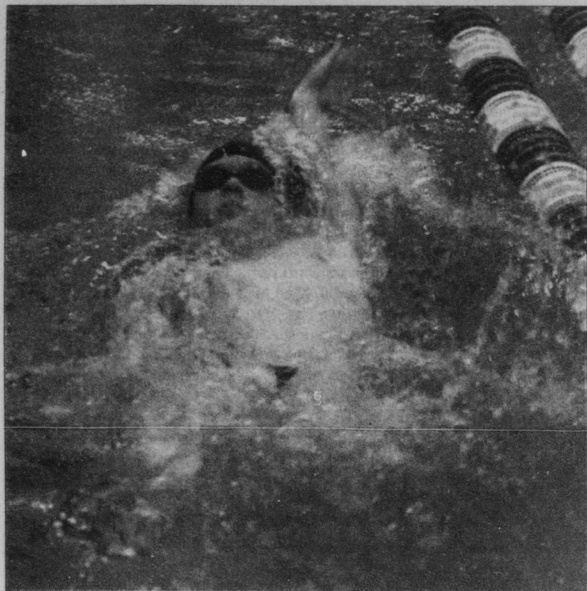


Tar Heels Beat Butler, Stay Perfect

UNC senior attackman Chase Martin (left) had three goals and an assist as the Tar Heels defeated Butler 13-7 Saturday at Fetzer Field. UNC is 2-0 this season. See Page 8.



INSIDE:
 ■ Softball splits four in tourney. Page 9
 ■ Irish knocks off women's tennis. Page 8
 ■ Men's golf tees it up in Puerto Rico. Page 9



Tar Heel sophomore Chris Helin competes in lane six during the finals of the 200-yard backstroke. Helin finished fourth with a time of 1:48.18.

UNC Men Fail to Capture Banner

By JAMES GIZA
 Staff Writer

On the far wall above the starting blocks in Koury Natatorium, 26 banners hang in Carolina blue and white — 14 on the top, 12 on the bottom.

All but four of the banners commemorate the ACC titles the North Carolina swimming and diving teams have garnered under coach Frank Comfort — 12 with the women, 10 with the men. The other four celebrate various achievements, including the Tar Heel men's 14 straight Southern Conference championships from 1940-1953.

A banner for the women's ACC victory on Feb. 19 will soon fill one space on the bottom. But the 28th and final spot will remain bare.

Despite turning in many of their best performances of the season, the Tar Heel men couldn't match the depth and speed of No. 9 Virginia, finishing second to the Cavaliers 801-662.5 in the ACC Championships on Saturday at Koury.

"We were defeated by perhaps the best team in the Atlantic Coast Conference over the last 20 years," Comfort said.

N.C. State edged Florida State for third, 507.5-488.5, and Maryland rounded out the top five with 384.5 points.

The lone gold medal for UNC came courtesy of freshman Sean Quinn in the 200-yard breaststroke. Heavy favorite Ed Moses of UVA — who could threaten the world record in the 200-meter breaststroke at Olympic trials this summer — was disqualified in the preliminary rounds Saturday morning.

Quinn took full advantage of the situation, turning in a school-record time

of 1:57.90 for his first ACC medal.

"I thought maybe when I was a senior I might have a chance," Quinn said. "Circumstances changed in the morning — I had my chance and I just went for it."

The Cavaliers had even more chances — and capitalized on almost all of them. Leading the way for UVA was senior Austin Ramirez, who captured individual golds in the 200, 500 and 1,650-yard freestyles. With the victories in the latter two events, Ramirez became the second man in ACC history to capture gold four years straight in two different events.

Gold medal performances by UVA senior Doak Finch (400-yard individual medley, 200-yard butterfly) and freshman Chris Moussetis (200-yard backstroke, 200-yard IM) contributed to the Cavaliers' lopsided win.

"We were out-gunned, but we did the most we could do," said UNC senior David Weeks, who touched third in the 200 butterfly. "It's really frustrating, but it's not like we just laid down."

Cavalier coach Mark Bernardino

knew exactly where to credit his team's recent surge — North Carolina. "They've been so good we've had to try to build our program and bring it up," he said. "That's what makes the league better."

UNC had won the previous six ACC titles before UVA snatched it last year. This weekend's finish marked the first time since 1987 that the Tar Heels went more than two years without winning the championship.

Comfort, for his part, didn't appear too worried that the Cavaliers' streak would continue much longer.

"Every couple of years somebody rises up in the conference and does a superb job and beats us," he said. "And we make our adjustments. You look at — in 12 years — what our men have done and in 12 years what our women have done, and it sort of speaks for itself."

The banners do speak for themselves. But the wall is missing something for now.

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

Tar Heels Get Revenge on Devils

By MIKE OGLE
 Assistant Sports Editor

North Carolina guard Juana Brown made a key decision with 3:16 remaining in Sunday afternoon's women's basketball game against No. 9 Duke.

She decided to take the ball to the hole and consequently take the Tar Heels to a 73-64 victory.

"At the time, I wasn't contributing on offense as much as I could have, and I wasn't driving at all for some reason," Brown said. "That's what I had to do, just make up my mind and drive."

Brown drove to the block from the left wing and banked home a right-handed runner. Twenty-two seconds later she got more respect and space on the perimeter, and point guard Nikki Teasley found her in the left corner. Brown dropped a 3-pointer on the Blue Devils, and in a flash the Tar Heel lead had sprung from one to six to the delight of the season-high 8,654 fans at Carmichael Auditorium.

Brown also hit two free throws down the stretch to give her seven points in the final 3:16 of the game. She finished

with 13, hitting 3-of-7 3-point attempts.

"Our 'Big Three,' we call them — (LaQuanda) Barksdale, Nikki and Juana — those kids have got to have big games on a day like today," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said.

The Tar Heels (16-11, 8-8 in the ACC), however, might want to consider adding Jackie Higgins to that group after her second-half effort.

She came off the bench to record a double-double, scoring 10 points and snatching a team-high 10 rebounds. All of her points came in the second half, and seven of her boards were after halftime.

UNC, 10-2 in games in which it out-rebounds its opponents, was outdone 20-15 on the boards in the first half. But Hatchell made certain to address the problem during intermission.

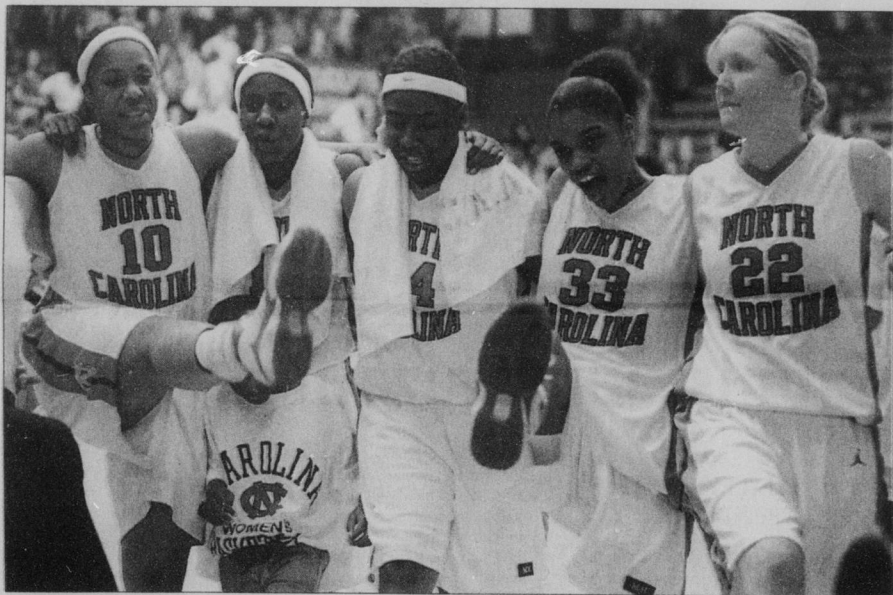
"I told them, 'One word for the second half is rebounding. If you win the boards, you'll win this game,'" Hatchell said.

The Tar Heels, especially Higgins, took their coach's advice to heart and came out focused on the task, beating Duke (23-5, 12-4) 27-13 on the glass in the half.

"Most of the time if we're down (in rebounding), we run after the game is over," Higgins said.

See WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 11

Women's Basketball	
Duke64
UNC73



Members of the North Carolina women's basketball team celebrate their 73-64 victory against No. 9 Duke at Carmichael Auditorium on Sunday. The win improved UNC's record to 8-8 in ACC play and 16-11 overall.

Balanced UNC Sinks Pirate Ship

The North Carolina baseball team improved to 13-0 and picked up the 2,000th win in UNC history this weekend.

By JOE DISNEY
 Staff Writer

Success in college baseball doesn't always come from the same source every game.

In North Carolina's three-game sweep of Seton Hall this weekend at Boshamer Stadium, the still-undefeated Tar Heels couldn't have proved that any better.

UNC used a combination of pitching, hitting and timely defense to defeat the scrappy Pirates (0-3).

"We haven't been spectacular in any phase of the game," UNC coach Mike Fox said. "We've made mistakes, but we just haven't made them at critical times."

The Tar Heels (13-0) never trailed in Sunday's 7-5 victory, making key plays on big swings by Ryan Earey and Tyrell Godwin. In the bottom of the fourth, Godwin drilled a two-run home run to give UNC a 5-2 lead. He went 3-for-4 in the game with three RBI.

Earey, who totaled 10 RBI on the weekend, drove in Dan Moylan in the seventh to give the Tar Heels their final run of the day and a two-run cushion.

The lead was appreciated by reliever Derrick DePriest, who pitched the final 2 1/3 innings for his third save. DePriest stifled a rally in the seventh when he got Ray Navarrete to fly to center with runners on the corners and two out.

UNC freshman Scott Autrey (3-0) picked up the win from a five-inning starting performance in which he gave up five hits and three earned runs.

Saturday's 15-8 win came from the usually unbeatable combo of explosive hitting and timely defense.

The majority of the offensive output came from the designated hitter Earey, who drove in seven runs with two singles, a two-run homer and a sac fly to right.

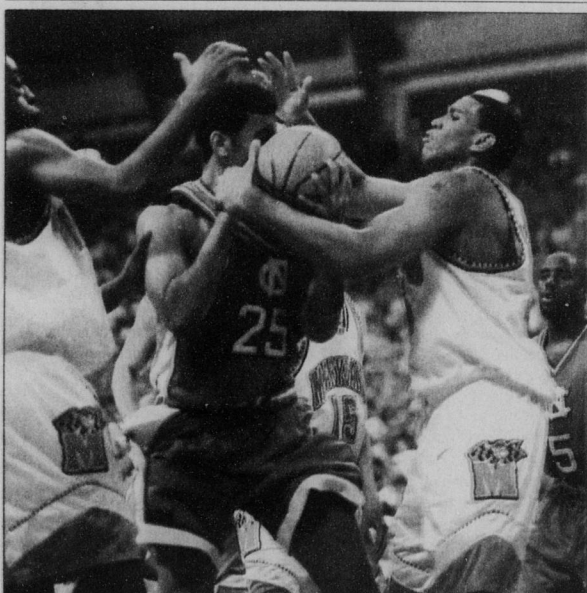
"My teammates are getting on base and giving me the chance to put the ball in the air and maybe get a base hit and score some runs," Earey said. "I'm just looking to make contact."

Earey has made more than just "contact," going 6-for-11 this weekend with two home runs and two solid pitching outings in setup for DePriest.

UNC's pitchers induced five double plays to wipe out offensive spurts. In the end, senior B.J. Finnerty picked up the win in relief of Chris Elmore.

Tar Heel pitching dominated on Friday as UNC took an 8-0 victory, the 2000th win in program history. Lefty Eric Henderson went seven innings, allowing no runs and striking out five.

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North Carolina forward Jason Capel battles Maryland's Lonny Baxter, right, in the Terrapins' 81-73 win at Cole Field House on Saturday.

Dixon, Terps Topple Tar Heels

Maryland guard Juan Dixon scored 18 second-half points to help the Terrapins avenge a loss to UNC on Jan. 27.

By BRET STRELOW
 Assistant Sports Editor

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland didn't want to depend on the 3-point shot as a major source of offense against North Carolina.

The Terrapins hoisted up 27 trifectas in UNC's 75-63 win on Jan. 27, and since then had been determined to feed the post.

But the perimeter suited Juan Dixon just fine Saturday.

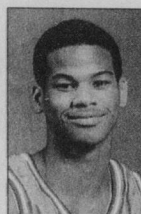
Dixon caught fire from behind the arc in the second half, drilling four 3-pointers en route to 18 points to lead

the Terps to an 81-73 victory against UNC at Cole Field House.

Dixon, who finished with a team-high 23 points, carried the Terrapins on his back during crunch time. He took five of Maryland's last eight field goal attempts and scored 11 points in the final 7:10.

"I was having a lot of fun," Dixon said. "That's why I think I'm playing so well right now."

Dixon picked an opportune time to be an assassin. Less than five minutes into the second half, North Carolina (17-11, 8-6 in the ACC) sliced a 10-point Terrapin lead to six when Joseph Forte, who finished with 26 points, knocked



Freshman guard Joseph Forte scored a game-high 26 points on 11-of-16 shooting and blocked two shots.

down a short jumper.

After a Maryland timeout, Dixon drilled a 3-pointer, and UNC wouldn't get within six the rest of the game.

The Terps (21-7, 10-4) were able to maintain their lead by containing Forte for a large chunk of the second half. After Forte's jumper, he went 11:34 without attempting another field goal.

"Forte is a great player, and it ain't easy guarding him," said Dixon, who shouldered much of that burden. "I just wanted to go out there and contain him."

The Terrapins didn't do much to contain Forte in the first half. He was a one-man wrecking crew, hitting 6-of-9 shots to pace the UNC offense with 14 points.

"Joseph has certainly done a good job, and he's improving a lot," UNC coach Bill Guthridge said. "We're certainly glad that we have him."

Forte had to make up for a dormant UNC post attack. The Tar Heels amassed only six points in the paint in the first half.

See MEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 11

Men's Basketball	
UNC73
Maryland81

Strong Performances Help UNC Gymnasts Vault Past Tribe

By BRAD BRODERS
 Staff Writer

As North Carolina opened its meet against William & Mary on Friday night at Carmichael Auditorium, UNC gymnastics coach Derek Galvin was worried.

Fritzie Cathcart, North Carolina's sixth vaulter, was out with a back strain. The Tar Heels, as a result, went with

only five vaulters in the meet, meaning each vaulter's score would count.

There was little margin for error, but UNC stayed focused, defeating the Tribe 194.200-189.425.

North Carolina overcame its lack of depth in the vault, recording a score of 48.150 as a team to grab an early lead it would not relinquish.

"We didn't have Fritzie in the lineup, which meant that everybody had to do a good vault," Galvin said. "So once we got through vault, I thought we were off to a strong start."

After overcoming adversity on the vault, the Tar Heels performed solidly in their remaining events.

Brooke Wilson finished first in the all-around, amassing a score of 39.400, nearly tying a career mark of 39.425 that she set against Rhode Island on Jan. 29.

Monica Middleton, who finished second overall with a score of 38.825, set a personal record in the all-around.

"I was pleased with our team score," Galvin said. "Brooke and Monica both hit every event, and we had a lot of people with a lot of strong performances."

After UNC completed both its beam and bars routines superbly, the Tar Heels just needed a sound performance in the floor exercise to seal the victory.

The Tar Heels swiftly obliged.

Led by Wilson and Julie Pasqualini, UNC scored a 48.525, unleashing a dazzling set of routines. Pasqualini, in receiving a score of 9.800, performed a routine mixed with energy and enthusiasm that energized the crowd of 460.

Wilson scored a 9.900, highlighted by a repeat performance of the full-in, which the junior introduced last week.

As the centerpiece of Wilson's routine, the full-in consists of a double backflip with a full twist.

Now, with three meets remaining and the EAGL championships in the near future, the Tar Heel gymnasts are peaking at the right time.

"We're doing great; every meet we've gotten a little better," Wilson said.

"We have three more meets, and the team is trying to go higher and higher."

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Gymnastics	
W&M189.425
UNC194.200