive tackle Cecil Gray rose from the dead against the Deacons, doubling his season output by making 10 unassisted tackles on the afternoon. Gray, a 6-5, 265-pounder, was being touted for all-conference honors in the preseason, but consistent double teams have held down his numbers thus far in 1989.

Brown on the heartaches that often accompany the rebuilding process: "The hardest thing about turning a program around is — unless you do everything perfect — you can't win. A lot of people can fumble some and overcome it. We can't. We have to do everything perfect to have a chance to beat anybody left on our schedule."

UNC volleyball awaits Virginia

By STEVE WALSTON
Staff Writer

The ever-improving UNC volleyball team will have its hands full with what may be the conference's top defense when it squares off against Virginia at 7:30 tonight in Carmichael Auditorium.

The match will be the conference opener for both teams. Virginia has compiled a 14-4 record thus far, while North Carolina enters the contest 10-5, coming off impressive victories over Liberty and Texas A&M Friday and Saturday.

UNC will have a chance to rest following the match. The Tar Heels will not see action again until an Oct. 20 trip to Maryland.

Team chemistry has been a major concern throughout the early part of the season, but the Tar Heels seem to be coming together at the right time, heading into conference matchups.

"The past two weeks, we have really begun to gel as a team," junior outside hitter Liz Berg said.

The strong return of senior All-America candidate Sharon German at outside hitter has been one cause for opponents' concern. German leads the team with 4.2 kills per game and has a hitting percentage of .359.

Berg, after assuming a role of lead-

ership during German's absence, has been crucial to the team's recent success. Using a strong jump serve, Berg is averaging .7 service aces per game. She also leads the team in digs with 2.77 per game and trails only German in kills with 4.13.

Senior Lisa Joffs leads North Carolina in blocks per game with 1.09, while freshman Amy Peistrup continues to sparkle at the setter position. The Arlington Heights, Ill., native leads the team in assists with 8.3 per game.

Without question the UNC volleyball team will have to be at its best against the defense-minded Cavaliers. The Cavs, who lead the conference in digs and blocks, are regarded by many as the ACC's best defensive team.

Sophomore Anne-Marie Hammers leads the ACC in digs per game with an impressive 4.81. The outside hitter from Los Angeles is one of three Virginia players who prepped in California. In addition, the Cavaliers feature two players from Illinois, another hotbed of volleyball.

Junior Stacy Anderson, listed as a setter/hitter, leads the conference in kill percentage at .424, while also contributing 11.43 assists per game, tops in the ACC.

German still flying high after move from hoops to volleyball

By D.J. HOOGERVORST
Staff Writer

Sharon German isn't your ordinary 6-foot-2 senior from Dillon, S.C.

When she's not going to class, talking on the telephone or singing (not just in the shower), one might be able to catch a glimpse of German at Carmichael Auditorium on the volleyball court.

Sleek and slender, German covers the court with great athleticism on defense, and on offense, she lights up the floor with her spikes. The Tar Heels' outside hitter was named Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament MVP last season as she led UNC to the ACC title.

Other achievements the soft-spoken German can boast of, though she won't, are All-ACC honors in 1987 and 1988, play in the U.S. Olympic Festival, and a tryout with the nation's best volleyball players for the USA B Team. With those awards and credits, she is a legitimate All-America candidate in this, her final collegiate season.

North Carolina volleyball coach Peggy Bradley-Doppes has observed German's growth as a player and person over the course of her career.

"She's a kid from Dillon, S.C., that always wanted to be a Tar Heel and she knew that being a Tar Heel would push her to her true potential as a player, as a student and as a person," Bradley-Doppes said.

"Sharon is a neat person with a lot of gifts. She is very likable, has a good sense of humor and is very kind."

However, things haven't gone smoothly for German this season. The senior co-captain has had to fight off high expectations, a summer layoff and a case of pneumonia to get back to last year's form.

With the graduation of team leader and the ACC's all-time kill leader, Andrea Wells, German was expected to step in and take total command. After all, German did have 1,376 career kills entering the season, just 319 behind Wells.

"The expectations were high, and I think one of my problems early was that I felt unnecessary pressure," German said. "But now, I think my play is getting better because I go out to play, not to be the star of the show. Forgetting the pressure has allowed me to concentrate more on playing."

Bradley-Doppes said the expectations on her star player were self-imposed, though she likes to see German push herself.

"With the loss of Andrea, I think the hardest thing for Sharon has been living up to her own expectations," she said. "I don't think she's comparing herself to Andrea, but rather, to the



Sharon German

MVP of the ACC."

On top of the pressure, German opened the 1989 season after taking the summer off to attend summer school. The layoff disrupted German's timing and then she was hit with a serious case of pneumonia that sidelined her for the team's first four games.

To this point, German has struggled to regain her health and the team has done likewise. However, against N.C. State on Oct. 3, German showed signs of her return and the Tar Heels won in strong fashion.

German said: "There are two seniors (herself and Lisa Joffs) on the team and we both show leadership, but we show it in different ways. Lisa is always talking on the floor, while I try to show my leadership with my play."

Bradley-Doppes agreed with German. "Sharon leads by action," she said. "She's not a big cheerleader, she doesn't talk a big game, but she hits a big ball."

Things were very different for German three years ago. German was a Converse All-America basketball player in high school, but came to North Carolina for volleyball very green.

"She came in with relatively no experience and has developed into a strong player," Bradley-Doppes said. "She is a player capable of great things. She's a great athlete and she's improved tremendously in her four years."

German said that her parents helped her strive for the excellence she has achieved in volleyball and in life. "They were there to encourage me and tell me not to be afraid to make mistakes. They pushed me too. 'Go for it. Go for what you want.'"

"I'm proud to be a student at this school. I'm glad I've worked so hard to be where I am and I'm glad things haven't ever been bad."

Bradley-Doppes said: "She's somebody, that when one looks at the athletic program at North Carolina, one can see that it does pay off athletically, academically and socially."

Giants stop Cubs, on to Series

From Associated Press reports

SAN FRANCISCO — Thanks to the ultimate Thrill from Will, the thrills are just beginning for the San Francisco Giants and the Bay area.

Clark's bases-loaded single with two outs in the eighth inning gave the Giants a 3-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs and the National League pennant Monday, setting up a Bay Bridge World Series starting Saturday night at the Oakland Coliseum.

Clark, in one of the greatest postseason performances ever, set an NL play-off record with 13 hits, a .650 batting average and 24 total bases and was voted the series' most valuable player. His single to center off Cubs ace reliever Mitch Williams gave the Giants their first pennant since 1962, four games to one. "You saw one of the great performances ever," Giants manager Roger Craig said. "But Will has

done that all year."

"I just try to hang in there," said Clark, who fouled off two tough pitches before his big hit. "I feel like I'm going to get a hit every time up. Just like Rickey (Henderson) did for the A's."

"Mitch is a gamer. He's come in all year and gotten people out. I fought off a few tough pitches and finally got one I could handle."

The Cubs, though, fought until the end. With two out in the ninth inning, Giants reliever Steve Bedrosian gave up three straight singles and a run before retiring Ryne Sandberg on a grounder to second.

Cubs manager Don Zimmer, who was second-guessed several times in the series for not changing pitchers, tempted Clark once too often.

Starter Mike Bielecki, who allowed only three hits in 7 2-3 innings, walked pinch-hitter Candy Maldonado, Brett

Butler and Robby Thompson with two outs in the eighth to load the bases. Clark, who had eight RBIs in the series, then did what has come to be expected.

"Don asked me how I was and I thought I could get Thompson," Bielecki said. "I just got tired, so that I pushed the ball up a bit. I think the key to that inning was Candy Maldonado. I threw some good pitches on the corners but he fouled them off."

"The best team won," Zimmer said, "and I hope they go on and win the Series."

It was yet another disappointing loss for the Cubs, who have not won a World Series since beating Detroit in 1908 and have not even been to one since 1945.

"Don did a tremendous job with this club," Craig said of his longtime friend. "They shouldn't be too disappointed. They had a great year."

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