

# Tired Tar Heels Persevere Against 'Pack

By KELLY LUSK  
Assistant Sports Editor

RALEIGH — Sometimes things don't have to start off perfectly to end well. Four months ago, North Carolina's women's swimming and diving team lost to No. 1 Georgia in its first dual meet of the season. The Tar Heels haven't lost since. UNC overcame season-end exhaustion and preserved its perfect conference record Friday by knocking off N.C. State 149-92 in its last dual meet of the season. "It's a really long season," junior Summer Mack said. "Everyone is in that

Women's Swimming	
UNC	.....149
N.C. State	.....92

middle section right now between being rested and not rested, so to get up and swim and have energy to do that is hard to do." The No. 8 Tar Heels' season began back in October, and the women have competed virtually every weekend since. But the longevity of its regular season and the hot temperature in the pool couldn't stifle UNC. The Tar Heels (8-1, 5-0 in the ACC) claimed nine victories in 11 events. "It's not really that great of a pool, as far as its conditions," Mack said. But Mack didn't let the lacking Wolfpack facility get to her. Mack placed first in the 100-yard butterfly and swam the third leg of both the 200 and 400 medley relay teams.

"It's not a bad facility, but comparatively speaking to what we're going to be swimming in at ACCs, it gives us a lot to look forward to as far as our times improving," Mack said. Co-captain Erika Acuff felt a little off of her game as well. Despite this, the senior made sure she went out on top. In her last dual meet of her career, she was the only Tar Heel to win two individual events. "I'm pretty beat up and really tired," Acuff said. "I didn't feel very good today comparative to the other meets I've had in the past couple weeks. So I was pretty happy with my swims." Acuff nailed the competition in the 500 freestyle with a time of 4 minutes, 55.32 seconds and won by a one-second margin in the 400 individual medley

(4:20.06). Junior Katie Hathaway's 100 breaststroke performance (1:03.98) drowned any Wolfpack swimmer's hopes of challenging her dominance in the event. Hathaway said she is confident that UNC's undefeated conference record is telling of how they will defend its title in the ACC Championships Feb. 15 and 16 in Virginia. "I would say our ACC performances are a pretty good indicator," Hathaway said. "But more than that are the times everyone's been swimming. "Everyone's been improving at every single meet. That's much more of an indicator than winning dual meets." The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

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and half. They finished the game with 38.6 and 33.3 marks, respectively. Meanwhile, North Carolina tied a season-high for 3-pointers made with nine, and four Tar Heels racked up impressive individual performances. Guards Juana Brown and Coretta Brown notched 20 points apiece and dished out 17 combined assists. LaQuanda Barksdale (12 points, 14 rebounds) and Candace Sutton (18 points, 11 rebounds) both recorded double-doubles. Sutton's double-double was the first of the freshman's career. "They're not a team that you can say, 'OK, we're going to do this with this person and this with that person (defensively)," Curtis said. "They've got five really good players on the floor with their starting lineup, and when they sub, they've still got five really good players on the floor." UNC (12-9, 6-5), loser of three of its last four games coming into Sunday, was able to put all the pieces together against WFU. The Tar Heels committed

a season-low 11 turnovers while assisting on 22 of their 26 buckets. "I feel like there are some little things we're doing one or two or three percent better than we were doing two or three weeks ago," UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said. Hatchell said those "little things" included defense, rebounding, confidence and penetration. Those attributes, along with the emergence of Sutton in the middle, made the Tar Heels a notably different team than when it lost to the Deacons on Jan. 4. Said Hatchell, "Charlene said to me even before the game, 'Man, y'all are a different team than when we played y'all earlier.'" The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.



Senior guard Juana Brown scored 20 points and tallied eight assists in the Tar Heels' 72-60 victory.

## WRESTLING

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With 30 seconds remaining, Byers still trailed 9-7, but Alexander was gasping for air. Though his wrestler trailed, North Carolina coach Bill Lam knew Byers was prepared for this situation. "We're in pretty good shape," Lam said. "And if it comes down to the end, I like to think our conditioning will make a difference." With seven seconds left, Byers pounced on Alexander, performing his third takedown of the period and tying the match 9-9. He rolled over Alexander, putting him on his back and earning two points for a near fall with four seconds left in the match. Byers won 11-9. UNC's strong start and the performance of its stalwarts, Corey Bell (174) and JohnMark Bentley (149), allowed it to overcome an injury to Jake Reynolds (165), which gave the Cavaliers six points. Bell and Bentley each won with ease, 10-1 and 10-3, respectively. "JohnMark and Corey stay the same. Those guys are doing a good job," Lam

said. The most dominant performance of the match came from redshirt freshman Chris Collins in the 125-pound weight class. He won 17-2 against Ryan Stewart, who was forced to take a long look at the ceiling of Carmichael Auditorium during the third period. Because the margin of victory exceeded 14, the win earned the Tar Heels five points, giving them an 8-0 lead heading into Byers' dramatic match. The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

## MEN'S SWIMMING

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taking first with a time of 46.43 seconds. The team swam past the Wolfpack in the 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay. In the 200, the men finished first and second after the N.C. State relay was disqualified for a false start. The "A" team of Kert Johnson, Sean Quinn, Sebastien Moity and Kevin Erndl finished in 1:31.99. The "B" team of Jimmy Owens, Chris Helin, Greg Johnson and Michael Chenier touched in 1:35.16. The 400 relay members showed just as much determination, finishing first and second in their event with times of 3:08.17 and 3:10.03, respectively. "We did a really good job coming out and just swimming our last meet, especially for our seniors who did really well," Chenier said. "Our focus was to come out and do our best before ACCs." In the diving competition, Stephen

Krebs followed up a second-place score of 284.10 in the 3-meter with a score of 301.35 to claim first place in the 1-meter. "I didn't have my best meet on 3-meter," Krebs said. "I was pleased with how I dove on 1-meter." UNC's win was a good omen for the ACC championships, which start Feb. 22. "The ACC championships and the NCAA championships are what we do everything for," Comfort said. "This whole scenario we've been through is just a series of quizzes, and now we go to take the final exam." With only one loss to defending ACC champion Virginia during the conference season, not even a computer meltdown could keep the Tar Heels from passing their last quiz. The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

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