

Ihenetu impresses team, coaches

BY JACOB KARABELL
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It wasn't All-ACC candidate Molly Pyles who carried North Carolina to victory in the second game against James Madison.

Or fellow All-ACC candidate Aletha Green. Or dominant middle blocker Katie Wright.

No, it was sophomore outside hitter Camilla Ihenetu who served UNC's volleyball team to a 5-0 lead, made the kill to give the Tar Heels a 27-26 lead and blocked the Dukes on the final point of the game to seal the 30-27 victory en route to a 3-0 match victory Saturday morning.

"Camilla Ihenetu is stepping up at the perfect time right now," said Green, one of the team's captains. "She couldn't have picked a better time to come in and be an impact player."

In 2002 Ihenetu, then a redshirt freshman, struggled to get playing time behind Pyles and ACC Player of the Year Laura Greene.

She only played in approximately one-third of the team's games despite seeing time in nearly every match.

Ihenetu played in all nine games this weekend, however, largely because of her improvement in blocking.

"That was something I really focused on," Ihenetu said. "That was one of my goals in the ACC this year, and that was one of the goals the coach had for me as well. So, we spent a lot of time in preseason in blocking, and that's what I was looking forward to this year."

Coach Joe Sagula pointed to Ihenetu's improved blocking as well.

"When she blocks a ball, you know it — I mean it goes down fast," he said. "She's so strong."

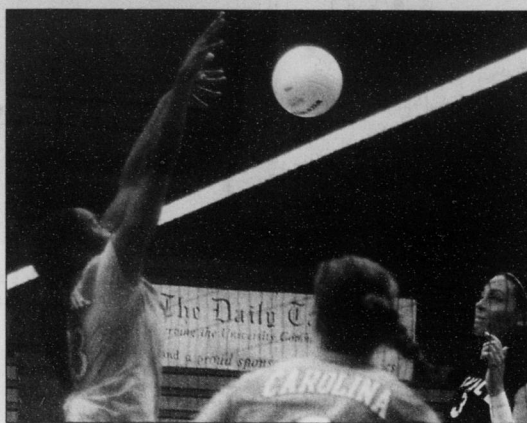
Another area that Ihenetu worked on during the off-season was her serve.

It paid off early Saturday, when Ihenetu's three service aces in five points gave the Tar Heels a cushion that they would need later in the second game.

"I think, also, Coach has put a lot of pressure on me to improve my serve," Ihenetu said. "I worked a lot on my serve this summer and I'm really happy that it helped."

With the season underway, the Tar Heels will rely on Ihenetu to continue to provide a stable force from the outside hitter position heading into the tougher part of UNC's schedule.

Depth can sometimes be the difference between top teams and



Senior Aletha Green goes for a block against Temple. Green tallied six kills and one block in the Tar Heels' 3-0 victory on Saturday night.

second-tier teams, and Ihenetu provides that at the outside hitter position along with sophomore Dani Nyenhuis and senior Tammy Foxworth.

Ihenetu said she thinks her role this season will be similar to her role this weekend.

If that is any indication, expect her continue to receive a large amount of responsibility for the

ly touted redshirt freshman, finished with 87 yards on 11 carries, including an easy 21-yard scamper for a touchdown.

"I got the pitch from (quarterback Chris) Rix and I'm looking at it like, 'This can't be happening. It can't be this easy,'" Booker said. "I knew if I made that one guy miss, it was me and the end zone."

While Booker tallied the most yards, the game's most impressive play came from the 248-pound Jones. He plowed over All-ACC safety Dexter Reid, delivering a forearm blow that knocked Reid back — and his helmet clean off.

"(Reid) looked like Mr. Potato Head with all his parts mixed up," Booker said. "I don't think Greg understands how strong he really is. I'm surprised the dude got up."

Jones finished the game with 59 yards on eight carries. Sophomore Willie Reid, playing mostly when the game was out of reach, also gained 48 yards on the ground.

His slack was picked up by Booker and Jones. Booker, a high-

VOLLEYBALL

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served a 12-point run against James Madison, which included two aces. And Guerry recorded her first kills as a Tar Heel against Temple Saturday night.

North Carolina was itching to play in a game situation after a long preseason.

"We were eventually getting tired of practicing against the same people," Sagula said. "They were really ready to play somebody else, and they took that challenge."

They took the challenge and conquered it, staying focused to sweep all nine games.

"I'm so pleased with the start," Wright said. "Everyone's stepping into their roles beautifully. One of our goals is to go through the year and be undefeated, and so far we are."

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DEFENSE

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defense, amassing 236 yards.

"That was the disappointing part of our defense last year, was people were able to run on us," said UNC coach John Bunting. "I was a little nervous about that coming into this game. They have three runners who can go in there and play."

The runners in question were Greg Jones, Leon Washington and Lorenzo Booker. They were Nos. 1, 2 and 3, respectively, on FSU's depth chart, though that might be changing soon.

Washington helped put the Seminoles in position for their first score with a largely unopposed 27-yard run, his only carry of the night. He dislocated his elbow returning a punt after the next series, left the game and did not return.

His slack was picked up by Booker and Jones. Booker, a high-

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FOOTBALL

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timized by dropped passes and the lack of a sustained running game.

"We moved the ball up and down the field consistently, but when we got down in the red zone we just seemed to stall a little bit," Durant said. "It's something we can correct."

The Tar Heels might try to get their offense going by throwing the ball down the field more often. Through most of the first half, UNC relied on screens, swing passes and short outs, many of which were completed for minimal gains, creating numerous third-and-six or third-and-seven situations.

"You just have to take what the defense gives you," Durant said. "Florida State, they really didn't play as much press, man-to-man as we thought they would, so we basically just took what they gave us."

Junior receiver Jarwarski Pollock excelled in that short passing system, catching eight passes for 71 yards, most of them on slants. But the only other offensive bright spot was freshman tailback Ronnie McGill, who rushed for 49 yards on 12 carries.

Florida State, meanwhile, could do no wrong offensively. Rix came out firing and made his throws. The Seminoles took to the air on five of their first six plays from scrimmage, and Rix completed four of them.

Then, with UNC reeling from the aerial attack, bruising tailback Greg Jones and elusive backs Lorenzo Booker and Leon Washington broke off one big run after another.

"They came out passing the first six, seven plays, trying to throw you off, trying to get you in that comfort zone as far as rushing the quarterback," said UNC defensive tackle Jonas Seawright. "And then they came out — bam — running the ball. We were thinking pass, but we've got to think run more."

A 6-yard Jones touchdown run and a 1-yard Rix sneak gave the Seminoles a 14-0 lead with 7:23 left in the first quarter. North Carolina launched a 4-minute, 30-second drive that was halted at the FSU 34. Orner had a chance to at least get UNC on the board, but his 51-yard field goal sailed right.

The Tar Heels had one other shot to make the Seminoles squirm. Down 21-0 in the second, a five-minute drive died on the 20, and Orner missed his second field goal.

"Maybe, if on one of those drives we could have gotten into the end zone, it could have curtailed a lit-

tle of the momentum, and it could have swung in our favor," said UNC guard Jeb Terry.

The Tar Heels didn't quit, but shortly after another Florida State touchdown late in the second quarter, many of their fans did.

As enthusiastic as the crowd of 59,800 was early on, huge patches of aluminum appeared by half-time, an exodus aided by light rain.

Midway through the fourth quarter, you could literally count the number of fans in each section (Section 206, right on the 50-yard line, had 33 fans at the 8-minute mark).

Freshman receiver Mike Mason, who made his Kenan debut Saturday, was asked if the sight of the empty bleachers was discouraging.

"Yeah," he said, sighing and dropping his head. "It was. But... I mean... We'll be all right. The score... We've got a lot to work on."

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Florida State 37, UNC 0					
FSU	14	13	10	0	37
UNC	0	0	0	0	0

Scoring Summary	
First Quarter	
FSU — Jones 5 yd. run (Bettia kick), 9:14	
FSU — Rix 1 yd. run (Bettia kick), 7:23	
Second Quarter	
FSU — Booker 21 yd. run (Bettia kick), 14:53	
FSU — Rix 1 yd. run (kick blocked), 1:08	
Third Quarter	
FSU — Davis 7 yd. pass from Rix (Bettia kick), 3:38	
FSU — Bettia 26 yd. field goal, 1:54	

Attendance — 59,800		
	FSU	UNC
First Downs	29	17
Rushes-Yards	42-236	27-72
Passing Yards	317	223
Comp-Att-Int	24-37-0	27-47-2
Total Yards	553	295
Punts-Avg.	3-46.7	6-43.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	2-1
Penalties-Yards	4-35	4-42
Time of Possession	30:26	29:34

Individual Statistics		
Rushing:	FSU — Booker 11-87; Jones 8-59; Reid 9-48; Washington 1-27; Rix 7-13; Dean 2-11; Coleman 1-2; Sexton 1-minus 1; Sam, P.K. 1-minus 4; Davis 1-minus 6. UNC — McGill 12-48; Durant 6-22; Scott 5-10; Parker 1-4; Pollock 1-2; Stephens 2-minus 14.	
Passing:	FSU — Rix 17-26-0-232; Walker 5-8-0-38; Sexton 2-3-0-47. UNC — Durant 18-31-1-145; Baker 5-10-1-20; Stephens 4-6-0-58.	
Receiving:	FSU — Thorpe 7-83; Booker 4-45; Davis 4-39; Reid 3-50; Sam, L. 1-45; Irons 1-18; Jones 1-13; Washington 1-11; Sam, P.K. 1-8; Coleman 1-5. UNC — Pollock 8-71; Mason 5-25; Blizzard 3-29; Rumley 2-52; Dunn 2-21; Lewis 2-8; Scott 2-0; Mitchell 1-9; Curry 1-9; Russell 1-minus 1.	

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