

# Freshman Shines in Softball Split

**Michael Parrott's offense and pitching helped UNC split four games at last weekend's tournament.**

By JAMES GIZA  
Staff Writer

RALEIGH — Michael Parrott didn't know what to expect playing with the North Carolina softball team for the first time. She just wanted to make her presence felt.

"I was a little nervous," said Parrott, a freshman from Houston, Texas. "I knew I had a job to do out here. I knew that I had to show everybody that I could help out this team."

She shouldn't have worried so much. Parrott sparkled for UNC this weekend at the UNC-hosted North Carolina Fall Collegiate Fastpitch Tournament at Walnut Creek Park in Raleigh.

She displayed the offensive punch and dominating presence on the mound that will make her a key contributor to the team when the regular season kicks off in February.

The Tar Heels blanked Radford 5-0 on Friday but dropped the second game 2-0 to Virginia Tech. Saturday, they lost 2-1 to USC-Spartanburg before crushing UNC-Charlotte 8-0.

"Normally, we win this tournament, so it's a little disappointing," UNC coach Donna Papa said. "But again, it's

early."

After splitting its games Friday, UNC looked to rebound Saturday. But with mostly underclassmen in the lineup, the Tar Heels struggled at the plate against Spartanburg. They struck out eight times and managed only four hits.

"I didn't think we were very aggressive in the first game today," Papa said. "Up at the plate, we were letting a lot of strikes go by, swinging at a lot of bad pitches."

Against the 49ers, the Tar Heels fielded the team that will most likely start when the season begins in February. They exploded for three runs in the first inning on their way to an 8-0 win.

"We really came on in the second game," said outfielder Jen Klesaris, who finished the day with four hits. "That was good. I think the loss in the first game really keyed us and geared us up to hit really well in the second."

The games count against the total number UNC can play during the season but will not affect the team's record.

Papa described Saturday's win as "a total team effort." But the day belonged to Parrott.



UNC softball coach Donna Papa said an ACC title was the goal for the team this season.

In the loss to Spartanburg, Parrott nearly sparked a comeback, smacking a triple in the bottom of the seventh with one out and UNC trailing 2-0. Rosie Gustavason, who pinch ran for Parrott, scored on Michelle Turnage's bloop single to shallow right for UNC's lone run.

Parrott struggled at the plate early against UNC-C before knocking in two runs with a two-out double to center field in the top of the seventh. She then scored on Quinn Porter's single to center, the Tar Heels' eighth and final run.

But she didn't stop there. Parrott also pitched three shutout innings against the 49ers. She struck out four, including two in the bottom of the seventh to seal the win.

"She's a good athlete, and that's what's nice," Papa said. "Besides pitching, she can play first base and she can hit for us, so that gives us a lot of weapons with one player."

The team will need all the help it can get if it wants to improve upon last year. Last season, UNC went 40-22, leading the ACC in batting and fielding and establishing team records for home runs, hits, stolen bases and runs.

But with increased depth at pitching and a more experienced roster, Papa is shooting for even better results.

"The ACC Championship is our goal, regionals, World Series," Papa said. "Those are all three of our goals."

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# Miller Sees Results of Coaching Firsthand

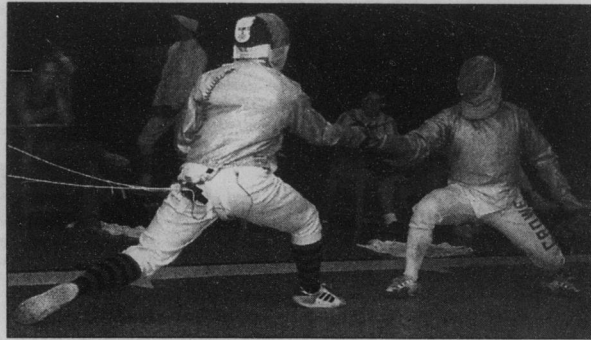
North Carolina fencing coach Ron Miller saw many familiar faces during Sunday's first segment of the North Carolina Fencing Development Project fall open tournament.

Andy Gale, a former Tar Heel captain, won the mixed sabre competition. Miller said the presence of many UNC alumni benefited his current squad.

"To have him back, it sure does (help)," Miller said. "He was a very strong national competitor."

UNC freshman Tara Miranda won the women's foil competition, and Carlos Bruno, a former student of Miller's, won in the men's epee.

The second segment of the fall open will be held Sunday. Women's sabre, women's epee and men's foil competitions will take place in Fetzer Gym.



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UNC fencers Matt Crowe (right) and Kim Treiber compete in the semifinals of the mixed sabre Sunday. Crowe defeated Treiber 15-9.

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