

SOCCER

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ing part in the ACC Tournament. While the Tar Heels have made tremendous strides since their disappointing start to the season, which included a winless stretch of four games, Bolowich said he still sees a need for more improvement before moving on to the postseason.

"We need to change our play with intensity, with a different level of commitment and perhaps with better preparation leading into the game," Bolowich said. "We have the means to do it, but it just depends on both the players and coaching staff to make it happen."

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VOLLEYBALL

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kills. Nyenhuis added 13, and middle hitter Katie Wright had 10. "It was better balance, but I think we need to get more," Sagula said. "We just got to keep trying to run different play sets, and hopefully it'll open things up." Nyenhuis led the defensive effort with a career-high 25 digs. Libero Caroline deRoock continued her stellar play with 21 digs. "Caroline deRoock, I thought played great, could've been even better if she let herself," Sagula said. "The first two games I said she was being too unselfish; she was trying to let other people dig. We told her be selfish, take the ball. "She was making good decisions but not finishing it. In game three she just took off." On Saturday, UNC defeated

Wake Forest 38-36, 30-21, 30-27. The team was led by Wright, who turned in 11 kills and 7 blocks, and deRoock added 24 digs. With four matches remaining before the ACC Tournament, the Tar Heels hope the two wins will give them a final spark. "This was a key game to play to get back up into what's hopefully the start of a streak all the way through ACC Tournament," Pyles said. "So this game was good for momentum. It was good for kind of a confidence in our team. We've gotten all the kinks worked out. We're ready to go."

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HEIGHT

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team." On Sunday, the Tar Heels clearly weren't getting into the right positions. Wake Forest goalkeeper Brian Edwards wasn't forced to make a save the entire game. UNC tried to change things up in the second half by bringing in freshman forward Zach Haines. Haines, who rarely sees playing time, is the Tar Heels' tallest player at 6 feet 4 inches. The change of pace didn't seem to work, as the Demon Deacons continued to stifle the UNC offense. "We just wanted to change it up," Bolowich said. "We wanted to have a true target player. We thought with Zach, we could have a true target player playing up high and go to him in the air so he can flick balls on. That was not very fruitful, but worth a try." The Tar Heels usually try and counter their lack of height with their tremendous speed. While they were able to outrun Wake Forest to a number of free balls, they were unable to convert any of the chances. With a record of 8-7-2, North Carolina knows that it has to overcome the height disadvantage. UNC has to win its regular season finale against Clemson and a game or two in the ACC Tournament to assure themselves a place in the NCAA Tournament. Storey said the height factor only puts them at a little bit of a disadvantage. "We know what's coming," Storey said. "We know they are going to play long balls. It is a matter of making sure we protect our goal and not allow them to get the second balls on the flicks."

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OFFENSIVE LINE

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After Miami called a timeout to set its defense, Durant dropped back to pass from the UNC 27-yard line. With plenty of time to check his receivers, he found sophomore tight end Jon Hamlett for an 11-yard gain to keep the drive alive. Nine plays later, Chad Scott's 9-yard touchdown run culminated the drive and put the Tar Heels back in front of the No. 4 Hurricanes. "We're not getting that pressure on the quarterback enough," said Miami coach Larry Coker. "There were times to make plays, and we made some plays, but it wasn't enough." Durant, meanwhile, had nothing but praise for the five men in front of him. "Those guys — it's hard to put into words," he said. "Those guys played great." And with three games to play, offensive line coach Hal Hunter's success has helped put North Carolina in a position few could have imagined before the season started. UNC currently sits at 3-2 in the ACC and likely will receive a bowl bid if it can win two of its last three games against Virginia Tech, Wake Forest and Duke. "Coach Hunter's gotten us prepared all week," Chacos said. "(Miami is) obviously a really good team, really good up front. And we think we've got it really good up front. "Our offensive line is, I think, top in the nation. We're not afraid of anyone. We'll push anyone around."

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Tar Heels relax at invitational

UNC's Sands eeks out win in 50 free

BY RACHEL SODER

STAFF WRITER

After coming off an exhilarating meet early in the season against Georgia last week, the North Carolina swimming and diving team strolled into the Tar Heel Invitational with a relaxed and confident demeanor. The victory against Georgia propelled the men's team to No. 11 in the national rankings. The women's team, which lost to the Bulldogs, is ranked 15th. Devoid of the competitive pressure the Tar Heels usually face in their meets, the annual Tar Heel Invitational provided the swimmers with a chance to scrimmage one another as well as high school club teams and two NCAA squads. "I was delighted with what we got done," said Coach Frank

Comfort. "This is the most productive Tar Heel Invitational we've had in the last several years. We had a lot of good swimming." That good swimming included a dramatic finish in the men's 50-yard freestyle. In an extremely tight heat, freshman John Sands pulled off a last-second victory, just .06 seconds ahead of N.C. State's Cullen Jones. "Every time you hit the water, you try to swim fast," Sands said. "(Jones) won ACCs last year and made it to the NCAAs, so it's always good to win against good competition." In a match in which UNC competed against young swimmers from teams such as the North Carolina Aquatic Club, the Greensboro Swimming Association and the Chapel Hill YMCA, it was the Tar Heel freshmen who

shined. In the 200-yard women's freestyle relay, in which the UNC teams were grouped by class, the freshman combination of Lindsey Marck, Lindsay Donald, Karen Gately and Kelsey Morrissy took first place with a time of 1 minute, 36.24 seconds. "No matter what type of meet it was, it brings us together because we're cheering for each other and supporting each other," Morrissy said. "So it's definitely a good foundation for the weeks to come." Comfort agreed that the progress of the team has been and should continue to move in a positive direction. "We're developing at a wonderful pace," Comfort said. "I'm delighted with what we're doing right now." Juniors Patrick Woodruff and Amanda Smith each collected first-place finishes in the 400-yard individual medley with times of 4:06.11

and 4:23.44, respectively. The meet also gave UNC a chance to test its ability to swim tired after a rigorous practice the previous evening. "It's kind of nice to see where you're going, how you're swimming tired and how things are going to be because you're not going to rest for every meet," Sands said. "You're not going to be excited for every meet. It's just kind of good to get a swim under your belt where the pressure's not on." Friday's meet gives North Carolina a break before the season heats up again in the next couple of weeks. "I don't want to spend a whole lot of mental energy on this meet," Comfort said. "Next week, we have Virginia Tech, Richmond and Minnesota. That's where we want to be focused."

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