

COLLEGE FOOTBALL OPENING WEEKEND

No. 3 Oklahoma starts title defense with a bang

Sooners score 31 in first quarter, dominate UNC

No. 3 Oklahoma 41, North Carolina 27

NORMAN, OKLA. (AP) — For the most part, No. 3 Oklahoma's defense looked like it's ready for another run at the national title. The offense is another matter.

Linebacker Rocky Calmus and the defense took the load off new quarterback Nate Hybl by coming up with five first-half turnovers Saturday night as the defending national champs beat North Carolina, 41-27.

Hybl was 20-of-29 for 152 yards

in his debut as the successor to Heisman Trophy runner-up Josh Heupel, but he led just two scoring drives and threw an interception that was returned for a score.

"They may have heard too much good throughout the summer," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "Playing so average in the second half gives us a lot to shoot for."

Oklahoma, winner of 14 straight, built a 41-7 lead early in the second quarter. The Sooners gave up a punt return for a touchdown a few minutes later, then saw North Carolina drive for two scores in the fourth quarter.

"I wasn't satisfied with anybody's performance on the offense or the defense," Stoops said.

There wasn't much not to like

early on, though.

Calmus, an All-American last season, recovered a fumble on the second play of the game to set up the first of two short field goals by Tim Duncan.

Later in the quarter, safety Brandon Everage jarred the ball from harried quarterback Ronald Curry, and Calmus picked it up and returned it 14 yards for a touchdown that made it 24-0.

Oklahoma's first three scoring drives used just 44 seconds, 18 seconds, and 1:13. Two of the three came after turnovers, one of them caused by Duncan on a kickoff return.

"That was the longest first quarter I've ever been associated with," new Carolina coach John Bunting said. "I thought maybe they were

adding time to the clock."

Tailback Quentin Griffin did all the work on Oklahoma's first touchdown drive, which only covered 46 yards. He gained 19 yards on a swing pass, 23 on a run and then scored on a 4-yard run.

The Sooners only needed to cover 19 yards for their next TD, a 7-yard run by Renaldo Works that was set up by a fumble recovery.

"I'm very encouraged by the way the defense played," Hybl said. "We had our moments, but we're looking to be more productive for sure." Carolina defensive end Julius Peppers provided one of the few Tar Heel highlights when he stepped in front of a swing pass by Hybl and returned it 29 yards for a score that made it 24-7 late in the first.

The momentum didn't last long. Antwone Savage took the next kickoff and returned it 88 yards for a touchdown, getting a nice escort down the left sideline from Curtis Fagan.

The Sooners added a 47-yard interception return for a touchdown by cornerback Derrick Strait, and a fumble recovery inside the 5 led to a field goal and the 41-7 lead.

After Michael Waddell gave the Tar Heels their second touchdown with an 89-yard punt return, Bunting challenged his team at halftime.

"I said, 'Let's keep battling inside and let's find out a little bit about ourselves,'" he said.

The Tar Heels, held to 71 first-half yards, outgained Oklahoma 219-148 in the second half. Darian

Durant came off the bench in place of Curry and threw two TD passes, including a 26-yarder to Chesley Borders.

"Later on in the year, when we play better opponents, we'll have to play a whole four quarters," Calmus said. "But overall, we did well and we'll learn from this and correct the mistakes we made."

Curry had a rough night. He lost two fumbles that led to field goals, was sacked three times, and wound up 5-of-14 passing for 7 yards and an interception.

The game, the Hispanic College Fund Classic, was played as lightning flashed in the area. Officials briefly discussed whether to stop play in the third quarter but decided to play on. Heavy rain began falling as the game wound down.

Crouch, Nebraska hold off pesky TCU in Lincoln

No. 4 Nebraska 21, TCU 7

LINCOLN, NEB. (AP) — At a school that begins every season with the highest of expectations, this wasn't exactly the start Nebraska had in mind.

The No. 4 Cornhuskers looked unstoppable at times and immobile during others as they held off TCU 21-7 on Saturday in the Pigskin Classic.

"All areas need some work. That was one of the reasons we took this game," Nebraska coach Frank Solich said. "Certainly we'll be a better football team as a result of the game today."

Eric Crouch became Nebraska's career leader in total yards and Thunder Collins scored twice in his first start for the Cornhuskers, who struggled offensively but made up for it with a strong defense while improving to 5-0 in preseason "classics."

TCU had the ball in Nebraska territory only once in the second half and finished with just 186 yards, 65 after halftime.

"We expect a lot out of ourselves. You need to have a good defense if you want to do anything," linebacker Mark Vedral said. "We know our offense is eventually going to score."

Crouch completed 10-of-18 passes for 151 yards and ran 24 times for 69 yards. The 5,510 yards for his career surpassed Tommie Frazier's 5,476.

"It means a lot. It's something that's kind of amazing to me. I'd have never expected to do something like that," Crouch said.

Collins, starting for the sus-

pended Dahrran Diedrick, ran 14 times for 71 yards. Diedrick sat out Saturday's game because of his arrest outside a Lincoln bar last weekend.

"I think Thunder did a great job for the short notice he had. You couldn't ask him to do anything more," Crouch said.

The Horned Frogs, opening their first season under coach Gary Patterson, were called for 11 penalties, including four inside their own 10-yard line.

TCU's Casey Printers was 10-for-21 for 122 yards.

"You cannot make mistakes and beat Nebraska. We did that," Patterson said. "We had face-masks and penalties and you cannot win that type of game."

TCU led the nation in defense a year ago and, despite having only five returning starters, held the Huskers in check for much of the afternoon.

But on a second-and-10 from Nebraska's 26, Crouch kept it on an option and zig-zagged his way to TCU's 32 for the Huskers' first big play of the second half. Collins scored three plays later on a 26-yard option run to the left with 25 seconds left in the third quarter, capping a 98-yard drive.

"Nobody's worried about our offense," tackle Dave Volk said. "We came out and showed what we can do when we want to move the ball. That's what it's like to play mistake-free football."

Nebraska led 13-7 at halftime. The Huskers opened five of their seven drives at their own 40-yard line or better, including one at the TCU 49, but scored just twice.

TCU was able to hold the

Huskers to 11 yards in the second quarter and just 143 total yards for the half.

"I'm real depressed. The defense played OK, but not the best," TCU linebacker Chad Bayer said.

Nebraska's defense also played well, allowing 121 yards in the half, 67 of which came on a broken play that was TCU's only score.

The Huskers looked like they had Printers cornered on the right side, but he scrambled back to the left and found Matt Schobel alone behind the secondary and hit him with a pass at the Nebraska 37. Schobel ran untouched down the sideline for the score that tied it 7-7 midway through the first quarter.

Collins gave Nebraska a 7-0 lead with a 6-yard run around the right side on the Huskers' opening drive. Nebraska needed only six plays, including runs of 12 and 33 yards by Crouch, to go 70 yards.

"Offensively, Crouch is the real deal," Patterson said. "When it made a difference he made plays."

Crouch added a 1-yard dive in the second quarter that capped a 55-yard drive. The Huskers botched the extra-point attempt with a bad snap.

TCU received a scare late in the fourth quarter when DT John Turntine was carted off the field on a stretcher with a neck injury. However, X-rays were negative. Turntine has movement and feeling in his limbs and was the conscious the whole time. The 6-foot-1, 267-pound junior was on the team's return flight to Fort Worth, Texas and will be evaluated again when he returns to TCU.

Georgia Tech tops Syracuse

No. 10 Georgia Tech 13, Syracuse 7

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — A run at the national title is still a long way off for No. 10 Georgia Tech.

The Yellow Jackets' high-powered offense sputtered to a 13-7 victory over Syracuse in the Kickoff Classic on Sunday as George Godsey hooked up with record-setting Kelly Campbell 10 times for 193 yards and Joe Burns ran for 113 yards and a touchdown.

Georgia Tech (1-0), with 18 starters returning from last year's 9-3 team that averaged nearly 34 points per game, is hoping to make a run at dethroning Florida State as Atlantic Coast Conference champions and then bidding for a national championship.

But in a game that was anything but classic, Georgia Tech discovered it needs a lot of work before challenging the sixth-ranked Seminoles on Sept. 15.

Godsey, who completed 64 percent of his passes last season, was 15-of-26 for 224 yards, and cornerback Marvious Hester intercepted a pass at the Syracuse 6 to set up Burns' TD.

Syracuse (0-1), guilty of crucial penalties that kept alive Georgia Tech drives, stayed in the game thanks to the Yellow Jackets' failure to make big plays.

Troy Nunes, a victim of three of Georgia Tech's four sacks, scored on a 1-yard keeper with 8:35 left in the third quarter to pull the Orangemen within 10-7. But the Yellow Jackets defense helped by a number of tipped passes and a dropped ball by Johnny Morant at the Tech 24 with 6:32 left - held on.

Nunes finished 19-of-32 for 183 yards and an interception.

The Giants Stadium crowd of 41,517 was the smallest in the game's 19-year history and they saw the lowest scoring game. In 1986, Alabama beat Ohio State 16-10. The previous smallest crowd was 46,251 in 1992.

Campbell, an all-ACC player last season, broke the school record for receiving yards on a 72-yard hookup with Godsey early in the second quarter.

No. 23 Wisconsin 26, Virginia 17

MADISON, WIS. (AP) — Wisconsin used the spread offense to change things up, their traditional running game to win.

No. 23 Wisconsin finally got on track offensively in the second half Saturday after ditching the spread offense to beat Virginia 26-17 in the Eddie Robinson Classic.

Brooks Bollinger was ineffective in the four-receiver sets Wisconsin (1-0) opened the game with and had already been spelled on two series by Jim Sorgi when he went down in the second quarter while scrambling to his right.

He had a contusion of the liver and was taken to a hospital, where he was to stay overnight for observation.

Sorgi wasn't much better in the spread as the two combined to go 5-of-15 for 41 yards in the first half. But after going back to the two tight end formations that Alvarez has used in his 11 years at Wisconsin to power the Badgers to three Rose Bowl wins, the offense finally got into a rhythm.

Sorgi finished 5-of-11 for 150

yards with touchdown passes of 78 and 38 yards. The Badgers also rushed for 228 yards - only 82 yards coming in the first half from the spread formation. Anthony Davis led the Badgers with 147 yards on 24 carries in his college debut.

The loss spoiled Al Groh's return to college after coaching the New York Jets last season.

The Cavaliers (0-1) had a 74-yard touchdown on a screen pass called back for clipping and lost running back Antwoine Womack in the first quarter after he sprained his right ankle. Womack, who led the ACC in rushing last year, had seven carries for 18 yards when he left.

BYU 70, Tulane 35

PROVO, UTAH (AP) — In 29 seasons under LaVell Edwards, BYU threw for almost 60 miles of yardage. The Cougars might end up running that far under new coach Gary Crowton.

Brandon Doman was 25-of-31 for 286 yards and three touchdowns in Crowton's debut as BYU's coach, leading the Cougars to a 70-35 victory over Tulane on Saturday in the Black Coaches Association Classic.

BYU's rushing attack, which produced 437 of 734 yards, set the tempo and wore down the Green Wave (0-1). Luke Staley ran for 142 yards and Brian McDonald had 103, each scoring three touchdowns.

It was the first time since 1972 that Edwards wasn't coaching the Cougars (1-0). He retired after last season, capping a 29-year career where he won 257 games, 20 conference titles and the 1984 national championship.

Roundup

Golf teams hope to build on promising offseason

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

European PGA Tour but will not compete so that he can attend USC.

Women's Golf

The Lady Gamecocks also had a successful summer.

Sophomore Kory Thompson claimed victory in the Columbia City Championships, and sophomore Marci Robinson finished second. Kory's sister Kacy, a junior, finished sixth.

This year's squad is very experienced and is led by junior All-American Kristy McPherson. McPherson captured last year's SEC Individual Championship with a record score. The team also looks to build on the success they had at the end of last year in the NCAA Tournament.

Women's Basketball

From Aug. 11-22, the Lady Gamecocks were touring Europe and facing the best basketball teams the countries of Austria and Hungary have to offer. The team finished up their trip battling one

of Europe's best teams, Tecto Klostemeuburg in Vienna, Austria, on the 19th and 20th.

Head coach Susan Walvius has probably built her strongest team during her tenure at USC. Everyone is returning from last year's Lady Gamecock squad, which set a record for SEC wins. The Gamecocks will get warmed up for tough SEC play by facing a difficult pre-conference schedule.

Equestrian

Sophomore Sarah-Ki Tomasi was selected to compete for the U.S. in a competition in Rome, Italy Aug. 30-31.

One of the South's best equestrian teams will have to replace 13 riders from last year.

The Gamecocks' season starts Sept. 29 in Irmo.

Softball

Last year's SEC East champions will have to replace three critical team leaders — Adrienne Genovese, Joyce McMillin and Megan Donohoo — who all graduated.

The Lady Gamecocks will have possibly the strongest 1-2 punch on the mound in the conference. Pitchers Megan Matthews and Stacey Johnson hope to lead the team to another championship.

SEC

'Bama could rotate Zow and Watts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

go 3-8. I just want to win."

Ellington is the team's 6-foot-6, 345-pound offensive lineman.

Whoever gets the start will be expected to keep his mistakes to a minimum.

"The first point we're trying to get across (to the quarterbacks) is, 'Don't lose the game,'" Franchione said. "Don't beat us. There are enough things we're going to do offensively that we'll have chances to win the game. Don't lose the game."

Alabama begins its 2001 campaign at home against UCLA.

Soccer

Carolina opens regular season Sunday vs. PSU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

played them up in their place last year, and we won in a very hard-fought game," Berson said. "I think it's a tremendous game for the students at USC to come watch. Teams like Penn State don't come in very often."

Pummeling

Women's soccer rolls in preseason tune-up

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

blood at the 13:43 mark when junior Kristen Schreiber broke through with an assist from junior Melinda Carter. USC added two more goals in the half after Epstein knocked in her first goal, and sophomore Alison Jarrow later added another to make it 3-0 at the midway point.

Jarrow continued the onslaught in the second half, notching her second goal at the 54:56 mark.

USC added four more goals in the second half after Epstein punched in two more. The scoring was capped off when freshman Ashley Williams got into the mix with her first goal, and Carter scored the final goal of the game.

"Melinda Carter stepped up at left midfield and moved the ball for us well on the left side," Smith explained. "Our defense also was solid and kept the pressure off our goalkeepers."

USC visits the College of Charleston Saturday Sept. 1 to begin the regular season. Following the matchup with the Cougars, the Gamecocks play a home match against Davidson before traveling across the country to San Diego, Calif. to take on San Diego State and Nevada-Las Vegas.



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