

SPORTS

Tennis goes two-for-Tuesday, topples opponents at home

Gurney, Portnoy lead women to decisive win over Wolfpack

By Jason Bates
Staff Writer

I'm only going to explain this once. So pay attention.

A tennis team is playing a best-of-nine-matches event — six singles matches followed by three doubles matches. It wins five of the six singles matches, but doesn't clinch the victory until winning the first doubles match.

Impossible, you say. No, it's not impossible. The UNC women's tennis team improved its record to 11-8 on the year by defeating N.C. State, 7-1, on just that scenario. The Wolfpack dropped to 7-10 on the year.

The singles match of the day was at No. 4 singles. UNC's Dana Kanell, slowed by an injured hip, defeated State's Michelle Parks, 6-1, 6-7 (3-7), 6-2 in a three-hour marathon that would have made a Lendl-Wilander contest look like a warm-up.

The Tar Heels played and won two doubles matches before Kanell's singles match ended. The third doubles match was scratched because Kanell and Parks were scheduled to play in the match and it would have had no bearing on the team score.

Kanell seemed ready to sew up the win for the Tar Heels as she led, 6-1, 4-1 in the second set. But Parks fought back by slowing the pace and forcing Kanell to play longer and longer points on her hip injury.

But Kanell controlled the third set and held on for the victory.

"Dana hung tough," UNC head coach Kitty Harrison said.

"It took a lot of courage, desire, motivation and all that other stuff for her to win," she said.

The only singles match won by the

Wolfpack was at the No. 2 spot, where Jenny Sell defeated UNC freshman Nicole Transou, 6-0, 6-4.

The rest of the singles matches were dominated by the Tar Heels.

At No. 1, sophomore Cinda Gurney trounced Beth Schaefer, 6-3, 6-0, and was the first Tar Heel off the court.

At No. 3, sophomore Alisha Portnoy granted her way to a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Susan Saunders.

"I thought I played okay," Portnoy said. "I'm trying to work on closing out a match sooner and not have to work so hard to do it."

I commit too many unforced errors and I've got to stop that," she said.

The two sophomores clinched the victory for the Tar Heels when they came back on the court and defeated the Wolfpack's doubles team of Schaefer and Sell by a 6-2, 6-1 score.

Junior Gigi Neely gave UNC a 6-2, 6-0 victory at No. 5 singles over State's Stephanie Donahue. Neely spent a lot of time crowding the net during Donahue's serve.

"Her serve didn't really threaten me and I wanted to see if I could scare her into double-faulting," Neely said.

UNC's other singles victory was at the No. 6 position, where freshman Scotti Thomas downed State's Katie Carpenter, 6-2, 6-1, in a classic baseline slugfest.

"I've seen her play before," Thomas said. "She's a better volleyer than she is a groundstroker, so I tried to keep her deep all day hitting groundstrokes."

The Tar Heels' final victory, save Kanell's extended singles foray, was a doubles win by Thomas and Kelli Sharpe over the team of Donahue and Maggie Williams, 6-2, 6-4.



UNC junior Chris Mumford smashes a serve in Tuesday's action at the Tennis Center

By Jay Exum
Staff Writer

On any other day, it would have been a sure thing.

But the North Carolina men's tennis team, weary from a succession of away games and suffering from two key injuries, limped into the Tennis Center Tuesday to face an 8-10 West Virginia team that was looking to take advantage of the Tar Heels' woes.

UNC coach Allen Morris need not have worried. North Carolina's substitutes came in and did the job well, helping bring home a 6-3 Tar Heel victory for UNC (now 14-5) in a match that was somewhat closer than the score.

Playing at the top spot, Tar Heel Roland Thornqvist easily disposed of the Mountaineers' Mark Booras, 6-2, 6-1.

Though it looked at the time like a UNC rout could be on, Thornqvist's match was one of only two that fell decisively into the Tar Heels' win column.

Bryan Jones seemed to follow Thornqvist's lead for the first set of his match. The No. 2 seed pounded away at West Virginia's Ron Mercer for a 6-3 win in the first set. Then things got interesting. Mercer stormed back to win the last two sets, 6-3, 6-3, evening the match scores.

The result of the No. 3 singles match served to make Morris nervous as well. Playing what appeared to be West Virginia's best tennis of the day, Manolo Moure crushed UNC's Chris Mumford, 6-3, 6-2.

The possibility of an upset appeared to be growing, especially when fourth seed Thomas Tanner dropped the first set of his match, 6-1.

Then the Tar Heels finally seemed to

wake up.

Tanner came back with a vengeance, taking the last two sets, 6-3, 6-4, from Mountaineer Jordan Bergwall.

Bringing up the rear in singles for UNC were Sean Steynour at No. 5 and David Sussman at No. 6.

Steynour wore down his opponent after a tough first set, 7-5, 6-3, and Sussman blew out David Gibbs, 6-1, 6-3.

But the Mountaineers could still win the match if they could sweep the doubles competition.

Playing at No. 2 doubles, Moure and Bergwall did their third of that job, beating UNC's tandem of Jones and Steynour, 7-6, 6-2.

But apparently Chris Mumford wanted redemption for his singles match. He and Thornqvist staged off a 4-6 scare in the first set and beat Booras and Mercer, 6-1, 6-2 in the final two sets.

Their victory at No. 1 guaranteed that there would be no West Virginia upset.

Tanner and Joe Frierson completed the work in handing the Mountaineers' Walsh and Gibbs a 6-1, 7-5 defeat at No. 3 doubles.

Morris was pleased with his team's effort, and congratulated his tired players by giving them Wednesday off to rest up for upcoming matches.

According to Morris, the team's only shot at an NCAA tournament berth rests with getting the best record in its region — Region II — and that starts with beating tough South Carolina Saturday. All of the Tar Heels' remaining opponents are in their region.

Morris can only hope that the rest will do the trick and get UNC back to full speed to complete the job.

Softball glitters, takes a pair from Golden Griffis

By D. Rodney Monroe
Staff Writer

"It's a beautiful day for baseball, so let's play two," ex-baseball star Ernie Banks once said.

That was almost the case Tuesday at Fintley Field, the exception being that the sport was softball.

UNC's softball team ran its record to 22-5 by sweeping a doubleheader from Canisius by 5-1 and 4-1 scores.

The second game, the closest of the two, was knotted at one apiece entering the bottom of the sixth inning when UNC head coach Donna Papa gathered her team around her and gave them some words of encouragement.

"I told them to go up and be more selective about their pitches, not to let a lot of strikes go by, and just be aggressive and attack the ball," Papa said. "We needed to go out and score runs."

What Papa said must have had some spark in it, because the Tar Heels struck for three runs in the inning.

Freshman Beverly Smith got North Carolina started with a one-out single. The next batter, freshman Karen Pesce, followed with a grounder to Golden Griff shortstop Meg Thompson, who threw the ball into right field. Smith scored, giving UNC the lead. Pesce advanced to second on the play.

The rally did not end there.

The next three batters — junior Julie O'Shields and sophomores Yvette Davis and Jeannie Carrow — all came up with singles which allowed the Tar Heels to score their other two runs.

This all but put the final nail in the coffin for Canisius.

Winning pitcher Tracy Brower did

just that by retiring the Golden Griffis in the seventh and final frame.

"Whenever it's a tie game like that, I feel like if we score, we are going to put the team on the defensive again," Papa said. "I said all we needed was one run and we would win the game."

The first game, despite having a similar score, was not at all like the second one.

The Tar Heels jumped on Canisius early by sending seven batters to the plate and scoring three runs in the first inning.

After Sonya Bright led off the game with a triple, Vicki Huff followed with a towering fly ball that Golden Griff centerfielder Leslie Samson lost in the Carolina blue sky. By the time the ball was retrieved, Huff was on third with a run-scoring triple and Bright had scored the contest's first run.

Run-scoring singles by Theresa Buscemi and Vicki Parrott then lifted UNC's lead to 3-0.

"We always want to try to score first so we can put the other team on the defensive," Papa said.

Freshman pitcher Paige Lauby turned in an excellent performance, pitching a complete-game one-hitter and striking out 12 batters along the way. Lauby began the game by striking out seven of the first eight batters.

"I think Paige did a really nice job," Papa said. "Her ball was moving well and I think she did a really nice job today in hitting her spots."

Canisius' only legitimate threat for a big rally came in the third inning. With one out, one run already scored and runners on second and third, UNC rightfielder Amy Cole stopped the rally when she made a spectacular diving catch to snare a sinking line drive.

ACC Baseball Statistics

BATTING LEADERS

Batting Average

Player, Team	Avg.
Noe, Md.	.422
Bruce, GT	.414
Bragg, GT	.413
Villani, UNC	.412
Crowley, Clem	.402
Austin, WF	.400
Leshnock, UNC	.390
Spiers, Clem	.387
Weston, WF	.381
Restucco, WF	.378

Home Runs

Player, Team	HRs
Bruce, GT	16
Kowalik, WF	11
Austin, WF	10
Martz, WF	9
Bragg, GT	8
Macrina, Clem	8

Runs Batted In

Player, Team	RBI
Bruce, GT	57
Bragg, GT	40
Austin, WF	38
Pierce, NCSU	34
Kowalik, WF	33
Villani, UNC	32

Stolen Bases

Player, Team	SBs
Byrd, GT	24
Fleming, GT	15
Bragg, GT	13
McCracken, Duke	11
Holbrook, UNC	8
McGonnigal, Md	8

Baseball gets tough, ends skid

By H. Brock Page
Staff Writer

North Carolina's Chris Cox scored on an error in the 10th inning to lift the Tar Heels to a 5-4 win over Pace in a Tuesday afternoon baseball game at Boshamer Stadium.

Cox led off the bottom of the inning with a walk. Brad Woodall laid down a sacrifice bunt toward the mound, advancing Cox to second base. Pace intentionally walked Donnie Leshnock, leaving men on first and second with one out and senior Matt Wooten at the plate.

Wooten sent a sharp ground ball straight to Pace third baseman Michael Dieguez, who let the ball roll between his legs. UNC head coach Mike Roberts waved Cox home and leftfielder Sean Scott didn't even attempt a throw after he failed to field the ball cleanly.

The win snaps a four-game losing streak for the Tar Heels, who were swept by Wake Forest this past weekend and lost to Jacksonville March 27. UNC, now 20-11, faces Pace today before heading into this weekend's series with ACC foe Clemson. Roberts said this close win gave the Tar Heels a boost.

"We needed to win," Roberts said. "The fact that we were able to win a close game is a plus. We played with

more enthusiasm than we have been. We needed positive things to happen, and they did. We wanted to be more aggressive, and we stole some bases."

Sophomore Ethan Albright made his second start for the Tar Heels and pitched four and two-thirds innings, giving up two runs on three hits. Albright was pulled in the fifth inning when he reached his limit of pitches.

Albright got off to a shaky start as the Setters tagged him for one run in the top of the first inning.

The Tar Heels came right back in their half of the inning to take a 2-1 lead on a two-run homer by Cox with Steve Estroff aboard.

"I was way ahead on the first two pitches," Cox said. "I had problems with pulling out too soon. I broke the swing down, worked on seeing the ball and keeping my hands back. He kept the ball over the plate and let me get a hold of it."

While Albright settled down and kept the Setters in check for the next two innings, UNC scored two more runs by using the aggressive baserunning that Roberts likes.

Wooten led off UNC's half of the second inning by reaching base on an error. After a sacrifice bunt and a steal, Wooten was at third. With Cy Richardson at the plate, Roberts called

for the suicide squeeze, and Richardson and Wooten executed the play perfectly, putting UNC up 3-1.

Chad Holbrook followed with a two-out single. Holbrook stole second and third and then attempted to steal home against left-handed pitcher Mark Mammola, but he didn't beat the pitch.

"Chad called me Sunday and asked me what he could do to be a better player and to help the team," Roberts said. "He can be our offensive catalyst because of his great speed. We've been working hard to be more aggressive as a team. Even though he got thrown out at home, it was a positive thing."

UNC scored again to take a 4-1 lead in the third inning. The Tar Heels loaded the bases and Wooten was hit by a pitch, scoring Hector Ferrer from third.

Pace tied the score in the sixth inning thanks to a solo home run by C.J. Russo and a two-run single by Tom Horinczewich. Brad Woodall, the game's winning pitcher, came to the mound in the sixth and held Pace scoreless for three and two-thirds innings.

"I think that series at Wake Forest woke us up," Cox said. "This game is what we needed. We needed to get back in a rhythm so that the guys will come to the ballpark happy. Now, we want to go to Clemson and play good ball, whether we win or lose."

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