

# Swimmers Race Past 'Pack, Prepare for UVa.

By Lauren Ritter  
Staff Writer

RALEIGH – Leaving the comforts of Koury Natatorium behind and traveling to N.C. State to swim in a less-than-stellar facility didn't seem to bother the North Carolina women's swimming and diving team very much.

The Tar Heels lost both of the diving competitions but won all but one swimming event to beat the Wolfpack 191-109 on Wednesday.

"The pool is definitely not what we're used to," said co-captain Janna Turner. "It's just part of staying focused. No matter what the pool's like or who you're racing next to, you have to remember what you're here for."

The Tar Heels (8-1, 3-0 in the ACC) weren't in Raleigh to get their best times, which is hard after a full day of classes and a difficult few weeks of training; they were there to beat the Wolfpack (5-6, 1-4).

"We're always glad to beat N.C. State," said UNC coach Frank Comfort. "Tonight was a racing night. I wasn't as concerned about times as how people raced."

"We're really gearing up for Virginia, and in the meantime we don't want to make any mistakes against State, or upcoming with Clemson."

The Tar Heels won the first and last events of Wednesday's meet: the 200-yard medley relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay in times of 1 minute, 48.74 seconds and 3:32.69, respectively.

UNC also had a slew of individual

winner, including Kelly Weeks in the 500 free and the 200 butterfly.

"It was a good meet," Weeks said. "It was a little bit competitive, but we're all kind of tired. We've been training, we're kind of in the thick of it right now, so it was an OK meet."

"I was just looking to race, get some practice in racing my two good events."

Other North Carolina winners were Allison Herman in the 1,000 free with a time of 10:25.36, Virginia Hanson in the 200 free who touched the wall in 1:52.76, Turner in the 100 backstroke in a time of 58.01, Elizabeth Bruce in 100 breaststroke in 1:05.32 and Jessi Perruquet in the 50 free in 24.20.

This victory keeps the UNC women undefeated in the ACC.

"It's a good feeling (being unbeaten so far), and I'd like to keep it," Weeks said. "It's impressive."

Despite the win, the Tar Heels are focusing on their upcoming meets, especially the one against Virginia, their toughest rival in the ACC.

"It's really cool to say that we're undefeated in the ACC," Turner said.

"We have our toughest meet coming up next weekend against UVA, so as long as we just stay confident, but not too overconfident, I think we can achieve our goals next weekend too."

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



Tar Heel junior Kelly Weeks won both the 500-yard freestyle and the 200 butterfly against N.C. State.

# Gymnasts Seek to Build on EAGL Title

By Brian MacPherson  
Assistant Sports Editor

There were a few extra steps and a few wobbles at the gymnastics pre-season scrimmage Friday, but for the most part solid routines, loud cheering and bright smiles were the order of the day for the defending East Atlantic Gymnastics League champions.

This display of enthusiasm betrayed an eagerness to begin formal competition this season, but it also revealed the Tar Heels' greatest strength: team spirit.

Whether moving mats into place or shouting words of encouragement to each other, each member possesses a team-first attitude that will be crucial in what might seem to be an individual sport.

"It's the way our team is made up," said senior Fritzie Cathcart. "We're so close, and we cheer for each other, and we hang out together."

Said senior Natalie Halbach, "There's always an internal focus for the team so you're never just thinking about yourself but what you can do to help the next person who's up."

Cathcart and Halbach, two of the team's four seniors, lead a confident group into what will be a challenging schedule, which begins Thursday at the George Washington Invitational.

"We've got a lot of big meets with high-level competition, and that's where this team needs to be," said UNC coach Derek Galvin. "They need to be up against tough teams in front of large crowds because we've got that kind of talent and kind of difficulty in our routines."

The Tar Heels are a formidable unit in all four major areas of competition. In vault, which could be the team's strongest event, twelve athletes have the capability to take spots in the lineup. Sophomore Amy Williams holds the school vault record, and sophomore Olivia Trusty earned all-conference hon-

ors in 2002.

Floor exercise will also be an area of strength for UNC. Juniors Anna Wilson and Maddy Curley were all-conference last season, and both have added new challenging elements to their routines.

"Anna Wilson and Maddy Curley are two of the most intense competitors I've ever coached," Galvin said. "You put them in front of spectators and they kick it up to another level."

Galvin expects much of the team's scoring to come from the floor and the vault, but UNC has improved in other areas as well. Halbach added a unique dismount to her all-conference balance beam routine and Curley, Wilson and sophomore Elisabeth Alsop have the ability to contribute in that event.

On the uneven bars, increased depth has led to a stronger rotation. Cathcart and Trusty return as point-scorers, and Curley and Alsop added new levels of difficulty to already strong routines.

At Friday's scrimmage, several team members struggled with new technical elements in their routines – elements that, if mastered, would create a higher point potential in all four areas of competition.

"We've got a little more difficulty in the routines this year than we did last year, so it's going to take a little bit longer to gain consistency and get our execution on those skills at the level we want," Galvin said.

With a stronger and deeper lineup than the team that won the EAGL championship last season, the returning team members have set an even higher goal for themselves: a berth in the NCAA national tournament.

"We can definitely make that happen," Halbach said. "We know that it's there, and we can grab it, and we're ready to go get it."

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It allowed the Carolina Union to add an extra show to the arts series. Ray Barretto & New World Spirit, a salsa and jazz act, filled in for Valdés in October.

"Hopefully people are happier with having two jazz shows," Livengood said.

Tickets for the Valdés show are \$35 for general public and \$20 for UNC students. They can be purchased at the Carolina Union Box Office or by calling 962-1449.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.



UNC senior Natalie Halbach practices an element of her balance beam routine. She earned all-conference honors in the event in 2002.

## VALDÉS

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visas not because they're problems but because things have become a lot more complicated," Luse said. The Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act, enacted in May 2002, allows the FBI to review visa applications from countries on a U.S. list of nations that sponsor terrorism. Cuba made the list.

"This was a change in policy that was

instituted very quickly and quickly created problems for a lot of artists," said Matt Livengood, marketing and design coordinator for the Carolina Union.

Once Valdés had his visa in hand, he and his agent were eager to reschedule the canceled performances – much to the delight of the Carolina Union, Luse said.

"We feel lucky that there was this opportunity and we were able to have him," he said.

Valdés will be joined by a trio of drums, bass and percussion. His musical

style infuses his African and Cuban roots with American jazz. "It's just a great opportunity for people in this area to see someone they haven't had the chance to see before," Luse said.

Valdés' visit will include a lecture and demonstration, which is still in the works, Luse said. "He was going to do a master class and talk about music," he said. "There will be some sort of educational component with him."

Having to reschedule Valdés turned out to be "not such a bad thing," Livengood

## SUNDANCE

From Page 3

tion studies. "I'm looking forward to seeing other films, especially foreign ones."

"The Planets" is a stylized portrayal of the solar system, which is presented through a unique method of still-frame animation developed by Talenti over the past seven years.

"The film is psychedelic, but you don't have to be on drugs to have a psychedelic experience," Talenti said.

The film has been accepted into the festival's "Frontier" category, reserved for the most experimental and unconventional works submitted.

"The Planets" is the second of Talenti's works to be showcased at Sundance, the first being a two-minute animated short film called "Partita" that she presented in 1990.

Despite her past acceptance into the festival, Talenti was by no means certain that her latest work would be chosen.

"I've submitted other works since 'Partita' and had numerous rejections," she said. "I just applied to the festival and I was surprised to be accepted."

"I don't think it's likely to win because it's too unusual and the winner (of the category) is usually live-action

narration," she said. "I'm confident, but my film is competing with 90 others."

Talenti's substantial work in film has taken her across the country. She received her master's degree from the University of Southern California and went on to work on short films in the Los Angeles area. She then taught film at the University of Texas-Austin before coming to UNC.

Despite her background, Talenti's influences are diverse, ranging from Buster Keaton to Duke Ellington to Leo Tolstoy to Johann Sebastian Bach.

"I have respect for other filmmakers, but I'm not quite sure that they have as much influence on what I do as someone like Buster Keaton, whom I love," she said.

Talenti has finished work on her latest project, "Poetry In Motion," and "The Planets" may soon see screen time beyond Sundance. She is in talks with two distributors with whom she will negotiate further at the festival.

Inspired by her vision, Talenti advises budding artists to stay true to their aspirations.

"Follow your heart," she said. "It's another cliché, I know, but I believe in it."

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