

Lacrosse wins NCAA title to end perfect 16-0

Goldstein scores 8 times taking MVP honors

By Stewart Chisam
Staff Writer

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Dennis Goldstein, national champion after two years of not-quite-good-enough finishes, rolled his eyes. His coach, Dave Klarmann, had interrupted the senior's interview, mumbling some gibberish about "teamwork epitomizing the whole season." Goldstein feigned annoyance.

Then Goldstein's eyes twinkled at the gibberish. He didn't mind the interruption.

Not after defeating Towson State Monday, 18-13, to win the national lacrosse title before 8,293 in the Carrier Dome. Not after North Carolina had swept to a school-record 16th victory, against no losses, in Klarmann's first season as head coach.

And certainly not two days after UNC's bigger-than-life 19-13 victory over host Syracuse in the semifinals.

On Memorial Day, everything brought a twinkle to the senior's eyes. A brilliant career had ended perfectly — Goldstein, the All-ACC attacker from Stony Brook, N.Y., was on top of the lacrosse world.

"I've been here five years," Goldstein said. "I've lost the last two times in the semifinals, and it's really tough to go

out that way — to end the season that abruptly.

"To come here and win the national championship, it's just a great feeling."

Chalk up much of UNC's championship success to Goldstein, who tallied a school-record 47 goals on the season, including eight over the weekend: four each against both Towson and Syracuse. Goldy also dished out four assists Monday — mostly to hometowners Joe Bedell and Eric Seremet, who both fielded season highs over the weekend.

Seremet had an out-of-body experience Monday, tallying three goals; the hat trick was nearly half of the seven goals he scored this season.

Bedell, who underwent an emergency appendectomy April 26, was the hero Saturday, notching a personal-best six points (three goals and three assists) despite being winded by heat and the appendectomy's after effects.

"It's amazing how out of shape you can get in just two weeks," said Bedell about the surgery.

However, it was Goldstein who shined brightest in the Carrier Dome's greenhouse-like weather. He always was drawing a crowd of defenders and giving the Tar Heels an ever-consistent presence around the net.

Monday, Goldstein attracted the brunt

of the Tiger defense, but managed to dissect, and wear down, the Towson man-to-man attack with steady, consistent passing.

With 8:40 remaining in the game, TSU had closed an 11-4 Tar Heel half-time lead to 13-12 on the strength of its man-to-man defense. In the first half, the Tigers employed a disastrous zone defense.

But the Tiger defenders began to wear down, and Goldstein patiently found the openings in the denial defense.

With 5:34 remaining, the Tiger defense collapsed on Goldstein, who directing the offense from behind the net, but Goldy found Bedell wide-open.

Bedell fired a rocket from 15 yards out to tally his second goal of the day and end the Tiger rally.

"That was the biggest goal of the game," Goldstein said. "It knocked off their rally. If they had tied up the game, it would have been real tough to come back."

Towson coach Carl Runk credited Goldstein for ending the Tiger rally.

"We went into what we call our denial defense," Runk said. "But Goldstein is an excellent lacrosse player. We felt we could cut him off, but when youngsters are exhausted there's not much

you can do."

Shortly after Bedell's goal, Tar Heel freshman Ryan Wade swept across the crease to knock in an unassisted goal. Next Goldstein found an open Michael Thomas for another score.

With the score 16-12 and 3:38 remaining, only time stood between the Tar Heels' fourth national title and the team's first undefeated season since 1982.

"I never imagined in my wildest dreams that we would go 16 and 0 and win the national championship," Goldstein said. "I thought we might win the national championship, but with the schedule we had, playing Top 10 teams week in and week out, it just shows that we took it one game at a time."

Klarmann, ever cautious, attributed some of the success to luck.

"It's just been one of those wonderful years when we have been fortunate enough to win," Klarmann said. "Those last two games — against Towson State and Syracuse — we could have just as easily not won one of those games."

Except for the fourth quarter scare by Towson, UNC biggest scare came against the Orangemen, whose 13 goals more than doubled UNC's average of 6.3 goals-yielded per game.

SU slipped behind 16-9 on a Bedell goal with 6:38 remaining in the game but then began a rally that put the 14,544 fans in the Carrier Dome into a frenzy.

Syracuse rattled off four consecutive goals, including its last score — a Charlie Lockwood to Dom Fin quick shot — with 2:17 remaining.

Fin's goal brought life into the Orange's dreams of a record fourth-straight championship. But just 10 seconds after Syracuse's 13th goal, UNC's Steve Speers — who, like Bedell, is from nearby Fayetteville, N.Y. — scored off a John Webster fast-break pass.

The goal snapped the Orange's back and sent UNC into the championship game one year after the Tar Heels had fallen to Syracuse 21-10 in the national semis.

"The worst thing that happened was last year's semifinal loss," Goldstein said. "Just to lose 21-10 in front of 20,000 people when we know that we didn't play as well as we could... I just wanted to avenge that — and that was done Saturday."

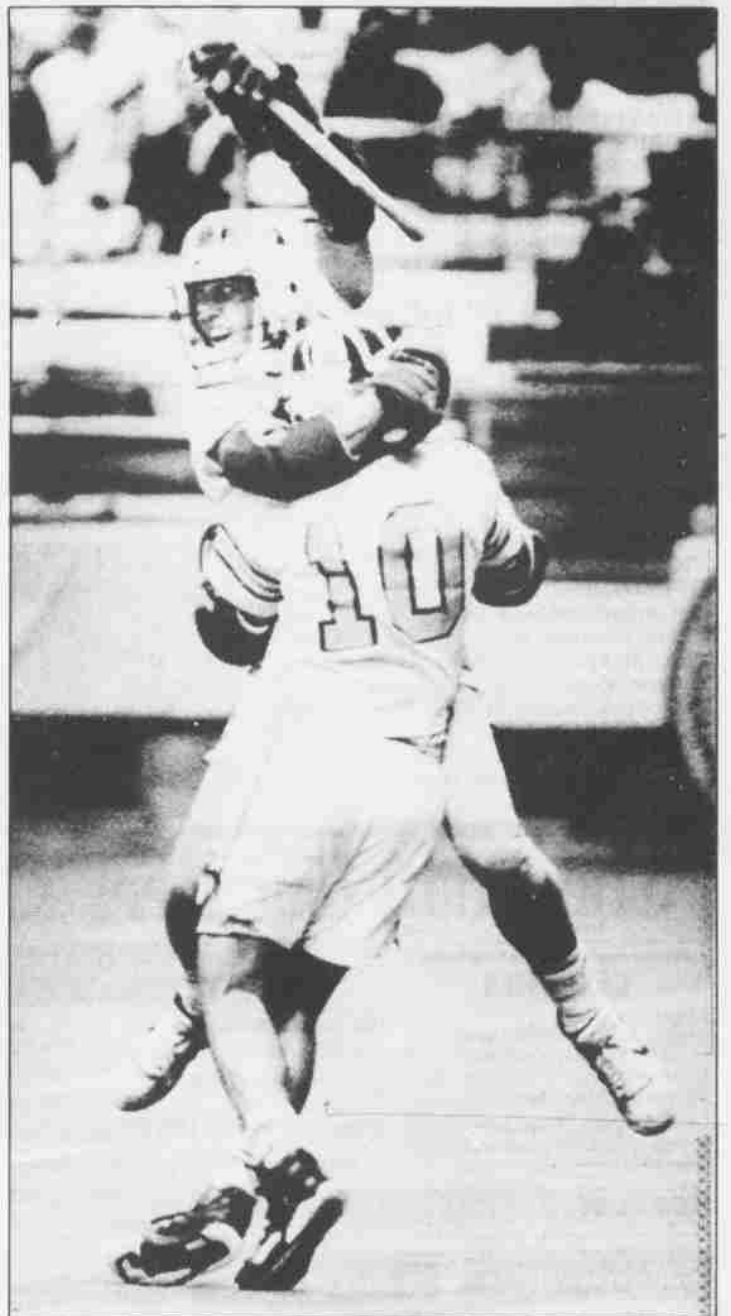
Saturday's win also marked UNC's 15th victory of the season, a new school record, eclipsing the mark set by the 1982 undefeated squad.

Klarmann, who is a perfect 16-0 as a head coach, did not take credit for the Tar Heels' incredible success.

"I bought new game shorts — home and away — that's what I've done different," Klarmann said. "You can ask any player, any alumni. There's not that much difference in what we do."

Except for the final result.

Luck or no luck. New shorts or old. UNC stopped the jinx and brought home the Gold(stein).



Dennis Goldstein carried his teammate and the MVP honors away from Syracuse.

Golf finishes 8th in East, qualifies for NCAA finals

By David J. Kupstas
Sports Editor

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The North Carolina golf team qualified for the NCAA Championships with a disappointing eighth-place finish at the 23-team East Regional at the Yale Golf Club last weekend.

The Tar Heels finished the three-day competition with a 40-over-par 280, 28 strokes behind champion Georgia Tech. Clemson, Wake Forest and N.C. State were also among the 11 teams which qualified for the NCAAs to be held June 5-8 in Monterey, Calif.

UNC head coach Devon Brouse was glad to see his team make the championships, but he was not especially happy with the way in which his team got it done.

"We qualified, and that's what we went up there to do primarily," Brouse said. "We certainly were not playing the kind of golf that we were capable of playing. I think the fellows went into the tournament with a little bit of the wrong attitude. They were just trying to qualify and maybe didn't have the focus they needed."

The Tar Heels struggled to a 14th-place tie Thursday with a 19-over-par 299. Bill Smith led UNC with a 73.

However, North Carolina zoomed into seventh place on Friday with a team score of 282 Friday, the fourth-best total of the day. Pat Moore led the way with a two-under-par 68, followed by Tom Scherrer and Tee Burton with 69 apiece.

On Saturday, UNC slipped one spot to eighth with a dismal 299. The only Tar Heel to break 75 was John Aber, who shot a 72.

After Thursday's dismal perfor-

mance, UNC had its back to the wall. Thus, the goal changed from finishing first in the regional to simply getting into the top 11 and earning a berth in the championships.

"If you're not in a position to win, you've got to make at least the qualifier because you know that everyone's starting over next week," Brouse said. "It doesn't really matter whether you finish second or 11th. If you look at the scores, there's not a lot of difference between second and 10th or 11th in terms of how many strokes separate the teams."

Indeed, Georgia Tech ran away with the regional title, finishing 13 shots ahead of second-place Georgia. Nine strokes separated Georgia and Central Florida, but there was only a seven-shot difference between Central Florida and ninth-place Florida.

One of the big questions entering the regional was how losing the ACC Championship would affect the UNC team. At Rocky Mount, the Tar Heels rallied to just two shots behind Georgia Tech after two days of play, but their efforts went to waste when the third day of play was cancelled by rain.

"Maybe we were denied at the ACC there with the rainout, and I don't know if that was the problem at the regionals or not," Brouse said. "We certainly didn't play as well."

Georgia Tech, on the other hand, went nuts with the momentum it gathered from its ACC Tournament victory, which counts as a win, rain or no rain.

"I think I'd rather be in the position Georgia Tech is — where they are coming off two straight wins and are at the top of their game going into the NCAA

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This North Carolina lacrosse team isn't afraid to tell you how good they are; UNC won its first national championship since 1986

Writer's engine won't start for great American race

By Doug Hoogervorst
Sports Editor

They ran the Indianapolis 500 Sunday and I missed it again. Oh well.

Missing the Indy 500 has almost become a yearly tradition for me. I can't remember watching the winner take the checkered flag since Gordon Johncock beat Rick Mears by 16 one-thousandths of a second in 1982. That was exciting, but I've missed every race since.

I just cannot get motivated to sit in front of the television for the two-plus hours the race takes so I can watch people drive in circles and listen to the some old features about the Andrettis and Unsers year after year.

Instead, I just read the next day's newspaper, examine the results closely and take notice of the oddities therein so I won't sound foolish in sports circles.

For example, Willy T. Ribbs became the first black driver to race in the Indy Sunday, but his race didn't last long. He was through by the fourth lap and finished 32nd. If I hadn't told you I didn't watch the race, you never would have

known.

Still, one of these years, I've got to grab a six-pack and a couple bags of pretzels and, after installing a seatbelt on my recliner, strap myself in to watch this great American race. But something inside would rather watch the meaningless Orioles-Yankees pregame show, and I have come to question why it is I cannot do what every true American fan does — watch the Indy.

To begin with, I have trouble classifying auto racing as a sport; it seems more like a competition between mechanics. This is the way I've felt for about 22 years (though I'm but 20 and 349 days old), and it took some genius to put it into words.

Comedian George Carlin is that genius. He does a great routine where he claims that only baseball, basketball and football are real sports and the rest are activities. Carlin likes to point out that if everyone can do something, it is not a sport and that almost any idiot can get a driver's license.

I do appreciate the training these drivers have to go through to have the

endurance for a 500-mile race. I do appreciate the hours spent on the car.

(Though it seems funny to call those racing machines cars. My Chrysler LeBaron is a car, and it doesn't do anything close to 225 mph. It does closer to 22.5 mph.)

I understand that the driver, the pit crew and sponsor work together for all of May to become a well-running team in every sense of the concept. It always seems that every five minutes I tune in ABC to check up on who is winning, Jack Arute gives this refreshed feature.

By the way, what does Jack Arute do when the Indy is over?

My basic complaint with auto racing is that the cars, and not the drivers, are the competitors. This leads to snoozeville for me. The human element is what makes sports exciting.

No matter how good the driver, if his car doesn't go, he won't get the dough.

In baseball, the players use tools such as bats and gloves to accomplish their goals, but the players don't have better bats than one another. When Tony Gwynn gets a base hit off Doc Gooden,

it's because of Gwynn's great reflexes and physical skills; it's not because his bat has been tuned so it hits the ball better than Bob Uecker's.

Larry Bird might not be as fast or as quick or as big as a lot of players, but he beats those players because he's better in his mind and has some skill that he has practiced for hours.

If the drivers in auto racing could make more of a visible difference in the race — i.e. make the car a tool, not the competitor — it would generate more interest for a lot of people. It also would stop auto racing from being the sport fans attend just to see the crashes.

I'm not sure how this can be done, if at all. Until then, I'll continue to try to become an auto racing fan.

And maybe next May, it will have another fan — if I can ever find a seatbelt to attach to my recliner.

Editor's note — Sports editor Doug Hoogervorst will write a weekly column of profound commentary (read: dribble) about the world of sports. He is a rising senior from Marlborough, Conn.

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