

SportsMonday

Humes share field for first time at UNC



DTH/PEGGY MULLIN

Redshirt seniors Walker and Tucker Hume line up for a free kick Sunday evening against Saint Louis. The twins, from San Angelo, Texas, played their first game together for UNC on Friday against Cal Poly.

Tucker and Walker Hume led the No. 8 Tar Heels to two wins this weekend

By David Adler
Senior Writer

It wasn't supposed to take this long for brothers Tucker and Walker Hume to share the field.

Save for an exhibition game against Gardner-Webb in 2014, the twins have never played together at UNC.

That all changed Friday, when the Humes opened their senior season side-by-side.

"It's something that we've been waiting a long time for," Tucker said.

When the Humes transferred to North Carolina from

Rollins College, they knew they needed to wait a year to join forces as Tucker redshirted. The two prepared to play in 2015, but a preseason injury sidelined Walker — while Tucker led UNC in goals.

Coach Carlos Somoano said it was satisfying to see the two take the field together.

"We brought them here together, and they're going to leave together," Somoano said. "I never really thought about it any differently because even if only one was playing, they were still together. So the fact that they were on the field at the same time was a cherry

on top of the cake."

They finally shared that moment with each other this weekend, as the No. 8 Tar Heels (2-0) earned a pair of 3-0 wins over Cal Poly (0-2) and Saint Louis (1-1) in the Carolina Nike Classic at Fetzer Field.

On Friday, redshirt senior Tucker Hume used his 6-foot-5 frame to post up his defender in the box, turning around and delivering a shot through the legs of Cal Poly goalkeeper Simon Boehme to give UNC a 2-0 lead in the 38th minute.

"As a big target forward, being in the box is definitely

where I need to be," Tucker said. "So using my body well and letting the ball roll across my body is a good play for someone my size."

Somoano noted how dangerous Hume is when receiving the ball deep in the box.

"It was a beautiful play and a great ball in," Somoano said. "Tucker's just so big and hard to get around, and he used his body very wisely on that play which makes it very hard to predict when that shot is coming off."

It didn't take long for Walker to find his brother to congratulate him on the goal.

"It was awesome getting back out here with Tuck and the rest of the team," Walker said. "I was glad to play with (Tucker) for the first ever time in a Carolina uniform."

Despite sitting out 2015, Walker looked comfortable playing on a defensive unit that delivered a clean sheet.

"I thought our organization was pretty good," Walker said. "We played a lot in the spring with me, (Alex) Comsia and Colton Storm, so we're familiar with each other and it feels natural out there."

Zach Wright was quick to point out how much the rest

of the team enjoys having both of the Humes back.

"It's great to have both of them back," Wright said. "We have a blast playing with them, so it was fun this weekend."

After scoring the second-most goals (11) in the ACC in 2015 and netting a goal in the opening game, Tucker's celebratory moments with Walker might look more routine as the season progresses.

But neither brother plans on taking any of those moments for granted.

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Scoles, Leath lead UNC to undefeated weekend

The No. 19 volleyball team beat No. 9 Penn State on Saturday.

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With the No. 19 North Carolina volleyball team two points away from potentially losing a match to No. 9 Penn State on Saturday, first-year Julia Scoles stepped up to serve.

Down 23-19 in the fourth set, Scoles set up UNC for a winning point. And another. And another.

Scoles' powerful jump serve led to UNC points to win six straight points and capture a fourth-set victory. In the final set, the Tar Heels (3-0) took down the Nittany Lions (2-1) to close out the Penn State Classic — and opening weekend — undefeated.

"She was the main person at that point in the match that really took control of everything," Coach Joe Sagula said.

With a stellar performance through three matches of the two-day tournament, Scoles was named All-Tournament MVP in her first weekend playing at the collegiate level.

She wasn't the only one to step up for the Tar Heels, though. Taylor Leath started the weekend quiet, combining for four kills and seven digs in UNC's 3-0 sweeps of Georgia Southern and West Virginia. But the redshirt sophomore exploded against Penn State, leading the team with a career-high 18 kills and landing a spot on the All-Tournament team.

During UNC's 7-0 comeback run,

Leath spiked the ball to tie the set at 23 and teamed up with first-year Sydnye Fields for a block on the next point to give UNC a one-point edge.

"At that point, it was something I had to do," Leath said of the plays. "I felt comfortable. I felt really confident in my game, and I had to step up."

From there, Scoles returned to serve the final point.

"Going back to serve, I tried not to think about all the pressure that was on that particular point," Scoles said.

She said she focused on hitting the ball high to give her team an advantage on the final point.

But she did more than that — she served an ace.

"That was a great exclamation point to that run," Sagula said.

North Carolina went on to win the fifth set, 15-9, handing Penn State its first home loss to a non-conference opponent since 2011. The victory was UNC's seventh win over a top-10 opponent in program history.

But it didn't surprise Sagula.

"Going into the fifth set ... I think this team is going to win this match," he said. "I felt like with that, pulling that come-from-behind win, that we were going to be in really good shape going into the fifth set."

For Leath, her confidence in the final set came from her teammates who supported her even as she struggled in the previous two matches.

"I think that what really clicked for me was feeling like my teammates had my back," Leath said. "They never at any point didn't believe in me."

And the game was an important one for Leath to shine in. She went

to high school in State College, Pennsylvania and often practiced at Penn State's campus.

"I was always around Penn State volleyball," Leath said. "I was always going to the games. I knew a couple of the players, so it's always been kind of a part of my childhood."

Sagula said he was excited about what Leath accomplished, especially because of the pressure of playing a hometown game.

"I couldn't be any prouder for her than I am," Sagula said. "And just excited for her that she could do something like that."

Sagula expressed pride for Scoles, who he said played like a veteran throughout the weekend. Scoles had eight kills in the sweep against Georgia Southern on Friday and led the team in kills (11) and digs (14) against West Virginia in the first game on Saturday.

After UNC dropped the first set to Penn State, Sagula said Scoles' fierceness in the second set helped the team become more explosive than it was in a disappointing first set.

But the first-year didn't see it that way.

"There's not really any in particular plays where I'm like, 'Wow I'm really proud,'" Scoles said. "But there's definitely a lot of plays where I'm like, 'Wow, I definitely could have done a better job with that.'"

Sagula and Scoles did agree on one thing about her play: optimism. Scoles is eager to improve, and Sagula is excited to watch the young player grow.

"She was clutch every time," Sagula said. "That's a sign of a really great player, great competitor, great maturity."

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No. 1 UNC learns lessons in ACC-Big Ten Challenge

The field hockey team went 1-1 against Michigan and Iowa this weekend.

By Sam Doughton
Staff Writer

On Saturday, the No. 1 North Carolina field hockey team got knocked down, losing 1-0 when No. 10 Michigan scored off a penalty corner with no time on the clock.

The next day, the Tar Heels not only got back up, they got up swinging — outshooting Iowa 14-2 on their way to a 4-1 victory.

"(We just wanted) to come out strong, not be defeated..." said senior captain Julia Young. "And just kind of take revenge on the next team, which just happened to be Iowa."

The Michigan game was a defensive battle. With neither team having a ton of chances for open play, each side relied on penalty corners instead to generate offense.

Young said the team wasn't as tough as it needed to be in the first game of the weekend.

"(The) Big Ten is known to be really physical — they're gonna body up on you," Young said. "And I think we weren't ready for that."

The Wolverines' physicality made it difficult for UNC to dribble through the defense — which Head Coach Karen Shelton said the team tried to do too much — instead of passing like North Carolina usually does.

This lack of execution left the door open for Michigan's late goal on Saturday, giving UNC its first season-opening loss since 2002.

The Tar Heels started much faster on Sunday, with senior Kristy Bernatchez coming up from the back line to take a penalty corner just over 10 minutes into the game. Bernatchez sent the ball into the

circle, where sophomore Ashley Hoffman was ready to shoot.

Hoffman's shot bounced off the Hawkeye keeper to Bernatchez, who poked the ball into the cage for the Tar Heels' first goal of the season.

"It was good to get that out of the way," Bernatchez said. "And it kind of opened the can of worms."

The Tar Heels scored three of their four goals off assists and generated several more shots because of their passing game.

Redshirt first-year Catherine Hayden earned her first career assist when she drew the keeper out of the cage late in the first half and passed the ball to sophomore Mackenzie Mick, who scored on the open net for her first career goal.

Senior Lauren Moyer also got on the score sheet thanks to some nifty passing. Redshirt senior Emma Bozek drove down the side of the end line before dumping the pass off to first-year Megan DuVernois, who passed to Moyer for the easy goal.

Even the lone unassisted goal of the day, scored by first-year Eef Andriessen, was set up by a through ball from junior Gab Major.

Shelton was delighted by the adjustments the Tar Heels made in the passing game between contests.

"They understood," she said. "They know the game. They're smart players. I just think we got into a battle yesterday, and it was so early in the season we didn't handle it well."

As the team looks forward to the rest of the season, Shelton said the Tar Heels will use situations like the Michigan loss to motivate themselves — just like they did Sunday.

"They could've hung their heads and felt sorry for themselves," Shelton said. "And instead, they made the changes that they needed to make in order to open teams up."

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