

Swimming Dominates Blue Devils

By LAUREN RITTER
Staff Writer

No more than 50 people were there to see it Tuesday night, but the North Carolina swimming and diving teams continued their dominance over Duke.

The men won their meet 183-100 and the women won 164-123.

Men's Swimming	
Duke	100
UNC	183

The women, who have never lost to the Blue Devils, made it 29 straight wins against their ACC rivals.

Women's Swimming	
Duke	123
UNC	164

The men, who haven't lost since 1939, improved their record to 66-2.

But, not only did UNC win the meet, the men and women won every single event.

Even though the Tar Heels won handily, they treated the meet as a test run for the Nike Cup, which North Carolina will host Nov. 21-23.

"Everybody is looking forward to Nike Cup, so this was kind of a dress rehearsal," co-captain Janna Turner said. "We swam so well; I'm just so impressed with our team. Usually at this meet we don't swim as fast, but today people swam really well. A lot of people went best times."

Allison Herman won the 200-yard butterfly in a personal best time of 2:05.11, and Courtney Lewis did the same thing in the 1,000 freestyle in 10:20.21, just to name a few.



UNC senior Sean Quinn swam the second leg of the first-place 200-meter medley relay team.

"We wanted to improve our depth, and we wanted to have a very good racing evening, and we did that superbly," UNC coach Frank Comfort said.

But swimming a personal record is not always easy after spending an entire day on campus. "It's a Tuesday afternoon, you have to go to class all day, so just coming in here and racing, and mentally thinking you have a meet today when you have class all day is tough," Turner said. "Most of our meets aren't scheduled like this, so it's good to see how the girls react, and I think we all did really well. I mean, we're all tired. It's Tuesday."

The meet also gave the swimmers an opportunity to swim events different than their specialty to see if there were any hidden talents on the team. "It's a chance to improve our depth in other events, and see if we have some potential in another event that we don't know about," said junior Casey Coble, who won the 200 butterfly and the 200 breaststroke. "It's a good meet to have at this time of the year."

The meet was also a time for freshmen to step up and show their talents. On the women's side, Leila Martin won the 50 freestyle in a time of 24.34 seconds and placed second in the 500 free in 5:02.37.

Elizabeth Bruce won the 100 breaststroke in 1:04.28.

On the men's side, freshman Chad Ames won the 100 breaststroke in 59.3 seconds, the only time less than one minute.

But the performances were probably not enough to cause any major changes in the lineup.

"We had a couple of good swims, but I don't think it was anything to switch people's events around, but it was still really good," Coble said.

At the least, the UNC swimming and diving team continued its dominance against one squad this season.

As Turner said, "They might be able to beat us in basketball, but we got them in the pool."

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

UNC Clinches Top Seed in Tourney With Win

By BEN COUCH
Staff Writer

Inconsistency didn't prevent the North Carolina volleyball team from claiming what it came for Tuesday night.

After beating Virginia 3-1 in Carmichael Auditorium, No. 12 UNC clinched the top seed in the upcoming ACC tournament.

But the regular season is not over for North Carolina, which has games left against unranked Florida State and Maryland this weekend.

This is a benefit to the Tar Heels (26-2, 13-1 in the ACC), because it gives them time to remedy an occasional lack of focus and a shaky ability to close out games before the conference tournament begins on Nov. 21.

Tuesday's match against Virginia (7-24, 1-14) highlighted the Tar Heels' potential problem areas. "We didn't play like we wanted to tonight, and that's the big thing," said UNC's Malaika Underwood said. "We've got to come in the next couple days of practice and get ready for a big weekend this weekend... so we've got a lot of work to do."

North Carolina played just well enough to win game one, 30-27. Unusually sloppy defense by the Tar Heels allowed UVA. to compile an attack percentage of .349. The back line was hampered because libero Caroline deRoock was playing through back problems that caused her to

sit out games two and three. The Tar Heels' poor defense allowed the Cavaliers to stay with UNC for much of the first game, which they tied at 25 before the Tar Heels pulled away for a 30-27 win.

Game two was a different story. UNC led from start to finish, opening the game with a 9-3 run and never looking back in the 30-24 victory. Middle hitter Aletha Green set a school record with an .857 attack percentage.

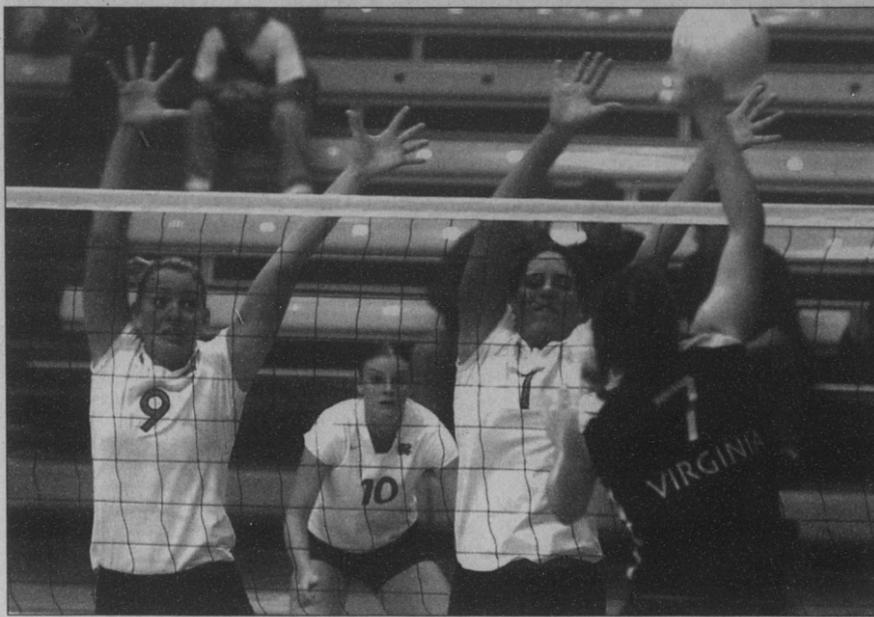
UNC coach Joe Sagula started only one senior in game three - setter Eve Rackham. The Tar Heels looked out of sorts and made uncharacteristic mental errors, such as back row penalties and rotation violations.

It wasn't until Virginia led 25-20 that UNC showed any signs of life. The Tar Heels scored four straight points to pull to within one at 25-24. But Virginia closed out the 30-25 win with a 5-1 run.

After dropping the third game, North Carolina came out with renewed vigor in game four. Sagula put his starters back out on the floor, and they responded, winning the game 30-24 by stepping up their defensive efforts. UNC recorded 24 digs and 5 blocks while limiting UVA. to a miniscule .074 attack percentage.

UNC's players are well aware of their problems and are looking to move ahead.

"It's different each game," Underwood said. "Sometimes it's because the people who have started the game aren't focused enough to finish the third game. And then sometimes it's because people on the bench, who come in in the third game aren't focused and ready to play and contribute to the team. It's kind of a letdown



DTH/MEREDITH HILL

Tar Heels Katie Wright (9) and Dani Nyenhuis (1) leap to block UVA.'s Paige Davis' kill attempt in Tuesday's match. With the 3-1 win against the Cavaliers, UNC clinched the No. 1 seed in next week's ACC tournament.

by the whole team in not being focused and not really finishing a game off."

Sagula outlined some possible ways to keep his team on track.

"We're looking into doing some tactical things in games to maybe change

that," he said. "Maybe rotate a little differently, maybe put a different person in to change the rhythm of the game which might change enough that it can kind of get us over the hump. I'd like to win 3-0 against teams like we did against

Duke. But we need to go from good to better to best, as opposed to from great to great to OK."

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

Tar Heel Schedule Not Getting Easier

By AARON FITT
SportSaturday Editor

It's a good thing the North Carolina football team relishes challenges because its next game won't be any easier than its last 10.

Losers of five straight, the Tar Heels will travel to Tallahassee this weekend to take on perennial ACC powerhouse Florida State, a team with revenge on its mind.

There's little doubt the Seminoles could not have forgotten the 41-9 beating they suffered at Kenan Stadium a year ago.

"I'm sure that they're going to be excited about playing us because of the way the game went last year," said UNC coach John Bunting at his weekly press conference Tuesday. "Paybacks, sometimes, can be really tough on you, but I love the challenge of that."

The Seminoles might in fact be talented, but they also have had a down season, by their standards. A 7-3 record is a disappointment in Tallahassee.

But Bunting said Florida State has made progress since last season.

"I think they're better than last year," Bunting said. "They are a year older; had a young team last year. I think they suffered an injury or two, which we all have to go through, which takes away, but the games they've lost have been just bitter losses for them. But they are an incredible ACC football team, as they always have been."

FSU is not the first tough opponent the Tar Heels have faced this year. UNC

played tough conference foes N.C. State, Maryland, Virginia and Georgia Tech when each was playing its best football of the season.

And the Tar Heels were in a hole early in the year because of their tough non-conference schedule, which pitted them against a pesky Miami (Ohio) team and a stellar Texas squad, in addition to trips to Syracuse and Arizona State, the only games UNC won.

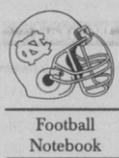
Bunting has no regrets about scheduling the challenging matchups, rather than piling up wins against weaker non-conference foes, as the Wolfpack did.

"I guarantee you that I will always want to play that kind of schedule," he said. "I think that's the kind of games our fans want to see and our recruits want to be part of that kind of program."

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UNC coach John Bunting said revenge will most likely be a factor in Saturday's game against FSU.



Football Notebook

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