

UNC Women Seek 6th Straight Title in ACC Championships

BY LEE TAFT
STAFF WRITER

No. 18 North Carolina will host the 18th Annual ACC Women's Swimming and Diving Championships today through Saturday at Koury Natatorium. Preliminaries begin at 11 each morning with finals starting each evening at 7.

The meet will feature No. 25 Clemson, Duke, Florida State, Maryland, N.C. State and Georgia Tech.

North Carolina has stormed through the ACC thus far this season. UNC sits

atop the conference with a league record of 5-0 and an overall record of 10-2.

N.C. State coach Scott Hammond said he thinks UNC will continue its league dominance.

"They're so much better than us," Hammond said. "They are three or four levels above us."

UNC Coach Frank Comfort said his team is looking forward to the meet.

Swimming

Today, 11 a.m.,
7 p.m., Koury
Natatorium

"The team outlook is fantastic," Comfort said. "We are looking forward to doing the best we can. The girls are looking forward to winning again."

The Tar Heels are searching for their sixth consecutive conference title. Leading the way is senior Kari Haag, who is looking to defend her titles in the 50-, 100- and 500-yard freestyles. North Carolina also won all three freestyle events last year.

"Having experience on the team is best," Comfort said. "It is great to have because it spurs others on to do well."

UNC is coming off a 204-95 thrashing

of Virginia on Jan. 20. Junior Cara Dunaway said the Virginia meet really helped the team's mental state.

"We didn't expect the Virginia blow-out," she said. "But beating them the way we did really built our confidence."

Several team members said UNC is trying to prepare both mentally and physically for the competition.

"We're getting psyched mentally," Dunaway said. "Now we are trying to fine tune stuff like our starts and turns to gain as much speed as possible."

Sharing the top spot in the league with

UNC is Florida State. But FSU has only had one dual conference meet, a 107-33 win over N.C. State. Hammond said FSU's presence could shake up the meet.

"They're a big mystery," Hammond said. "Nobody knows what to expect from them, which is hugely in their advantage."

Along with winning another ACC title, the Tar Heels will try to qualify as many swimmers and divers as possible for the NCAAs, held in March.

"We want to qualify a lot of people for the NCAAs," UNC's Tracey Barrett said. "This meet is really a stepping-stone."

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 1

against the Blue Devils since 1922.

"I was just in the right spot at the right time, I guess," Calabria said. "The shot went up — and I think Greg Newton got a piece of the ball — and it came off the rim and I just tapped it in. I was just lucky to be there."

You could say that. After all, Antawn Jamison, who finished with a game-high 23 points and 14 rebounds, had fouled out of the contest more than four minutes before. And UNC's guards were simply outplayed by the Duke frontcourt in the opening stanza. Collins and Jeff Capel combined for 12 more points in the first half than McInnis and Calabria — which accounted for Duke's 12-point lead at the half.

"It's one of those wins you're grateful for," Smith said.

Wednesday's win marked UNC's sixth straight victory over the Blue Devils. The last time Duke won in the Smith Center was 1991. "I was impressed with Duke before the game, and I'm even more impressed with them now," Smith said. "I'm not as impressed with our team as I was before the game."

JAMISON

FROM PAGE 1

victory over Duke.

But for the majority of the game, the Tar Heels floundered without Jamison's presence. Without Jamison's play before his fourth foul, UNC's 12-point comeback would never have been possible. The 6-foot-8 forward finished with a game-high 23 points on 11-of-15 shooting and had 14 rebounds.

With all the hoopla and intensity surrounding any meeting with the Blue Devils, it took a freshman, playing his first game against his new archrival, to establish and settle the offense for the Tar Heels.

"The freshmen have the ability to dominate any night," UNC guard Jeff McInnis said. "Antawn showed that tonight."

While the rest of his teammates repeated the dismal first half seen against Wake Forest on Saturday, Jamison carried the Tar Heels emotionally and on the scoreboard.

He started quickly, scoring UNC's first six points and giving the Tar Heels their only lead until Calabria hit the winning shot. As UNC limped to a 42-30 first-half deficit, Jamison carried the load with 15 of points on 7-of-10 shooting. The rest of the team combined for only 5 of 22 from the field in the opening stanza.

And what was unfathomable was that the Blue Devil defense continually left lanes to the hoop. So even when Jamison didn't take the initial shot, he got easy chances by attacking the glass. He burned Duke for five first-half offensive rebounds and seven overall.

"Sometimes they kind of double-teamed and left me wide open," Jamison said. "But once I (started hitting), they started concentrating on me more. I just able to find the open shots, and the boards kept coming my way."

Before Jamison fouled out, he sparked the second-half comeback. He scored six points in a 12-2 run coming out of halftime that cut the Blue Devils' lead to 44-42.

PATRIOT

FROM PAGE 3

get policy, but we will get to speak with Concord members from all over the country about what they are doing at the local level. "This is the issue that is going to have the largest impact on my generation," McMurry said. Rogers says the Concord Coalition's Zero Deficit Plan, which was published in 1994, is the only one that can balance the budget over the long run.

"Our message is that they need to find a way to compromise in order to secure a balanced budget," Rogers said. "It's time for them to meet together and have, as their goal, a solution to the deficit. Our whole purpose is to educate the voters to the point that they will take action."

Other members of the Concord Coalition from North Carolina attending the Conference are Alan Arnold of Chapel Hill, Bob Bailey of Cary and Bill Long of Durham.



Dexter's not his usual self.

You suspect the **salsa.**

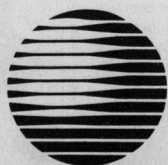
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