



TODAY @ Carolina

Women's Lacrosse vs. William & Mary

6pm at Henry Stadium

**Gymnastics vs. Towson,
William & Mary**

7pm at Carmichael Auditorium

FREE T-SHIRTS!

saturday

Wrestling vs. Appalachian State

12pm at Carmichael Auditorium

**Wrestling vs. Gardner Webb,
George Mason**

2pm at Carmichael Auditorium

Softball vs. South Carolina

2pm at New Softball Complex
off Hwy. 54/Raleigh Rd.
behind General Administration Building

sunday

Women's Lacrosse vs. Davidson

1pm at Henry Field

Men's and Women's Fencing

NCAA Championship

tuesday

Baseball vs. UNC Wilmington

3pm at Boshamer Stadium

wednesday

Baseball vs. Elon

3pm at Boshamer Stadium

**Men's and Women's Track -
UNC Last Chance**

3pm at Eddie Smith Field House



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Softball Aims for ACC Repeat

By AARON FITT
Assistant Sports Editor

The first games of the 2002 season were cause for a team dinner for the North Carolina softball team.

But the meal was not celebratory. After UNC began its season with a disappointing 1-4 trip to the Gator Classic in Florida, senior co-captains Natalie Anter and Kelly Ramsey invited the team to their house to discuss expectations.

"We got together and we had a pot-luck dinner," said UNC outfielder Rosie Gustavson. "We ate and we talked for about two hours about goals we wanted to accomplish for the season, and we talked about how at the end of the year we wanted to make sure that there was nothing left behind."

"At the end of the day, we don't want to be able to say, 'Maybe I should have done this,' or 'Maybe I should have done that.'" While the Tar Heels were not without regret following their Feb. 8-10 foray to the Sunshine State, at least now they know where they need to improve.

Perhaps the biggest question mark for the defending ACC champions is their pitching. Last year's staff is completely gone, replaced by three freshmen and senior transfer Shannon Walsh.

Walsh, who has been to the College World Series with Washington, is

expected to anchor the rotation. But there will be a lot of pressure on the freshman trio of Ashley Allen, Brandi Griffin and Erica Ennis to throw quality innings.

Anter, the fourth-year starting catcher, is optimistic about the new pitching staff.

"The important thing is just getting used to what they want to throw in certain situations and what their best strike-out pitch is," Anter said. "We've been working really hard on that, especially since three of them are freshmen, and I think they're doing a fine job."

Anter holds North Carolina's all-time home run record with 19 and will be the heart of a potent batting order. Ramsey and freshman Jessica Young are expected to provide power before and after Anter in the lineup.

But everything starts at the top of the order. The Tar Heels have a lot of speed and should be able to manufacture runs if their speedsters can get on base.

Outfielders Tiffany Tolleson and



Senior catcher **Natalie Anter** is UNC's all-time home run leader and will anchor the middle of the order.

Quinn Porter bring base-stealing ability to the top of the lineup, and Gustavson and infielder Dionne Streeete have the ability to beat out infield hits lower in the lineup.

"When Tiffany gets on she is a huge offensive threat with stolen bases," said UNC coach Donna Papa. "She is extremely fast, one of the fastest players we've ever had."

Tolleson's speed allows her to cover a lot of ground in the field, heading a solid defensive unit. The swift outfield - Tolleson, Porter and Gustavson - has the ability to take away many potential extra-base hits.

"Our outfield is so quick and so talented and so athletic," Gustavson said. "Definitely they're the best of any of the four years that I've been here, and I'd be willing to say the fastest in the ACC."

The infield defense is somewhat less stable because a number of players are adjusting to new positions. Shortstop Emily Price was in the outfield last year, Streeete has been shuttled back and forth between second and third, and Ramsey is trying to make the move from third to first. It's a veteran group of players, but those veterans must get used to new positions.

"Everybody wants to get better, and everybody will get better, so I think our defense will improve a lot," Anter said. "It's just going to take a while to work out the kinks."



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