

# SPORTS MONDAY

Monday, January 24, 2000

The Daily Tar Heel

**UNC Netters  
Take Swings  
In ACC Play**

Senior Tripp Phillips (left) was one of three UNC tennis players who competed in the round of 16 at the ACC Indoor Championships this weekend. See Page 11.



**INSIDE:**

■ UNC wrestling team picks up home victory against The Citadel. Page 11  
■ Tar Heel track and field teams kick off indoor season in Blacksburg, Va. Page 11

16

## Powerful Cavaliers Stroke Past UNC Swim Teams

By JAMES GIZA  
Staff Writer

Members of the North Carolina women's swimming and diving team huddled together on the side of the pool at Koury Natatorium and chanted at their Virginia foe until the walls echoed with the sound of their exhilarated voices.

"Swimming talent you don't lack, but just remember

<b>Men's Swimming</b>	
Virginia . . . . .	176
UNC . . . . .	124
<b>Women's Swimming</b>	
Virginia . . . . .	158
UNC . . . . .	142

we'll be back," they yelled as one.

If the day's events were any indication, the Tar Heels will undoubtedly be back for the ACC Championships in February. And they won't be for gunning for a close second place.

The 17th-ranked UNC women lost a tough one to the 8th-ranked Cavaliers on Sunday, 158-142. The men, ranked 20th in the nation, also dropped their meet against No. 10 UVA., losing 176-124.

Unlike the women's meet, the men's contest was not in doubt after the first

**Virginia's Moses Upstages UNC's Quinn, Slawinski**  
See Page 11

few events. The Cavaliers (5-1, 3-1 in the ACC) outscored UNC in the opening six races, building a substantial lead that the Tar Heels (5-3, 2-1) were unable to dent.

However, North Carolina coach Frank Comfort said he was encouraged by the effort of his young team.



Tar Heel diver Stephen Krebs won the 1- and 3-meter diving events at Sunday's meet.

"Our goal with the men was to have everybody swim better than they have at basically any time this year," Comfort said. "And to a large extent, we accomplished that."

Brad Kline took first in the 500-yard freestyle and turned in a season-best time for a second-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle. Chris Helin also dropped his season-best in the 200-yard backstroke en route to a first place finish.

The lone double-event winner for the Tar Heels was diver Stephen Krebs, who took first in both the 1-meter and 3-meter diving competitions.

The UNC women, meanwhile, threatened to overtake UVA. the entire meet. Relying on their depth, the Tar

Heels (7-2, 2-1) managed only five first-place finishes but consistently finished second, third and fourth to keep the pressure on the Cavs (6-0, 4-0).

Katie Hathaway led the team with victories in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events as well as the 200-yard individual medley. However, a couple of close finishes proved in the end to be the Tar Heels' undoing.

In the first event, the UNC 200-yard medley relay team of Summer Mack, Katie Hathaway, Christy Watkins and Stefanie Rulis let an early lead slip away before being nipped at the wall by .02 seconds. Three events later, Mack was edged by .08 seconds in the 100-yard backstroke.

The Tar Heels entered the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, trailing 158-142 and needing to finish at least first and third for the victory. When UVA. touched the wall first, UNC knew its hopes were over. But Mack, like the rest of the team, said she was thrilled by her team's performance.

"At an ACC meet depth is the key, whereas here (a dual meet) if you have one or two outstanding swimmers that counts for a lot," Mack said. "Our team has a lot of depth - thirds, fourths and fifths - and that's what counts the most at ACCs."

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

## FSU Feasts on Free-Falling Tar Heels

By HUGH PRESSLEY  
Senior Writer

Consecutive losses, irate fans calling for the head coach's head, dejected players and unanswered questions were supposed to have been North Carolina sports themes that flatlined during the last century. You know, back on Nov. 20 when the UNC football team ended its embarrassing 3-8 campaign in 1999.

But on Saturday at the sold-out Smith Center, the soon-to-be-unranked No. 21 North Carolina basketball team proved head coach Bill Guthridge right: "Losing is contagious."

Playing without senior floor leader Ed Cota - who missed Saturday's game due to a viral infection - the Tar Heels struggled to take care of the ball down the stretch and played playground defense against Florida State en route to a 76-71 loss, UNC's fourth consecutive defeat.

<b>Men's Basketball</b>	
Florida State . . . . .	76
UNC . . . . .	71

**Athletic Wing Men Pose Problems For UNC Defense**  
See Page 13

The loss - UNC's sixth in its last nine games - snapped the Tar Heels' five-game win streak against the Seminoles. UNC (11-8, 2-3 in the ACC) is off to its worst start since 1964-65, when former coach Dean Smith's name might as well have been Rodney Dangerfield.

"One of the bad things is that losing is contagious, and I think we need to feel that we can win," Guthridge said. "We've had times like this in the past - we just have to overcome it. Winning is contagious, too."

So why exactly in the name of Dean Smith haven't the Tar Heels been able to catch that winning fever - the one every knowledgeable hoops aficionado this side of the solar system is accustomed to?

Some say Guthridge, who is 69-22 during his three seasons as head coach, is not capable of managing a team and does not have the personality to motivate his players. When asked during postgame interviews about his coaching future, Guthridge succinctly said, "I haven't even thought about my future."

Others say North Carolina basketball simply lacks the talent and athleticism that

the Tar Heels of old boasted with players such as Vince Carter, Antawn Jamison, Jerry Stackhouse and Rasheed Wallace.

But opinions in Chapel Hill are like sport-utility vehicles: Everyone has one. And opinions, by definition, are merely subjective.

Many, including Guthridge and UNC's players, point to the team's more obvious shortcomings - most notably the team's inability to suffocate opponents on the defensive end and simultaneously make an offensive run of its own.

On Dec. 1, it was Michigan State's Morris Peterson who ran through UNC's 'D' like his name was Marshall Faulk, scoring 31 points in the Tar Heels' first loss of the season. On Jan. 12, it was Wake Forest's Robert O'Kelley who erased North Carolina's 10-point second-half lead with 18 second-half points to hand the Tar Heels the first 'L' of their current four-game skid.

And on Saturday, FSU forward Damous Anderson played the role of Tar Heel killer, scoring 25 points on 9-of-15 shooting - including 4 of 5 from trifecta land. UNC looked as if it was in wonderland at times on defense, giving up 10 3-pointers on 18 attempts and allowing FSU (8-8, 3-2) to shoot 50.9 percent from the floor, 10 percentage points better than its season average.

"We've got to get better individually and as a team and defensively," UNC forward Jason Capel said. "We can score on anybody; we just need to stop people."

Maybe the Tar Heels should first concentrate on not stopping themselves. The Tar Heels - even with Cota in the lineup - have been plagued with turnovers all season, both giving up too many in clutch situations and not creating enough. UNC came into Saturday with a minus-three turnover margin, and sans Cota things weren't much different.

The Tar Heels had 11 turnovers in the second half against FSU, including three in the last four minutes, which thwarted their comeback effort.

"It's hard to lose three close games like (this)," UNC's Brendan Haywood said. "At the end you have a chance to win, and every time it seems like things don't go your way. It's very frustrating."

Freshman Jonathan Holmes made a valiant attempt to end UNC's frustration.

See MEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 13



UNC forward Kris Lang played just 23 minutes in the Tar Heels' loss to Florida State because of a stomach virus.

## Teasley To Rejoin Tar Heels

The North Carolina women's basketball team fell to Iowa State and lost for the sixth time in its last seven tries.

Staff Report

Nikki Teasley is getting closer and closer to suiting up for the North Carolina women's basketball team again.

On Thursday, Teasley popped into the Tar Heel locker room before UNC's 77-67 victory against Florida State and left a note on the team's message board.

Then, just before UNC jumped with No. 8 Iowa State on Sunday, the Tar Heels announced that Teasley - who left the team Jan. 5 - would return to the team on a limited basis.

"Nikki has been working proactively to resolve some personal issues," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said in a press release. "This work is ongoing, and her return to the team will be on a gradual basis. She will watch practice on Monday, and we'll go from there."

"It has not yet been determined when she will rejoin competition, but we're happy that she's going to be back with the team."

But Teasley's return was the only good news for UNC on Sunday as it lost to Iowa State 79-67 - the sixth Tar Heel loss in seven games.

Stacy Frese and Megan Taylor each

<b>Women's Basketball</b>	
UNC . . . . .	67
Iowa State . . . . .	79



UNC point guard Nikki Teasley has missed six games since she left the team Jan. 5.

See WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 11

## UNC Freshman Shines at ACC Indoor

Marlene Mejia will compete today at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center in the final of the ACC Indoor Championships.

By ROLAND HOFFMAN  
Staff Writer

In her first year on the North Carolina women's tennis team, Marlene Mejia is making a big impact.

The fifth-seeded Mejia played her way into the singles bracket finals at the ACC Indoor Championships at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center on Sunday. The match, against top-seeded Adria Engel of Wake Forest, will be played today.

Wake Forest's Anne Marie Milton became Mejia's latest victim in her run to the finals. On Sunday, Milton fell to Mejia 6-3, 6-2.

Mejia defeated Georgia Tech's Bobbie Guthrie 6-1, 7-5 on Friday to advance to the quarterfinals after opening the tournament with a first-round bye.

On Saturday, she lost the first set to

Maryland's Catherine Valantin and then rallied to win 3-6, 6-1, 6-2. Later in the day, she disposed of another Terrapin, Jessica Johnson, in the quarterfinals 6-3, 7-5.



UNC senior Jessica Zaganczyk advanced to the semifinals of the singles consolation bracket.

Mejia's strong play didn't stay in the singles bracket. She paired with junior Erin Niebling in doubles and moved to the quarterfinals. The duo played the Clemson pair of Laurence Javet and Anna Savitskaya on Sunday. The Tiger pair won en route to a berth in today's doubles final.

Fellow UNC freshman Kendrick Bunn gave a strong performance as well, advancing to the semifinals of the singles consolation bracket. The No. 2 seed, Janet Bergman of Wake Forest, topped Bunn to reach the finals.

"Kendrick and Marlene have really played well," UNC coach Roland Thornqvist said. "The freshmen are going to be a key for us this year."

The great play did not stop at the first-year players. Senior Jessica Zaganczyk moved into the finals of the singles consolation bracket after winning two matches on Sunday. She will face Bergman for the championship today.

"Jessica has come on strong and probably played her best match of the tournament today," Thornqvist said. "We made some tactical changes, and Jessica was able to execute them and it paid off."

The event has been dominated by Wake Forest. Six Demon Deacons reached the round of 16, including Milton and Engel. The Deacons also had two of the final four teams in doubles play.

Along with having players in both singles finals, the Deacon duo of Engel and Bea Bielik advanced to the doubles final. They face Javet and Savitskaya today for the title.

Poor play in Friday's opening round eliminated many Tar Heel players. Four

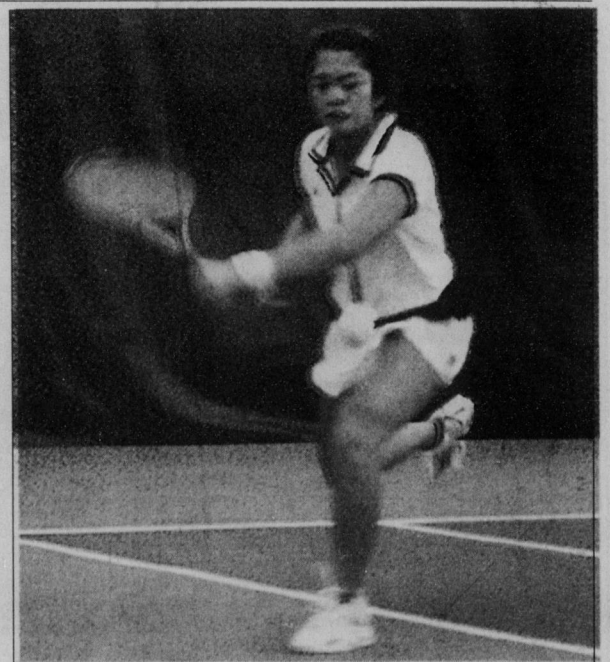
doubles teams moved to the round of 16, three of whom had first-round byes. Mejia and Niebling were the only pair to move any further.

UNC bounced back, though, with strong play in the singles consolation bracket. Zaganczyk and Bunn reached the singles semifinals, and junior Kristin Koenig advanced to the quarterfinals.

"We sort of struggled a little bit the first day," Thornqvist said. "I don't think we were real match tough. We had a few kids who hadn't played a match since October. I think it showed a little bit, but we got better as the tournament went along."

The quick start by the younger players has not surprised Thornqvist, he said. He credits their play to the strong leadership that the older players have provided.

"To have good freshmen, you've got to have good seniors," Thornqvist said. "So far, the seniors have done a great job helping the freshmen out, and that has been a key."



UNC's Marlene Mejia will play Wake Forest's Adria Engel in today's final.

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.