Coach to swimmer: no redshirt — yet

By MIKE BERARDINO and DAVE GLENN

Assistant Sports Editor Star swimmer and ACC recordholder Tod Schroeder wants to sit out the upcoming season; UNC swim coach Frank Comfort doesn't like the

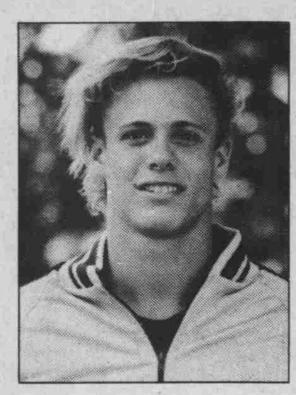
As a result, coach and athlete are engaged in a dispute which, before it's over, could cause one of the most talented Tar Heel swimmers ever to transfer to another school.

Schroeder, a junior who holds the ACC record of 20.16 seconds in the men's 50-yard freestyle, has not taken part in the Tar Heels' preseason practices, which began on Sept. 6. He said his present physical condition and his desire to compete in the 1992 Olympic Games were the major factors in his decision to petition for redshirt status.

"The primary reason for my desire to redshirt this year is the 1992 Olympics," Schroeder said. "I will need to be at my mental and physical best for the Olympic trials. If I continue in my collegiate swimming program through the spring of 1991, the shorter lay-off will help me to be at my best when that time comes."

Comfort said Tuesday night that Schroeder missed a scheduled 11:30 a.m. meeting earlier in the day. At the meeting, the pair planned to further discuss Schroeder's request, which the UNC coach said was first made last spring.

"I assured him in late April, early May, that I would give it very serious thought over the course of the summer . . . but that the likelihood of that (redshirting) happening was fort said. slim to none," Comfort said. "Then on Monday, Aug. 22, he came by my office, and I told him that it would be a mistake for him to think I'd give request.



Tod Schroeder

him an athletic redshirt."

Comfort said while he has in the past granted swimmers medical redshirts, he did not believe in the notion of athletic redshirts. College football programs regularly opt to redshirt freshman players to help those players gain a competitive program." advantage later in their careers.

Another meeting was held on Sept. 9, when, according to Comfort, "At one point in the conversation, (Schroeder) told me he wasn't going to swim this year. Later in the conversation he said that he'd have some other medical information to give to me."

On Tuesday Schroeder was to have delivered "some information for me that would absolutely prove that he had some medical concerns," Com-

Schroeder, a 6-foot-5, 185-pounder from Cincinnati, Ohio, cited physical problems as justification for his

Frank Comfort

"My knees over the last two years have gradually weakened by continuous training and the typical day-today life of an athlete," Schroeder said. "My doctors think that it would be best for me to sit out for a while and do an extensive rehabilitation

In addition, Schroeder said, he is now battling mononucleosis.

The doctors Schroeder referred to work in Dallas, where the young swimmer's father is assistant athletic director at Southern Methodist University.

"There are a lot of factors involved in my situation right now," Schroeder said. "But I would have to say that my status here is very questionable."

Schroeder said he does not want to continue his collegiate career elsewhere.

"I really have no desire to leave Carolina or to hurt the swimming program in any way," he said. "The guys here at UNC have always for ages. I'd like to get it resolved."

supported me and I have no desire to reject them or to leave them hanging. I always want to repay them for what they've done for me.

"This is something that coach Comfort and I have to work out between the two of us." Schroeder plans to meet with Comfort later this

While Comfort said he understood Schroeder's intention to plan for the 1992 Olympics, he said he did not agree with the swimmer's reasoning behind the redshirt request.

"(Participating in the Olympics) is a laudable goal," Comfort said. "He is very, very talented, and four years is a ways down the road.

"I think it's in his best benefit to be swimming for the next two years. If he reaches that high a plane, then, he has two years when he can concentrate solely on swimming."

Comfort said he discussed the prospect of transferring with Schroeder at the Sept. 9 meeting.

"I told him if (transferring) was an option, he needed to consider it within the context of all the rules," the coach said.

Schroeder spent his summer months training in Chapel Hill and New Jersey. At the Olympic trials, he finished an impressive 30th against the nation's best with a time of 23.49 in the 50-meter freestyle event. That time was good enough to add another Tar Heel record to Schroeder's resume.

With the men's swimming season not starting until Nov. 17, Comfort said there is no great hurry to resolve the dispute.

"You want to be fair in this situation, so at this point in time, it would not be fair to say there is a deadline," Comfort said. "But I don't particularly care to have it drag on

Water ski club aims to teach, entertain

By LISA SWICEGOOD

So you've never barefooted across a lake at 50-plus miles per hour as the wind whips across your body. You've probably never slalomed with the precision of a brain surgeon around buoys strategically placed in the water, or perhaps you've never water skied at all.

No problem. The UNC Water Ski Club has turned many a terrestrial Tar Heel into an aquatic creature of Jordan Lake.

The club, now in its second year of existence, started from modest beginnings, but is now rapidly gaining popularity, now boasting over 60 members.

The club encourages skiers of all levels to participate.

"We don't emphasize competition," said Scott Bilbro, president of the club. "We just want people to come out and have fun."

Bilbro said they received "so much interest from freshmen and sophomores" at the beginning of the year but ideally would like to have a little less. The problem with too many members, Bilbro explains, is a lack of skiing time. "Sometimes it's hard to ski as much as you would like."

The club currently has a waiting list which Bilbro hopes can be accomodated by the spring semester.

Annis Marney, a freshman from Nashville, said she joined more for the fun than for the competition. "I joined it on a whim," she said. "I'm glad I did though, because there's no other way I'd get a chance to ski."

Vice president Robbie Morrison said the club tries to emphasize learning.

"We all have a great time, but we make the point of learning something out there, too," he said.

To make learning easier, the club owns a Ski Nautique boat, which is docked at Jordan Lake. Members, in groups of four, may use the boat by reserving 21/2-hour time slots from sunrise to sunset. The boat drivers have to have at least one semester of driving experience with the club and must have been approved by their driver committee.

Morrison points to the availability as a key asset of the club. "For someone like me who's really developed a love for it, having a boat at a lake 12 miles out is a godsend."

Because of the many hours put on the boat, the club purchases a new one every year. Since Easter, Bilbro said, 600 hours have been logged.

Most of the club's funds are financed through a \$3,600 Sports Club Council grant, with help from club dues and fundraising. For additional money last year, the club sold T-shirts and held a raffle.

Although the club emphasizes the recreational aspect of water skiing, members do compete in numerous tournaments throughout the year. To determine who gets to go to each tournament, the club holds periodic competitions to determine which members will fill the women's and men's slots to represent the team.

The club usually pays the members' registration fees and helps out with other expenses as the members often travel extensively.

In addition to California and South Carolina, this year's tournament schedule includes a stop in Alabama as well as the highlight of the year: the collegiate national championship in Sacramento,

And the season is already underway. This past weekend members competed in the South Atlantic Conference Collegiate Tournament at Young's Pond in Angier.

Robbie Mitchell, ranked 19th in the nation in slalom and the current state champion, finished first in the slalom competition. This weekend the team travels to a tournament in Greenville, S.C.

It's 1 vs. 2 again for women's soccer

By JAY REED Staff Writer

If history indeed does repeat itself, the UNC women's soccer team's 4 p.m. game at N.C. State today will be quite difficult.

The Tar Heels have never lost to State, and in the teams' last meeting in 1987 at the inaugural ACC weekend, UNC soundly defeated the Wolfpack 3-0. But often, the score hasn't reflected the difficulty of the

N.C. State, at 6-0 so far this year, has developed into a national power, beating the likes of William and Mary, Colorado College, Cal-Berkeley and, last Saturday, George Mason, by the score of 2-0. All of these teams are currently ranked in the nation's top 20.

Although ranked third behind UNC and Cal-Berkeley for most of the season, State, with its two wins

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has now inched up into the No. 2 spot. This maneuver will force a onetwo showdown once again for the Tar Heels.

UNC head coach Anson Dorrance is confident, but concerned, about his

team's venture to Raleigh. "We can't play the ball in our half," Dorrance said. "Their front six is aggressive and experienced."

Dorrance knows what he's talking about. The Wolfpack front line has a returning sophomore, Fabienne Gareau, who last year was the team's leading scorer, an All-ACC firstteamer and a Soccer America freshman All-American.

Besides Gareau, the Wolfpack will start senior two-time All-American Laura Kerrigan, who holds N.C. State records in career goals and goals in a season, and Jill Rutten, last year's

last week and Berkeley's two losses, team MVP and an all-South now boast strong depth at the 'keeper selection.

> The Tar Heels have nothing to hang their heads about either. Their defense has allowed only two goals all season, and with the performance by Meridee Proost in goal against Cal-Berkeley on Saturday, they can

position as well.

Senior Birthe Hegstad will return to the team for today's match after touring last weekend with the Norwegian National Team. Hegstad will add even more depth to the UNC

Wheezing through a session of aerobics

A friend of mine told me recently

that I needed to get in shape. "Why?" I asked. "I get plenty of

exercise, and I eat right.' "John," she said, trying to be as polite as possible, "Changing the channel from 'Oprah' to 'The Real Ghostbusters' with your toes is not considered exercise, and Cheez Doodles and Goebel's for breakfast is

hardly nutritious." "Sure it is," I countered. "Plenty right - aerobics. of protein."

"You need to do something that's good for you, like running or swimming or tennis or racquetball or . . ."

"But that's work!" "Exactly! And you need to do some work, or else you're gonna end up looking like the Sta-Puft marshmal-

low man." "Let me ask you something," I whispered. "Would you consider it an insult if somebody compared your physique to that of Dusty Rhodes, the American Dream?"

"Uh-huh." "What were some of those exercises

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SHOW TIMES FOR TODAY ONLY

CHAPEL HILL

Opinion

John Bland

again?"

And so it happened that the following week I found myself surrounded in Fetzer Gym by 22,435 females in hot pink leotards. That's

Don't ask me how she convinced me to do it; I'm not real sure myself. I think it had something to do with the "hundreds of hot babes bending into all sorts of lewd positions" comment she used to describe it. And, for the sake of journalistic curiosity, I just had to see for myself.

First of all, there were only two guys there - me, and some guy wearing leg-warmers, if you know what I mean, and I think you do. Secondly, none of those women actually needed aerobics. Every one of them was trim and slim.

So then this woman stood up in front of all of us and smiled. I think she had about 12 more teeth than normal humans, because they could see this smile in Fuquay-Varina. I had to shield my eyes from it. Then she put on a tape and everybody started

bouncing up and down. One of the many things I hate about aerobics is the music. It's disco! That's all aerobics are: all those old stupid disco dances done on 78 speed. You know, the bump, the hustle, plus a couple of Sixties dances like the watusi and the funky chicken. And the music is pathetic! Why can't aerobics be done to good stuff, like Pink Floyd? Like "Comfortably Numb?"



After about 30 seconds of bouncing up and down and waving my arms around, I began to break a sweat. After two minutes, I felt like a lawn sprinkler. Girls were moving farther and farther away from me. There was at least a six-foot radius between me and the nearest person. I was breathing like a Maytag in the spin cycle. My muscles were packing up and heading to Bermuda. And then it happened; then they did it. "It" was the Incredible Toe-Touch sweat.

Exercise. I had forgotten that I was behind them. When I woke up the doctor said

that I had suffered a mild stroke. He advised me not to do aerobics again if I wanted to live past 20.

So now I've decided to stick with weightlifting, which has some advantages over aerobics. First of all, very few women. Guys can do anything disgusting they want, and they can

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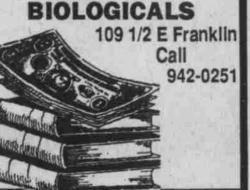
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