

Galvin sets goals higher than victories, records

Coach focuses on team's experience

BY BRIAN MACPHERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The throng of spectators had long departed, and Carmichael Auditorium was almost empty.

The North Carolina gymnastics coach still had work to do — he needed to join the crew of volunteers clearing equipment from the floor after the team's Feb. 27 meet.

He'd already spent half the night setting it all up, and a relentless grin couldn't hide the exhaustion in his eyes.

But Derek Galvin still had the energy left to deliver his sermon.

"The most important thing for this team from the very beginning has not been the outcome, it's been the process," he said. "How do we go about getting better, and helping each other get better?"

Galvin's dismissal of the meet's results sounded like that of a coach working with a mediocre team, not the architect and director of the strongest group of gymnasts in school history.

College coaches are supposed to focus on the final score, with the effort only a consolation prize if the team doesn't succeed.

But the Tar Heels' school-record-breaking score of 197.35 that night had established them unequivocally among the nation's elite, and Galvin didn't seem to care.

"It's not just about one person getting stronger, but about the team helping them get stronger," he said. "If we do that, then the thing that they remember 10 years from now is not what they scored in a particular meet."

In a way, Galvin is in the business of memories.

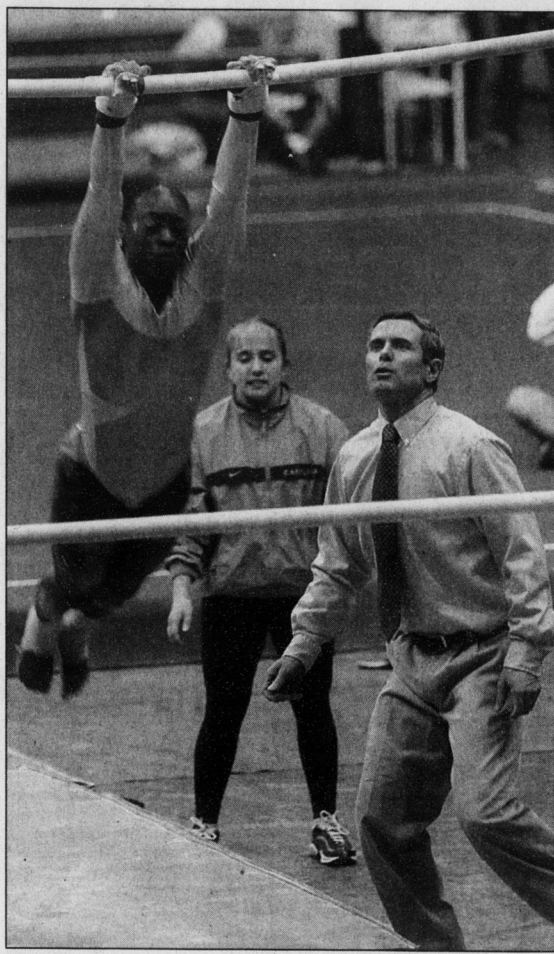
He knows his gymnasts have outgrown their Olympic dreams and aren't going to earn millions of dollars endorsing shoes or breakfast cereal.

He also knows it would take something close to a miracle to win a national championship on his program's limited budget.

He focuses, then, on making four years of college a little bit more special for 16 young women and on helping them do the same for each other.

"They remember how one of their teammates encouraged them when they were struggling with a skill," he said. "Or when they were exhausted and trying to get through another routine, it was the encouragement of someone else on the team that helped them do that."

"That's what they're going to remember."



North Carolina gymnastics coach Derek Galvin (right) looks on while sophomore Courtney Bumpers performs a routine on the uneven bars.

He paused to congratulate one of his gymnasts, a freshman whose floor exercise routine had earned her a career-high 9.975, and focused again on his philosophy.

"Maybe that doesn't sound competitive enough," he said. "But what we've asked this team to believe, and what (assistant coach) Penny (Jernigan) and I believe, is you can't get caught up worrying about the scores and where you place because it becomes a distraction."

"Worrying about your score doesn't make you a better gymnast. Focusing on improving your form, having better execution on a skill, improving your fitness level — that will get you better scores."

He paused again, this time to address the original question: his team's prospects for the East Atlantic Gymnastics League championship meet, which will be held Saturday.

Galvin had said before the season that his goal was to finish among the top three in the conference.

"To be totally honest, if we finish below third and we had a meet like we had (Feb. 27), I would be disappointed," he said. "But that would mean that those top two teams or those three teams are incredible, because this is a very, very talented and gifted team."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

UNC falls to NCAA champs

BY ANDY WALES
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina women's tennis team was involved in another sweep on Monday.

But the Tar Heels were the ones being swept for a change.

Florida won its 28th consecutive match, 7-0, at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center. Its streak dates back to last season when the Gators won the national championship.

Florida has been so dominant, in fact, that it has only lost one individual match all season, to Florida State.

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Florida 7
UNC 0

Despite not winning a point, the No. 5 Tar Heels were not at all worried about their performance.

"I'm very encouraged that this team has the room in their game to make up the ground to be competitive down the road," said UNC coach Brian Kalbas. "(Florida is) a very seasoned, confident team. They deserved all the credit."

The Gators demonstrated why they are the defending national champions in the shutout.

"They played like a defending champion," said UNC junior and top seed Aniela Mojzis.

In a way, the team took advantage of the defeat.

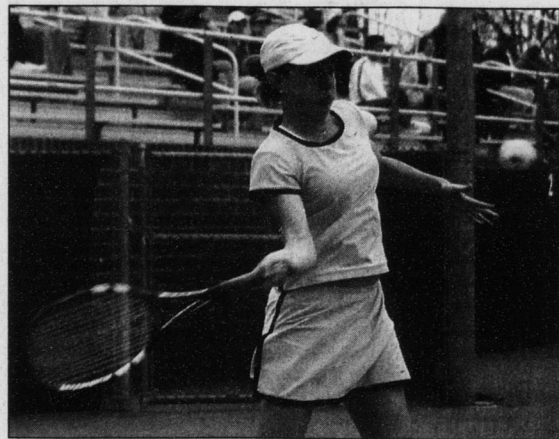
"This is a measuring stick for us," Kalbas said.

The Tar Heels are in the midst of an 11-day span in which they have faced No. 26 Pepperdine (a 4-3 win) and No. 3 Florida. They will play No. 6 Duke on Sunday.

"This is a tough stretch for us," Kalbas said. "Hopefully this will make us even tougher down the road."

The best Tar Heel performance of the day was turned in by junior Kendall Cline. In her match against Zerene Reyes, she had a set point, but lost the tiebreak in the first set. She also dropped the second set, 2-6.

"She played a really tough play-



North Carolina senior Kendrick Bunn returns a shot in her 1-6, 3-6 loss to Florida's Lindsay Dawaf at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center on Monday.

er who's really quick and never misses," Kalbas said.

Despite the relatively chilly temperatures, the match was played outdoors.

Even though Cline hinted at the weather being a factor in the defeat, she also realized that it likely will help in the long run.

"It's good to play in that type of climate," she said.

The match marked the first time that the Gators faced the Tar Heels since Florida head coach Roland Thornqvist left his alma mater,

UNC.

Thornqvist played for the Tar Heel men's team and coached the women's team from 1998-2001.

"It seemed like they wanted to make a statement with this being Roland's alma mater," Kalbas said.

For Cline, the match was also somewhat of a statement.

"Florida is a huge rival in my mind," she said. "In a way, it was a death match."

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