

Cocky — and for good reason

Peterson, Andrews lead NCAA-bound women's golf

By DOUG HOOGERVORST
Staff Writer

"I'm very optimistic about this spring season. I have never seen them as fired up going into a season." — Dot Gunnells.

You may ask who Dot Gunnells is and what she is talking about. Well, Gunnells happens to be the North Carolina women's golf coach, and she is spewing with optimism about UNC's upcoming spring season. And rightfully so.

Gunnells, who has led four teams to NCAA Top 20 finishes, has the fifth and 11th best female collegiate golfers in the country and an extremely strong supporting cast. All of this, and the team's successful fall season, has made the Tar Heels the No. 14 team in the country.

Seniors Katie Peterson and Donna Andrews will be the mainstays of the North Carolina team. Peterson was ranked fifth in the NCAA by her fall season play. Andrews owns the NCAA's 11th ranking, finishing only six strokes behind Peterson in the fall.

Peterson came into the fall season with high expectations on her shoulders and she has not disappointed anyone. She was named a preseason first-team All-American by Golf Week magazine and she finished the fall with her best scoring average ever, 74.6. All of her accomplishments have made her UNC's most recognized golfer in the program's history.

In the fall, Peterson won the Memphis State Invitational by a stroke and finished second in the Lady Tar Heel Invitational. She also chalked up a third-place finish in the Pat Bradley Tournament and a sixth-place showing at the Lady Kat Invitational. By no means could her results be construed as disappointing.

Gunnells had nothing but praise for Peterson.

"Katie has a fantastic attitude on the golf course," Gunnells said. "She has all of the mechanics. She has all of the shots in her bag and her attitude is what makes her a great player."

Andrews gives North Carolina a devastating duo of golfing talent. The senior out of Lynchburg, Va., entered the 1988-89 campaign as the 10th-ranked golfer by Golf Week magazine and is currently ranked 11th by the NCAA.

Andrews, like Peterson, had an



DTH/File Photo

Senior Katie Peterson has a winner's attitude, her coach says

outstanding fall. She finished no lower than fourth in the four tournaments UNC played in. Andrews also finished just six strokes behind Peterson with a 75.1 average.

Peterson and Andrews give the Tar Heels a pair of golfing talents that are second to none. And though Peterson is ranked six spots ahead of Andrews, Gunnells feels there really is little difference between the

two.

"One will play number one one week, and the other will the next," Gunnells said. "Katie is number one now because of that last tournament but she only beat Donna by one shot. As far as their golfing talent, they're both equal."

Behind Peterson and Andrews is a strong group of golfers who have worked equally hard in obtaining UNC's ranking. Senior Suzy McGuire and freshman Debbie Doniger finish tied for third on the team through the fall season and expect to contribute in the spring schedule.

However, junior Julie Purdy, sophomores Dayna Baird, Amber Marsh, and Kim Verrecchio, and freshmen Lisa Antonucci and Tara Hipp are pushing for chances to start as well.

There are differences between the male and female team, beginning with conference play. North Carolina's women do not play an ACC schedule since there is no conference to play in. Thus, its primary concern is playing in the NCAA national tournament. However, in the past two years, the team has just missed nationals.

"We have several goals, and one was to finish in the top five of every tournament that we've played

in, and we've done that," Gunnells said. "Our big goal, right now, is to make nationals, to qualify as a team. They only take 17 teams, and we've been the 18th team the last two years."

This year Gunnells sees leadership as a big difference. With Andrews and Peterson expected to start, and McGuire, another senior, having started in the fall, the Tar Heels have a lot of experience. The seniors are teaching the underclassmen.

"It's fantastic to have three seniors, and these three seniors have played all four years," Gunnells said. "And we've been so close these last two years that these seniors are great leaders. They're bound and determined we're going to make it this year."

Gunnells has not set a starting lineup for the team and said that their qualifying scores will determine the five starters. The team's first tournament will take place in Jacksonville, Fla., on the weekend of March 12-15, giving Gunnells a lot of time to prepare.

Women's Golf Roster

Donna Andrews	5-8	150	Sr.	Lynchburg, Va.
Lisa Antonucci	5-4	120	Fr.	Akron, Ohio
Dayna Baird	5-8	135	So.	Dublin, Ohio
Debbie Doniger	5-2	107	Fr.	Greenwich, Conn.
Tara Hipp	5-4	112	Fr.	Gaithersburg, Md.
Amber Marsh	5-6	120	So.	Jamestown
Suzy McGuire	5-10	150	Sr.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Katie Peterson	5-9	150	Sr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Julie Purdy	5-6	118	Jr.	Orlando, Fla.
Kim Verrecchio	5-4	160	So.	Havertown, Pa.

Head Coach: Dot Gunnells

Spring Schedule

March 12-15	North/South Collegiate	Jacksonville, Fla.
March 16-19	McDonald's Betsy Rawls	Austin, Texas
March 30-April 2	Duke Spring Invitational	Durham, N.C.
April 6-8	Lady Paladin	Greenville, S.C.
April 16-18	Woodbridge Intercollegiate	Kings Mountain, N.C.

TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS

TUESDAY

Lacrosse

vs.

Penn State

3:00 PM

Fetzer Field

Hardee's



Spring Perm Special \$45.00

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