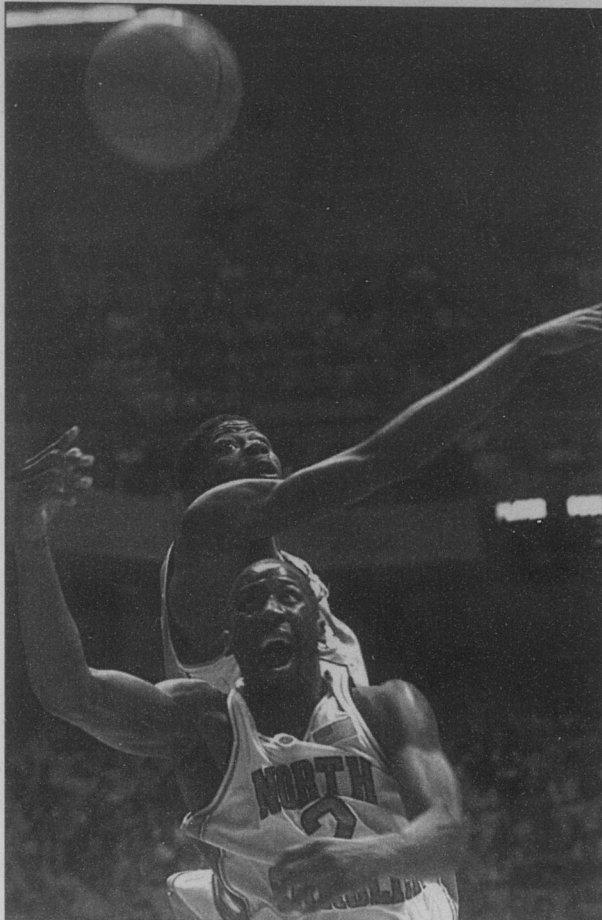


SWAT TEAM



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Sophomore swingman Jackie Manuel blocks freshman point guard Raymond Felton's shot in the Blue-White scrimmage Saturday. The White team won 102-95 in front of 14,125 fans in the Smith Center.

Tar Heels Pick Off Premier Players

By KELLIE DIXON
Assistant Sports Editor

Butterflies accosted North Carolina freshman La'tangela Atkinson's stomach as she sat in the locker room.

"I was sitting there thinking 'Oh God, college is the next level. What's the difference between college and high school,'" Atkinson said. "But when I stepped out on the court, I could tell there's a big difference."

Atkinson was a part of that difference Sunday afternoon, notching 12 points in the Tar Heels' 87-74 preseason win against the Premier Players at Carmichael Auditorium.

The Tar Heels were slow to put points on the board, missing their first two shots of the game, while the Premier Players sank two three-pointers within the first two minutes of the game.

Coretta Brown quickly remedied the situation in the second minute of the

game, notching her own three-pointer.

But as the Tar Heel continued to take shots that weren't falling, the Premier Players continued to increase their margin.

UNC finally broke even in the eighth minute of play, knotting the score at 16-16 after Atkinson drove the lane.

Her score was part of a nine-point run for UNC, which ended with a Chrystal Baptist bucket less than 20 seconds later.

"We just missed a lot of easy shots," said junior center Candace Sutton. "We rushed a lot of things, and I think from the defensive end we didn't get back in transition as well as we should."

The drought continued for the Tar Heels, putting the team in danger of going down into the second half, but a



Tar Heel center Candace Sutton scored 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds against the Premier Players.

shot from Jennifer Thomas kept UNC on par with the Premier Players.

Thomas rebounded a missed shot and put it back for two points, again tying up the score, this time at 41.

UNC exploded out of the gate in the second half, with Thomas striking again with a bucket that put North Carolina ahead. UNC did not relinquish the lead for the remaining 18 minutes of the game.

North Carolina was led by Sutton, who had 20 points, and by sophomore guard Nikita Bell who had 12 of UNC's 58 rebounds.

The match, which was the Tar Heels' first exhibition game, brought back familiar faces to Carmichael's floor, such as Nikki Teasley and Juana Brown.

"It seemed a little strange to come back," Teasley said. "But I love to play. Playing is always fun for me. It felt good to actually play organized basketball again. ... I play everyday pickup basketball but this is the first organized basketball I've played since I left WNBA."

Brown, who contributed to UNC's win with 11 points and two assists, said

she was excited at the chance to play Teasley and former UNC player Juana Brown.

"It was almost like practice; that's what it was like for me because I know what (they're) capable of," Coretta Brown said.

Teasley and her teammates will travel to N.C. State and Duke this week before ending out their short season.

UNC coach Sylvia Hatchell said the game would help the team find its starting five. A different five will start in Wednesday's exhibition game against the Athletes In Action.

"It gave us a chance to see in a game situation who could do what," Hatchell said. "It helps us to analyze and also we're still moving some people to some different positions."

"We're still trying to find the best place for La'Tangela. ... She's really good at driving, although she didn't drive near as much today as I wanted her to. She'll get more aggressive as we move along too."

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

Women Swimmers Win, Men Struggle vs. Minn.

By JACOB KARABELL
Staff Writer

North Carolina's Whitney Smith swam furiously to catch her teammate Becky Acker in the 400 individual medley Saturday, but Smith fell short by less than .1 seconds.

It was another event dominated by the No. 15 UNC women's swimming and diving team, which defeated Michigan 238-132 in a two-day meet at Koury Natatorium on Friday and Saturday. The No. 16 men did not fare as well, losing to No. 5 Minnesota 257-110.

The Tar Heel women (1-1) controlled the meet from start to finish, winning 14 of 20 events. In addition, All-American Kelly Weeks set an ACC record in the 200-yard butterfly, eclipsing former Tar Heel Melanie Buddemeyer's mark by .01 seconds. Weeks' time of 1 minute 58.03 seconds broke the record that had stood for 17 years.

"The improvement that (Weeks has) made in the last six months has just been utterly staggering," said UNC coach Frank Comfort.

Weeks also placed second to the Wolverine's Anne Weilbacher in the 100 butterfly, and she swam first on UNC's victorious 400 freestyle relay team.

Smith and Jessi Perruquet each won two solo events for UNC. Smith won the 500 and 1,000 freestyles, swimming her personal bests of 4:53.21 and 9:54.70, respectively.

Perruquet also won two freestyle races - the 100 and 200 events.

go to dailytarheel.com
Junior swimmer Whitney Smith racks up first-place finishes while aiming for high goals.

"This is definitely the best I have ever seen our team swim in season," said Janna Turner, who won the 200 IM and also swam on UNC's first place 200 medley relay team. "We swam out of our minds."

As for the men's team, they faced a more formidable opponent in the Golden Gophers. The final score is indicative of Minnesota's domination - the Golden Gophers won 18 of the meet's 20 events.

"I think (Minnesota is) one of the best college men's teams that's ever been in this pool, if not the best," Comfort said.

The two winners for UNC were freshman Josh Glasco in the 200 butterfly and Eric Poitras in the three-meter diving competition.

Harvard also participated in the meet, though the team treated it as a scrimmage. Therefore, its total score was not counted. If it had been, however, the UNC men (0-2) would have easily defeated the No. 15 Crimson. Neither the Harvard men or women won any of the 40 events during the competition.

"This is a great opportunity because the two teams are such great competition," UNC senior Sean Quinn said. "It prepares us for later on in the season, like ACCs and NAAs."

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

By KELLIE DIXON
Assistant Sports Editor

As the North Carolina women's soccer team crossed Fetzer Field after its last conference home game against Maryland on Friday night, few players clad in white jerseys were wearing smiles.

UNC's demeanor seemed odd for a team named No. 1 seed for this weekend's ACC tournament.

But a glance at the scoreboard brings an understanding.

"We're not happy with tying," said senior Leslie Gaston. "We're not going to settle for tying, and I think the team is going to react very well as far as we're not going to settle with tying anymore."

The Tar Heels battled Maryland through two overtimes at Fetzer Field on Friday night. The game, which ended in a 1-1 tie, was UNC's last regular ACC match of the season and gave the Tar

Women's Soccer
Maryland1
UNC1

go to dailytarheel.com
Sophomore forward Anne Morrell takes advantage of limited playing time.

Heels the first seed in this weekend's conference tournament in Tallahassee, Fla.

Sophomore Anne Morrell first put the Tar Heels on the board with a goal in the first 14 minutes of the game.

Morrell dribbled through the cluttered box and pushed the ball to Lindsay Tarpley, who returned the pass to Morrell at the top of the inside box. Morrell kicked it above goalkeeper Kristen Barnhill who jumped upward, but missed the ball as it traveled under the crossbar. UNC (14-1-4, 4-1-2 in the ACC) dominated play for a majority of the game, and went into halftime up 1-0 against Maryland (11-6-1, 3-3-1).

But in the first 10 minutes of the second half, the Terrapins struck in a rather unique way. On a Maryland throw-in, defender Lindsay Givens made the toss, hurling the ball from the sideline right into UNC's goal. The ball deflected off midfielder Anne Felts and went past Tar Heel goalkeeper Aly Winget.

"It was an awesome throw but I took the four steps of death where you step forward and then try to get back," Winget said. "And since I took those four steps, it killed me. I got a piece on it, just not enough."

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