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Women netters stomp Boston College, South Carolina

By SCOTT GOLD
Staff Writer

The star will make her comeback soon. The team has two straight wins under its belt for the first time since March 5. They are through with their six-game losing streak. One more victory will put them at .500 for the season.

They have survived the Fool's Day slump.

The North Carolina women's tennis team put together an impressive weekend, falling to Duke 5-1 on Friday, but collecting themselves enough to oust a tough South Carolina team on Saturday and then beat Boston College on Sunday. Both games resulted in a 5-4 tally.

"It feels great to finally win two in a row — both 5-4," said coach

Kitty Harrison. "That's a huge stride forward for us. It puts us close to the .500 mark, which would be another huge step. I think these girls are finally realizing what they can do."

Ann Stephenson, tri-captain of the team and also the number-one seed, has been out with torn ligaments since the team's trip to California on March 12-14.

Without her services, the team quickly put together a six-game losing streak. Recently, however, the Tar Heels finally started to realize that they could do it without her.

"They're finding out what it's like without her, and what they can do," Harrison said. "The girls are all playing in higher seeds than usual, and it's tough. They've really risen to

the occasion, though.

"I can't be anything but encouraged and optimistic."

Without the play of Stephenson, Gina Goblirsch has taken over the number-one spot. The two flip-flopped for the position all of last year, but Goblirsch has been number two almost all year.

She has responded to the pressure of being number one valiantly, however, losing a close match on Friday, 6-4, 6-3, but coming back to win Saturday's and Sunday's matches by scores of 6-3, 6-3.

Coach Harrison has been duly impressed.

"I've really seen her coming together for a long time, and it's really nice to see it happen in reality," she said. "Her attitude is very fun; she's

comfortable out there on the court. She's aggressive and things are really starting to come in place for her.

"She plays points to the hilt. She's serving well, volleying well, and she is playing the whole court. It's really great to see."

With Goblirsch taking over the helm, Spencer Barnes, another one of the senior tri-captains, has moved up into the second position and has responded well also, though she went only 1-2 this weekend. Her record in singles stands at 15-13 for the season, but much of her value to the team has come in her tremendous play in doubles, in which she teams with Goblirsch.

Actually, her doubles play proved to be indispensable on Sunday. With the team ahead 4-2 after singles play,

and three doubles matches to go, B.C. had a chance to come back and win it.

The chances looked good for the Eagles, in fact, in the beginning of doubles play. Goblirsch appeared tired, and was obviously getting frustrated with herself. Barnes, though, came through with pinpoint control to get the Tar Heel duo back in the match.

This appeared to lift Goblirsch, and the two blazed on for a sealing 6-4, 6-1 victory, the only one for the Tar Heels in doubles play.

With three matches coming up this week, North Carolina is looking for a quick return from Stephenson. Any recovery before this weekend, however, is doubtful.

"You know when she gets on the

court, her opponents are going to drop shot her whenever they can," Harrison said.

In any case, mark April Fool's weekend as a turning point for the Tar Heel racketeers. The two wins have given the team a tremendous boost and the confidence needed to close out their season well.

"We feel like we've taken it on the chin, and we've survived," Harrison said. "Actually, it's better than survival — we came out on top. When the players go down in seeds after being up, I hope they feel invigorated, a lot more powerful, instead of a letdown that everything is going to be easier."

"I think we'll feel a big thrust forward, actually. I'm really excited about it."

Women run past Vols; Austin sets triple jump mark

By MARK ANDERSON
Staff Writer

The North Carolina women's track team passed its first major test of the outdoor season by defeating Tennessee, 83-53, at the Radison Classic dual meet in Knoxville this weekend. Coming off an eighth-place NCAA finish indoors, UNC dominated a Volunteer program that consistently ranks in the top 20.

Kim Austin shows no signs of slowing down. The ACC indoor MVP again led the Tar Heels by shattering her own school record in the triple jump. Her jump of 41' 11 1/4" bettered her previous best by more than a foot. The Wilson, N.C., junior also captured the 100-meter hurdles (14.07), finished third in both the long and high jumps and fourth in the 100-meter dash.

Sophomore Kendra Mackey followed Austin's lead and won two events of her own. She ran to victories in both the 100-meter dash (11.91) and the 200-meter dash (23.84). The Catawba, S.C., native also finished fourth in the high jump.

Freshman Rebecca Russell won the 400 (54.98) and took second in the 200 (25.13). Teammate Sharon Couch claimed seconds in both the long jump (19' 11") and the 100-meter dash (12.47). She added a third place in the 100-meter hurdles and a sixth in the 200-meter dash.

Other North Carolina champions included Marta Thacker (high jump), Sonya Thomas (400-meter hurdles) and Mia Pollard (800). Both UNC's 400- and 1,600-meter relay teams were also victorious.

Senior Chrissa Nicholas was the Tar Heels' leading distance runner, finishing second in the 3,000 (10:03.5). She was backed by Jeanne Peterson (third) and Jamie Newnam (fourth). Sophomore Michelle Faherty took third in the 1,500 and sixth in the 800.

Senior Michelle Withers claimed second in the shotput (40' 9") and third in the discus. Sophomore Debbie Mann contributed a second in the discus (121' 3") and third in the shot. The Tar Heels also dom-



Kim Austin

inated the javelin with Donna Culbert and Nicole Hudson finishing second and third respectively. Hudson was also sixth in the 100-meter hurdles.

Two freshmen performed well for UNC. Penny Blackwell finished third in the triple jump, fourth in the long jump and fifth in the 400. Tisha Waller was third in the high jump and fourth in the triple jump.

Junior Shelby Moorman added a third in the 400 and a fourth in the 200. Kari Krehnbrink (800) and Timika Shafeek (400-meter hurdles) picked up a pair of third-place finishes for the Tar Heels.

Junior Tracy Cooke was fifth in three events (100, triple jump, 100 hurdles) and sixth in the long jump. Junior Cammie Putman was fourth in the 400-meter hurdles.

UNC has been competing mainly as individuals at early-season meets, so head coach Dennis Craddock felt this weekend's team performance was important.

"We need more opportunities to come together as a team instead of performing as individuals," he said.

"We have to prepare for our conference and national meets, so this will help us learn how to gear up for those big meets. We had a lot of fun at last week's Raleigh Relays and now it's time to get serious."

Janet Evans: Child turns superstar

By NEIL AMATO
Staff Writer

The back of Janet Evans' blue warmup jacket says FAST in bold red letters. She certainly is that, but cocky is a word that doesn't fit her at all.

The letters on the Seoul triple-gold medalist's back actually stand for her club, the Fullerton Aquatic Swim Team, for whom she competed in last week's Short Course National Championships at UNC's Koury Natatorium. And Evans would be the last person to say she's tops in the water.

"I don't like to make predictions," the Placentia, Calif., native said. "I just get in the water and swim."

What a refreshing statement from an athlete who, in today's society, is one bright spot among many dark blotches. For example, take the sport of boxing. Yes, Mike Tyson appears to be the best fighter in the world, but does he have to go around saying it? Janet Evans might be the world's best in the pool, but she's never made any comment to that effect.

Evans, who on Saturday before a national cable audience set an American record of 9:25.49 in the 1,000-yard freestyle, is still a kid — a 17-year-old high school senior who still has teen-age worries. For instance, she was slightly upset because she spent her spring break in Blue Heaven, which, for most of last week was the Gray and Rainy Hell. She related her problem to the press.

"Well, it's back to school on Monday," Evans said. "Everybody's going to be tan. And since I finally got to shave my legs, I'll be able to wear shorts. But since my legs are so white, I can't (wear shorts) because I'll be too embarrassed."

Imagine, a performer who holds a handful of world and American records, a trio of gold medals and tons of fame worrying about a lack of UV rays.

And speaking of her latest entrance into the record books, Evans didn't just break the record, she shattered it, cutting nearly three seconds off the old mark.

Besides worrying about the death of sun on her 5-foot-5, 102-pound frame, Evans must also assume the task of being the queen, or shall we say, the princess of American swimming. She enjoys the title, as long as it's for the right reasons.

"As far as being an ambassador for the sport, I like it, especially for the little kids," Evans said. "They always need someone to look up to. Whenever I have a chance to talk to little kids, I do because they're at an impressionable age."

Talking to kids also meant giving autographs at Nationals. Every time she stepped out of Koury's doors, Evans was swamped with pen-and-pad-toting youngsters. She was more than happy to give the adoring fans her signature. But that doesn't go the same for her mother.

"Hurry, Janet, your father's waiting," Janet's mom said as her daughter struggled to finish a Wednesday night signing session.

Despite her mother's nagging and her father's impatience, Evans says her parents have been very supportive throughout her brief but bright career. According to Evans, her father has been her inspiration and her mother has been her agent of sorts.

"My mom booked all my engagements after the Olympics and she did a very good job," Evans said.

One aspect of Janet's life in which her parents will have to be supportive will be her college decision. Evans has her choices narrowed down to Florida, Stanford and Texas, with the latter pair still slated for April recruiting visits. Evans stated that no clear frontrunner exists in the race, especially for a 3.6 student with sports as well as learning on her mind.



Janet Evans — an Olympic gold medalist at the age of 17

"I want to go to a school with good academics as well as a good swimming program," Evans said.

With Stanford's location, academic reputation and the Cardinal's recent NCAA title in women's swimming, look for Evans to pick Palo Alto over Austin and

Gainesville. Despite finding her school decision overwhelming, that's not how Evans described her Olympic experience, at least while she was in Korea.

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Men's tennis walks over Spiders, 9-0

By ERIC WAGNON
Staff Writer

"Next week is a big week for us," North Carolina men's tennis coach Allen Morris said. With that in mind,

the team put itself in a winning frame of mind with 9-0 victories over Furman and Richmond to raise its record to 12-5. UNC dropped only one set Saturday against Furman and equaled that feat Sunday versus Richmond. Furman fell to 12-8 on the season, while Richmond dropped to 8-6.

The wins kicked off what will be a tough week for the Tar Heels. UNC is scheduled to face N.C. State today in a make-up match, then 19th-ranked Tennessee on Thursday and ACC foes Georgia Tech and 10th-ranked Clemson next weekend.

North Carolina played without the services of its number one player, David Pollack, and number four player, Thomas Tanner, in the Richmond match. Pollack was held out of the match so he would not exceed the NCAA's limit of 31 days of competition in a year. Against Furman, Pollack defeated Tawn Harden in straight sets 6-3, 6-4.

Tanner, who also missed Saturday's match, was hampered by a sore wrist strained a week earlier in matches against Maryland and Virginia. Tanner, however, is expected to play today against the Wolfpack.

Don Johnson, UNC's number one player last season, moved up into Pollack's top spot on Sunday to take on Richmond's John Christensen. Johnson struggled early but rebounded for a 7-6, 6-1 win, upping his individual record to 12-4.

Down 5-1 in the first set with Christensen serving, Johnson managed to break Christensen's serve three times while holding serve twice to pull ahead 6-5. Christensen broke Johnson's serve at that point to force

a tie-breaker. Johnson, however, breezed through the tie-breaker to complete his first-set comeback win, 7-6.

"I just got off to a slow start," Johnson said. "I knew I was in the match. It was just a matter of when I was going to get control of it."

After Johnson took control, Christensen was obviously flustered. At one point in the second set, he tossed his racket in frustration toward a Johnson crosscourt winner.

"I had heard a lot about this guy," Johnson said. "If he's on top, then he plays real well. So, if you catch up to him and get on top of him, then he just sort of throws the match."

"I started playing from the baseline a little bit more. I'm normally a serve and volleyer, but things just weren't working. He was passing me. I was just watching the ball go by. I was turning my head 180 (degrees) all the time."

Johnson won Saturday with a similar comeback win over Furman's Morgan Burrington. Johnson lost the first set, but bounced back to pull out a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory.

In the number two singles match, UNC freshman Bryan Jones defeated Richmond's Rob Celona 6-2, 6-1 in a match that was harder fought than the score might indicate. On Saturday, Jones defeated Charlie Reiney of Jacksonville, Fla., 6-0, 6-3.

In the number three slot Sunday, North Carolina's Andre Janasik continued his successful season with a 7-6, 6-2 win over Richmond's Joe Miller. Along with his 6-4, 6-2 win against Furman's Colin Delaney, Janasik's effort for the weekend upped his season record to a sparkling

13-2.

"I had to work on my (service) return," Janasik said. "My return was a little off, but other than that I thought I played pretty well."

Senior Jimmy Weillbaeher defeated Furman's Chuck Anderson 6-4, 6-2 and added another win to his 12-5 individual record with a 6-1, 6-2 pasting of the Spiders' Scott Slobin.

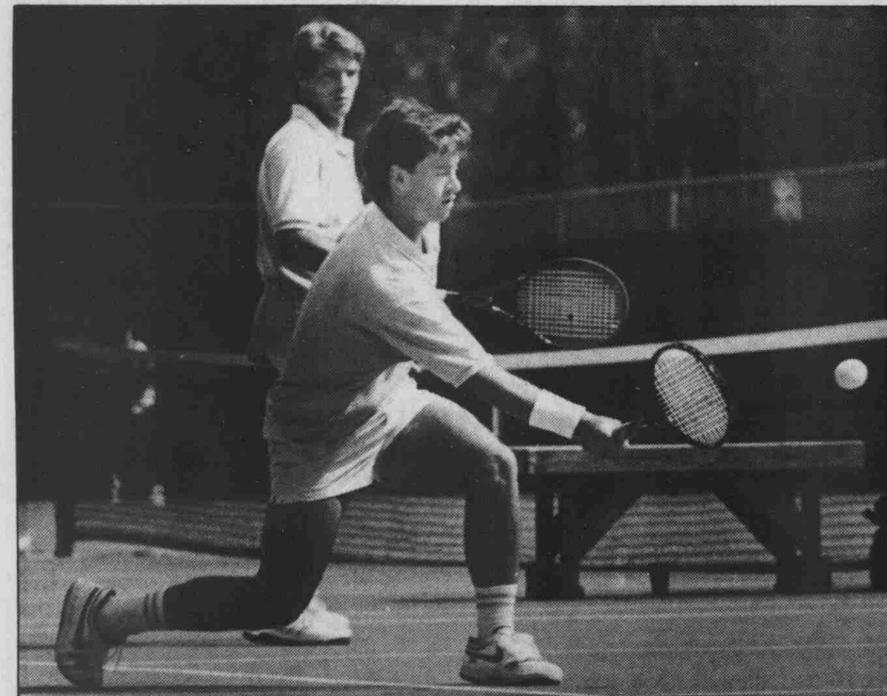
Tar Heels Chris Mumford and James Krege defeated Richmond's Jay Bolus and Tom Murphy, respectively, by identical 6-0, 6-2 scores.

"I think the last two days we played pretty well in singles," Morris said. "We're still working on our doubles. I think that if we keep playing singles like we have been, we'll be all right, but we've got to pick up our doubles."

UNC's top tandem of Johnson and Pollack, currently ranked 11th nationally, did not compete in doubles this weekend. Moving into their slot, UNC's temporary number one team of Janasik and Weillbaeher defeated Richmond's Celona and Slobin 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

UNC's number two doubles team of Krege and Mumford won on Sunday over Murphy and Miller by a 6-1, 6-3 score, while UNC teammates Jones and Joe Frierson won by the same tally over Christensen and Bolus at the number three doubles slot.

Against the Paladins on Saturday, Janasik and Weillbaeher won in straight sets (6-3, 6-3) over Delaney and Harden. Krege and Mumford defeated Burrington and Reiney 6-2, 6-4. Jones and Frierson escaped a close first-set battle but dominated in the second set to win 7-6, 6-1.



UNC's top doubles team, Andre Janasik (front) and Jimmy Weillbaeher, combines for a win Sunday