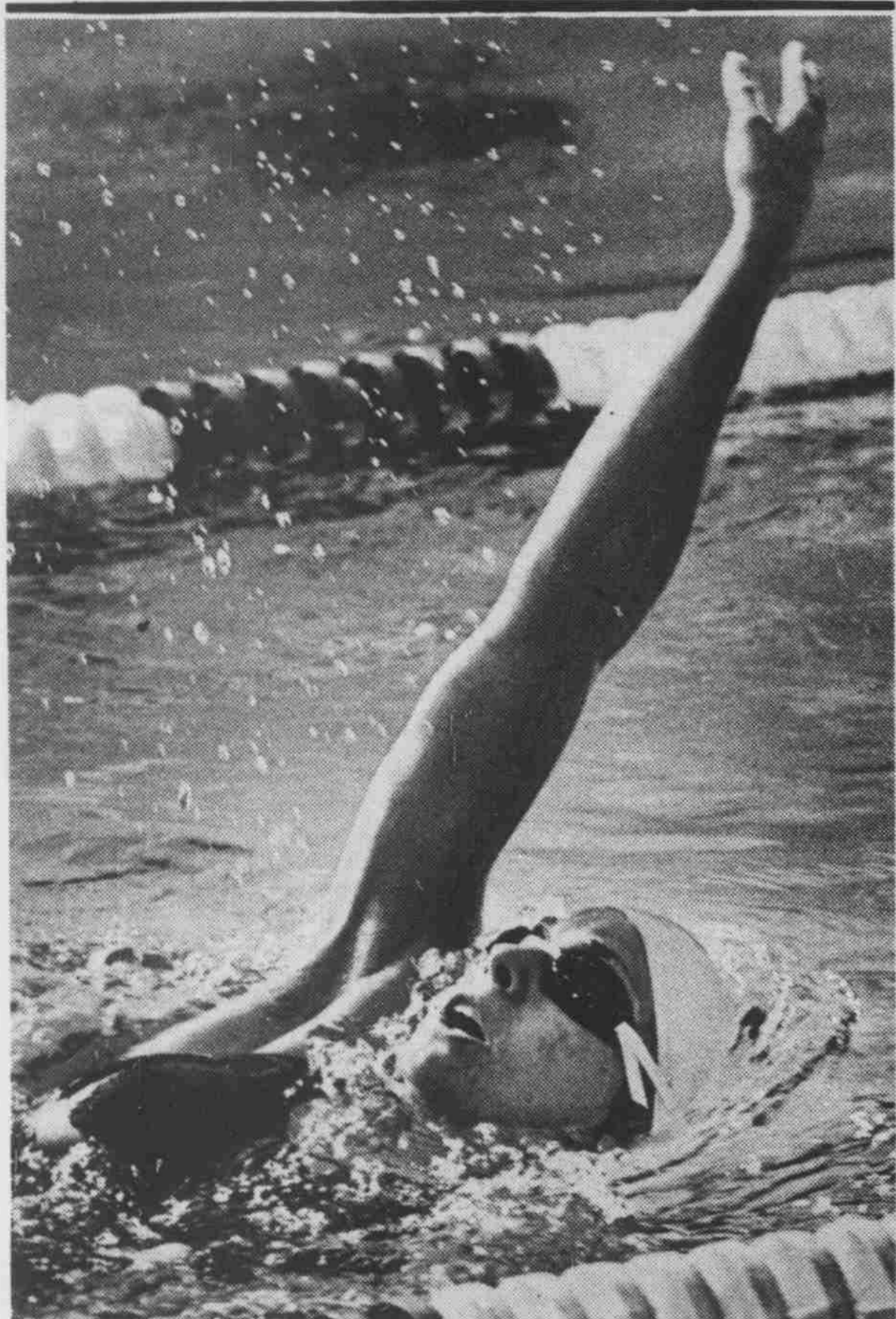


The Daily Tar Heel SPORTS



Sue Walsh is a top contender in the 100- and 200-meter backstroke

DTH/Charles Ledford

Walsh three months away from fulfilling a dream

By SCOTT FOWLER
Staff Writer

By 1982, Sue Walsh had come close, so very close, many times to breaking the U.S. women's record for the 100-yard backstroke. She had never been able to shave that last fraction of second from her time.

But in Gainesville, Fla., site of the NCAA championships, Walsh finally made that breakthrough.

"When you get so close and just can't do it, it gets frustrating," Walsh said. "Then I looked at the scoreboard and saw those numbers ... I can't describe the feeling."

She still counts that record as her most thrilling athletic achievement, even though that was just a beginning for the UNC senior.

Walsh is the epitome of the consummate student-athlete, methodically churning out new swimming records and high marks in the classroom. The facts support the conclusion: 11 NCAA titles, a No. 4 world ranking in the 100-meter backstroke and No. 5 in the 200-meter backstroke, plus a 3.75 GPA as an accounting major.

Walsh's bid for Olympic gold doesn't begin in earnest until June 25, the first of six days of trials to be held in Indianapolis, and her international status does not guarantee her a spot on the U.S. team and a trip to Los Angeles. Walsh will literally have to swim her way into the Summer Games.

"I have to finish first or second in each of my events because only two girls can go for each," Walsh said of the trials.

Walsh plans to enter her specialties, the 100- and 200-meter backstrokes, and stands a good chance at being named to the 400-meter medley relay team.

"They take the fastest swimmer in each of the 100-meter events in back, breast, butter, and free off the trials and they make up the team," Walsh said.

The favored East German swimmers will give Walsh the toughest competition at L.A. "There are three East Germans ahead of me in the 100-meter and I think two in the 200-meter," she said. "They're very strong."

Walsh is in training for the Olympic trials, as are other UNC Olympic hopefuls Polly Winde, Amy Pless, Jenny Strickland and Eric Ericson. "Right now we're swimming two mornings a week for an hour and a half, five afternoons a week for two hours and Saturday mornings for two hours," Walsh said. "Then we also lift weights three times a week for an hour."

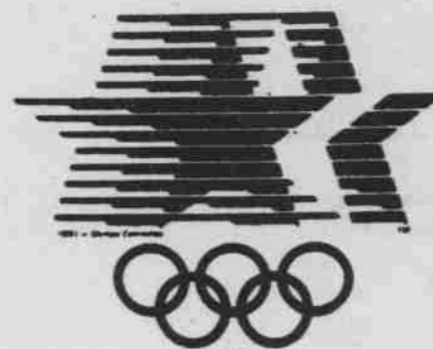
Walsh attributes an unorthodox training style to part of the reason for her success. "In practice I think I'm an unusual case," she said. "Most swimmers spend most of their time on their best stroke. But I train 70-80 percent of the time freestyle. I feel I can get more done that way."

Despite her athletic and academic commitments, Walsh finds time for a social life, and a large part of that life involves boyfriend and former UNC quarterback Scott Stankavage.

Walsh said she first met Stankavage as a freshman during a statistics class, and

added that it wasn't an ideal way to start a friendship.

"I had these cowboy boots on from the Western outfits we had gotten from the (1980) team, and Scott said, 'Where'd you get those, the Olympics or something?'"



"I laughed, and a week later I had on a jacket and he asked the same thing without knowing it really was from there," she said. "I've never seen anybody so embarrassed as when I told him."

"So I tease him about it all the time now, like, 'Where'd you get that from, the Gator Bowl?'"

The Hamburg, N.Y. native started swimming at 8 in the local YMCA. After the first year, she had passed every Red Cross swimming test except lifesaving.

Her parents suggested she go out for the local swim team, of which her sister was a member.

"I tried it and after a week I said, 'no way,'" Walsh remembered. "But my parents said to try it for two more weeks. I think they knew I'd change my mind, and I did."

For the first six years, Walsh concentrated on freestyle, but at 14 switched to the backstroke. At 17 she swam 100-meters in 1:02.75 — the fastest time in the world in 1979. She then made the 1980 Olympic team that did not compete in the Summer Games.

The records and medals have since piled up, as she won two golds and a silver in last year's Pan Am games, and set a U.S. record for 100 meters during another meet. But the event Walsh has been ultimately pointing toward all of her 14-year swimming career is just three months away, and she will be faced with having to prove herself all over again.

Once the Olympics are a memory, Walsh plans an accounting career and hopes to remain in the state. She said that the lack of money in professional swimming hasn't bothered her. "I have kids they're not going to swim, I'm gonna start them off in tennis or golf," she said in jest.

But right now, the Olympics are foremost in her mind. "I'd absolutely love to win a gold, but it will be very tough with those East German girls." But there is a dream behind those dark brown eyes, and it is very much alive. "If I could stand up there and have the national anthem played..."

UNC's Wilkinson hitting in an 'unconscious groove'

By LEE ROBERTS
Staff Writer

Todd Wilkinson, North Carolina's senior right fielder, calls his recent batting binge an "unconscious groove."

Head coach Mike Roberts calls it the culmination of months of hard work.

Whatever it is that's causing Wilkinson to hit the ball like he has been since early March, it is working very well. He is hitting .381 and leading the Tar Heels with 10 home runs and 41 RBIs through 41 games.

"I don't really know what I'm doing different," the Plattsburgh, N.Y. native said of his hot streak. This had happened despite a .249 lifetime college batting average coming into the season.



Todd Wilkinson

The 6-3, 210 pounder was struggling early in the year, hitting .184 with no home runs heading into the Purdue game on March 6. He went 3-for-4 in that game, as well as hitting his first home run of the season. Since that game, Wilkinson is hitting .455 with all 10 of his homers and 35 of his RBIs coming in a 27-game stretch. The crowning point of his season came last Saturday in Boshamer Stadium against Georgia Tech, when he hit a towering grand slam in the bottom of the tenth inning to secure a 6-2 victory.

"It really felt good," Wilkinson said of the homer. "As a ball player, you live for those kinds of situations. Last year, I would have wanted nothing to do with that situation, but I feel more relaxed at the plate now. I'm not doing anything different, it's just an unconscious groove."

Roberts said that Wilkinson's off-season work with weights was one of the reasons why the outfielder is hitting more than 100 points better than he ever has.

"Todd has always worked so hard,"

Junior college transfer Paul Will said when he came to North Carolina last fall, Wilkinson served as an inspiration to him and the other new players.

"He lifts you up," Will said. "He gets so much out of every workout. He's always the first one in there lifting weights and the last one out."

Will said that if anyone stressed working on the weights more than Roberts, it was Wilkinson.

"Todd is a great example to the other players," Roberts said. "He leads by his self-discipline and the solid attitude that he approaches the game with."

Hubbard said Wilkinson's work with the freshmen will help the program down the road.

Hubbard said Wilkinson is a great team leader, and he teaches the freshmen how not to tire out by working hard. "Todd is an example of someone who has gone well beyond his potential through hard work."

Scoreboard

Sports Briefs

College playoffs reviewed

KANSAS CITY — A four-man NCAA football subcommittee is expected to submit the findings of a study it is conducting on several proposals for college football playoffs. The findings are expected to be submitted to the full post-season committee, which is meeting here. The subcommittee is not expected to make any endorsements or recommendations, and sources with the full committee are unsure of the impact these findings will have on college football.

Thompson's career on hold

SEATTLE — The Seattle SuperSonics' forward and former N.C. State star David Thompson's professional basketball career took a step back this week when he revealed that a knee injury suffered last month at Studio 54 in New York may keep him out of action the entire 1984-85 season. Thompson suffered two torn ligaments in his left knee, and doctors told him this week that the type of surgery he will need may require a recovery period of up to a year.

Calendar

Today

BASEBALL vs. Wake Forest, 3 p.m. at Boshamer Stadium

Thursday

SOFTBALL vs. Winthrop College, 3 p.m. at Finley field
LACROSSE vs. Duke, 8 p.m. at Astorcraft field

Friday

SOFTBALL at Lady Flames Invitational, Lynchburg, Va.
WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. Duke, 2 p.m., Varsity Courts

Saturday

BASEBALL at Virginia Commonwealth, 3 p.m.
MEN'S GOLF in Tar Heel Invitational, TBA, Finley Golf Course
SOFTBALL at Lady Flames Invitational, Lynchburg, Va.
MEN'S TENNIS at William and Mary, 2 p.m.
MEN'S and WOMEN'S TRACK at Dogwood Relays, Knoxville, Tenn.
WOMEN'S TENNIS at ACC Championships, Winston-Salem

Sunday

FOOTBALL in Blue-White game, 1 p.m. at Kenan Stadium
MEN'S GOLF in Tar Heel Invitational, TBA, Finley Golf Course
LACROSSE at Maryland-Baltimore County
SOFTBALL at Lady Flames Invitational, Lynchburg, Va.
MEN'S TENNIS at Old Dominion, 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S TENNIS at ACC Championships, Winston-Salem
MEN'S and WOMEN'S TRACK at Dogwood Relays, Knoxville, Tenn.

Monday

BASEBALL at Maryland, 2 p.m.
MEN'S GOLF in Tar Heel Invitational, TBA, Finley Golf Course
MEN'S TENNIS at Virginia, 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S TENNIS at ACC Championships, Winston-Salem

THE Daily Crossword by R.M. McWhirk

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | 27 Jonathan Swift, for one | 56 King of Greece | 11 Carrier charge |
| 1 Scrawny animal | 31 Spirited | 60 CIA's cousin | 12 Is in debt |
| 6 Secular | 34 Sonly | 61 Feed the kitty | 15 Good spirits |
| 10 For | 36 Once known as | 62 Caution | 21 Ridge of rock |
| 13 Desert basin floor | 37 Bitter medicine | 63 "Now that —'s there" | 22 Author Zola |
| 14 Philanthropist Cornell | 39 Scarlet | 65 Inhabitants: suff. | 24 Entertainer Danny |
| 15 Cat's nail | 40 Consumed | 66 Greedy | 27 Snoozed |
| 16 Washes | 42 Writer | 67 Inasmuch | 28 Adjutant |
| 17 Shabby | 43 Analis | 68 Bend the head | 29 Soothsayer |
| 18 Detest | 45 "Hum's the —" | 69 Slangy agreements | 30 Manage |
| 19 How — you? | 47 Rebate's relative | 70 Swords | 31 Author Ayn |
| 20 Certain investigators | 49 Ripen | 1 Spread out | 32 Et — |
| 23 New Englanders | 51 Merit | 2 Movies | 33 Agreed |
| 25 Iowa college town | 52 "The — a Nation" | 3 Black bird | 35 Press |
| 26 Fruit drink | | 4 Yes | 38 Display |
| | | 5 Tried to catch the breath | 41 Mad as — hen |
| | | 6 Clark's fellow explorer | 44 Elope |
| | | 7 Arm of Black Sea | 45 Shower |
| | | 8 Babylonian god | 48 Pillow slips |
| | | 9 Choral composition | 50 Lubricate |
| | | 10 — the hands of (is taken) | 52 Ties |
| | | | 53 Singer Marilyn |
| | | | 54 Put — (void) |
| | | | 55 Office cabinets |
| | | | 56 Genesis name |
| | | | 57 Hep |
| | | | 58 Cathedral aisle |
| | | | 59 Stumble |
| | | | 64 Apple seed |



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