UNC, Watkins Move to Front

By JAMES GIZA

Move over Sue Walsh. Make a little room for Christy Watkins.

Watkins, a freshman, powered the North Carolina women's swimming and diving team to a first-day lead in the ACC Championships on Thursday in Koury Natatorium. UNC racked up 246 points with defending champion Virginia close behind at 231.50 points.

The Tar Heels started the meet with a win in the 200-yard freestyle relay that surprised everyone in attendance -

"We were totally expecting to be sec-d," said UNC swimmer Katie Hathaway, who swam the second leg. We were planning on it actually.'

Trailing the Cavaliers by what seemed to be an insurmountable gap, the Tar Heels figured they would just have to settle for chasing Maryland for

Robeson County officials then

pressed conspiracy charges against Hatcher six weeks after the first trial.

Hatcher was sentenced on Feb.14, 1990,

to 18 years in prison for the charges. He left prison in May 1995 after

second in the relay. Watkins had other plans.

Swimming the anchor leg, Watkins found herself in third with only 50 yards left. However, she kicked into another gear on the last lap, nipping the Cavs at the wall by .38 seconds.

"I just wanted to get up there and swim the fastest 50 free I possibly knew how to swim," Watkins said.

Watkins' second crack at 50 yards

wasn't too bad either.

In the open 50-yard freestyle,
Watkins kicked her way to a gold medal and an NCAA-qualifying time of 22.66

– more than a second faster than her previous career best.

But her final performance topped

The Tar Heels capped the evening with a strong victory against the Cavaliers in the 400-yard medley relay. Watkins swam leadoff and celebrated along with her teammates after Stefani

being diagnosed with AIDS, according

to the American Indian Movement Web

Rulis touched the wall first for the win.

It wasn't until later that she and the rest of the team learned the astonishing news. Watkins' split in the 100-yard backstroke of 54.27 was a new ACC record. The previous holder? Walsh, the legendary Tar Heel swimmer who had held the record since 1983

"That's awesome," Watkins said of the record. "That's a very big honor because (UNC coach) Frank (Comfort) always talks about her.

"I was actually kind of unhappy with that race because I swam a really bad last 25 (yards), so I think I could probably do better tomorrow.

Tomorrow - that's when the championships resume. The Tar Heels never expected to be leading after the first day. And no one expected Christy Watkins to suddenly burst onto the scene.

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

Hatcher was put under house arrest until 1997. He then returned to Robeson County to continue his activism, according to the Eddie Hatcher Defense Committee Web site.

His most recent crimes were the shooting of Locklear and allegedly murdering McMillan both in May 1999. After the attempted murder of Locklear, officials released a search warrant for Hatcher, arresting him June 1.

Robeson County District Attorney Johnson Britt sought the death penalty for the alleged murder of McMillan

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HATCHER

generate its own funds

"Hopefully, after a semester, schools will know who we are, and we'll have a reputation good enough so that when we go into schools, they will be able to pay us," Shultz said. "But at first we have to kind of prove ourselves to the

CORT is now casting its first production, "Rapunzel." Actors will rehearse for about three weeks and

then perform in elementary schools. Cast members must have flexible

schedules to allow them to perform during the school day.

"Because it's not a play on campus, it's not going to take up as much time or the same kind of time that a (University) play would take up," Shultz said. They both said that despite the demands of heading a theater group, they still kept up with school and other activities.

"Because we both have been doing theater for so long, we knew this was going to happen, and we kind of

planned for it," Shultz said. Shultz and Sparkman said they hoped the program would continue long after they graduate. Plans for the future include incorporating a larger cast, buying a van to transport large sets to schools and finding immediate help with the technical side of theater production.

"We're totally open to anything," Shultz said. "This program could take all kinds of different forms."

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SCHOOL

Waldon outlined steps he wanted the board to take in order to move the

rocess forward.
"We need a follow-up report from the superintendent and his staff," he said.
"We also need to address what is the optimum size of school as well."

Board member Maryanne Rosenman said it was crucial to build a school in a densely populated area with children.

"I know a lot of parents who felt it was important to look at population in the school districts," she said. "We need to see which area is growing – we don't want to build a school where students will have an hour bus drive to get there.

Rosenman said the northeast district in Carrboro had no nearby schools to

cater to the students

Scroggs said the issue of school owth would become an even hotter

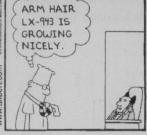
topic in the future.
"Student growth and student projection will be the most important (issues)," he said. "We are talking millions of dol-

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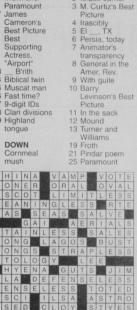
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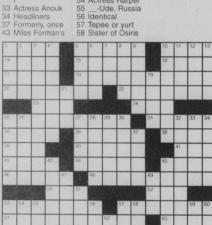
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