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# Yin ties career high with 10 whiffs in UNC sweep

BY BRANDON COWARD

STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — North Carolina pitcher Alison Yin normally relies on deception and off-speed pitches to get batters to hit the ball to her fielders rather than overpowering hitters.

She hadn't had more than six strikeouts in a game all season.

**SOFTBALL** "I'm not a strikeout pitcher," Yin said before starting the second game of Thursday's doubleheader against UNC-Greensboro.

Yin apparently made an exception for the Spartans, tying a career high with 10 strikeouts in a 4-3 win.

Fellow sophomore Crystal Cox didn't allow much work for her fielders either, striking out a career-high 14 to help UNC win the day's first game, 6-1.

Coach Donna Papa was happy with her team's performance, but she still felt like the team could have done more.

"The pitchers did a good job, and we put the ball in play, but I still feel like we could have added

more," Papa said. "We have opportunities and for some reason we don't take advantage of those early, but when the pressure is on, we come through in the end."

Yin said she enjoyed being a strikeout pitcher for the day.

"It's always fun to get strikeouts and kind of make the batters look like fools," she said.

Yin's win was her 14th of the year, but it almost didn't happen.

The second game was tied 3-3 until the last inning, but UNC (37-15) put runners on first and third with two outs in the seventh.

Emily Price came to the plate, but the Spartans had no intention of pitching to the senior.

Price had blasted a three-run homer in the first game, prompting UNC-G to intentionally walk her to load the bases.

"I don't know if I would've done that, personally," Papa said. "They took a chance, and it backfired."

The next batter, Jessica Graziano, popped out to second, but not before fouling off eight pitches. Graziano's stubbornness at the plate forced a wild pitch that allowed Dionne Streete to score from third.

Papa praised Graziano's persistence after the game.

"When a batter battles like that, that's what you want to see," Papa said. "She wasn't an easy out. Graz's fight definitely characterized that inning for us."

The first game of the day wasn't nearly as dramatic, mostly due to Cox's domination of the Spartans.

Though Cox had more strikeouts than usual, she also gave up five walks. Cox attributed the walks to trying too hard for strikeouts.

"I was probably just pushing too hard, trying too hard to throw strikes," Cox said. "I was just trying too hard to throw the perfect pitch."

Thanks to Price's three-run shot, Cox had a cushion most of the game and perfection wasn't necessary.

Papa knows the team will never be perfect, but she makes sure the Tar Heels remember the lessons taught by each game.

"In the first game, we had some opportunities that we didn't capitalize on," Papa said. "That seems to be our Achilles' heel. We can get the people on, it's just a matter of putting the nail in the coffin, and for some reason we've had trouble doing that."

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu).

## Tar Heels aim for ACC title

BY ANDY WALES

STAFF WRITER

North Carolina senior Lee Bairos has seen the seasons come and go in her tenure on the women's tennis team.

No longer a bright-eyed newcomer just taking it all in, Bairos is now a role model for this year's talented trio of freshmen.

Or so she thinks.

"The freshmen say they kind of look up to me for guidance — I don't know if I'm doing that great of a job," she said with a hearty chuckle.

Whether they do or not, the freshmen and the rest of the team will need Bairos' effort this weekend in the ACC Tournament.

The fourth-seeded Tar Heels, sporting a 4-4 conference record, take on Georgia Tech at noon in Friday's quarterfinals. The winner advances to the semifinals on Saturday, and the title match will be played Sunday.

In the teams' only meeting this season, UNC defeated Tech, 5-2 on April 9. The match went about as well as the Tar Heels could have

hoped. The team won all its doubles matches, and the only singles losses were decided in three sets.

If Bairos is to have any effect on her team's chances, she must avenge her loss to likely opponent Kelly Anderson. Anderson defeated Bairos 6-2, 2-6, 7-5. Bairos trailed 5-2 in that third set.

Though she lost, Bairos is confident she can reverse her misfortunes Friday.

"I pretty much know what her game is, so it won't be a surprise," she said.

Should the Tar Heels advance past Tech, they likely would face top-seed Clemson. The Tigers defeated the Tar Heels 6-1 the day after UNC downed Tech.

But Coach Brian Kalbas refused to look past Georgia Tech.

"There's a lot of depth in this conference," he said. "Anybody can win it."

Bairos felt much the same way and had to think long and hard about whom she would like to face in the second round.

"I would like to play the No. 2 from Clemson (Daniela Alvarez)

she said. "I've played her three or four times in the past two years, and I've always lost."

Indeed, Bairos was defeated by Alvarez 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 in her most recent match.

One of the team's goals is to be a host for the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament in May. Only the top 16 teams receive that privilege. Currently, UNC holds the No. 14 spot in the national rankings.

To achieve its goal, Kalbas said the team must advance at least to the ACC title match.

"If we can get to the finals, I'm sure we'll be a host site," he said.

Bairos said home-court advantage in the NCAA Tournament might be a boost, but in the end it might not be the most important factor in the team's success.

Bairos, however, could be the key to the teams' success. She might not see herself as a team leader even if her teammates do.

Bairos knows that the team must consider each match individually but at the same time keep everything in perspective.

"Having four years under my belt, you gain a lot from it," she said. "The losses aren't as bad, and the wins aren't as great. You just take everything in stride."

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu).

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#### Answer A

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| EDGE        | SALAMI      | BAT     |
| ARID        | SLOGAN      | UGH     |
| VOLSTEAD    | ACT         | DEE     |
| EIDER       | ISO         | AWRY    |
| STALAGS     | SMOTE       |         |
|             | PROHIBITION |         |
| SARA        | ALE         | LISLE   |
| EMIR        | MERIT       | CELL    |
| EMCEE       | ORE         | ARAL    |
| MOONSHINING |             |         |
|             | CAPON       | STIRRER |
| OOHS        | PSS         | LEAVE   |
| ARE         | SPEAKEASIES |         |
| TET         | LERNER      | ISNT    |
| SOS         | ORTEGA      | NETS    |

#### Answer B

|            |         |        |
|------------|---------|--------|
| APBS       | UPEND   | AWLS   |
| LARK       | MANIA   | SHOO   |
| GRAYMATTER | HISS    |        |
| EMILE      | SECT    | OTTO   |
| RADISH     | REHIRE  |        |
|            | NAIF    | DESKS  |
| TOBE       | KEITEL  | ANT    |
| OWL        | BEELINE | LEO    |
| DNA        | ADDLED  | BEEP   |
| OSCAR      | SOSA    |        |
|            | KIDDED  | WARBLE |
| JABS       | ERIE    | ARIAS  |
| ELAL       | BROWN   | BAGIT  |
| ELLE       | RODEO   | GONE   |
| PALS       | ALERT   | ETES   |

#### Answer C

|         |            |        |
|---------|------------|--------|
| TOIL    | ASHE       | COSTA  |
| ASTO    | SUES       | UNPIN  |
| JUSTAS  | IMPORTANT  |        |
|         | BET        | RYA    |
| ASWHAT  | ONESTANDS  |        |
| LURES   | RASTER     |        |
| IRISES  | TSE        | KNEE   |
| AGE     | SUP        | ORR    |
| SERF    | BAR        | SENIOR |
|         | BUCKET     | ANGLE  |
| FORIN   | LIFEISWHAT |        |
| ORE     | WAS        | ETO    |
| ONEWONT | STANDFOR   |        |
| LOVER   | ABEL       | OREO   |
| STEIN   | NARY       | GYRO   |

#### Thursday's Answer

|          |         |        |
|----------|---------|--------|
| LEAPS    | ABLE    | ALAS   |
| AGLET    | SLED    | TUBA   |
| MADLY    | TINT    | ORAL   |
| ADOLLARS | AVEDISA |        |
|          | MEMOS   | ADDED  |
| MAKEDO   | COGS    |        |
| OVALL    | GROWL   | OPS    |
| DOLLARE  | EARNED  | BUT    |
| EW       | VOTED   | OOZE   |
|          | FIZZ    | PIGEON |
| OASIS    | BEING   |        |
| SELDOM   | VICE    | VERS   |
| AGOG     | BELL    | ARIES  |
| KITE     | ATKA    | DEPTH  |
| ASST     | SOOT    | ELSIE  |