

Tar Heels tear it up in pool

BY JESSE BAUMGARTNER
STAFF WRITER

In a perfect world, North Carolina swimming coach Frank Comfort would have this much excitement at every meet.

Crammed into Koury Natatorium with six other teams for three days of intense competition, the Tar Heel women and men finished off the annual Nike Cup by capturing first and second place in their respective divisions Saturday night.

"This meet is almost like a championship, a practice for the championship," Comfort said. "There's a better crowd, there's more excitement, there are a whole lot of different teams — I mean, it's an exciting gig."

The additional teams and their fans provided lots of noise all weekend via team chants and encouragement, reaching a fever pitch at times.

"I just love before the relays," Comfort said. "I just love standing there, and I've been doing this for a while. But I get excited about it."

In second place after the first two days, the women's swimming and diving team stormed back Saturday to pass Virginia Tech and win the Cup with a score of 883.5 points.

"We really needed to have a lot of energy left the last day in order to catch up, and keep consistently coming fast the whole time," said sophomore Lindsey Marck.

Luckily for the Tar Heels, many of their strongest events came on the last day, providing the opportunity for a comeback.

Marck played a large part in UNC's success with victories in the 100- and 200-yard butterfly events, and freshmen Nicole O'Donnell and Whitney Sprague garnered much-needed points in their respective freestyle races.

O'Donnell won the 1,650-yard free in a team-record time of 16:13.88, while Sprague won the 200 and broke the team record in the 500, with a time of 4:44.25.

Marck, O'Donnell and Sprague all qualified for the NCAA Championships with their times.

On the men's side of the com-

petition, UNC claimed second place, finishing 190.5 points behind Clemson with a score of 862.5.

Sophomore Ryan Funderburk dominated the diving portion of the Cup, winning both the 1- and 3-meter events, and senior Chad Ames tied — that's right, tied — Virginia Tech's Gus Calado in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:47.71.

Comfort said he was pleased with the team's performance, hinting that he expects to see a different result when the men meet the Tigers head-to-head in mid-January.

Junior swimmer Tristan Davidson also saw the performance as a step in the right direction.

"This meet we were definitely looking to make progress with our time, just to be faster in general," he said. "And we did a good job of that."

The Tar Heels will next meet N.C. State on Nov. 30 before enjoying a blank schedule in December, but Davidson pointed toward the ACC Championships in February as the team's major goal.

"You know (the ACC Championship) has eluded us for a couple of years," he said. "But we've definitely got a lot of talent, a lot of good depth — we've done some hard work."

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SOCCER

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a few kicks, but the five shots they ended up with paled in comparison to UNC's 42, a new school record for shots in a tournament match.

The only rival that the Tar Heel attack faced was the UNC defense.

Pepperdine came into the game boasting three upperclassman forwards who had combined for 29 goals. The trio combined to take one shot.

"We don't concede a staging area," Dorrance said. "The three (defenders) are stepping forward at every opportunity. This disrupts the rhythm of most teams. It's difficult for teams who aren't accustomed to playing against our style to effectively navigate it."

The Tar Heels (23-1) proved they were ready for the dangerous Waves (15-4-3), who had a tie against No. 1 overall seed Portland and a win against second-seeded Santa Clara on their résumé.

But the near-capacity crowd of 4,411 had to wonder if Pepperdine was ready for the Tar Heels.

The Waves came in riding high with five consecutive victories and two shutouts to start the tournament, but the Tar Heel scoring outburst was by far the most shots and goals Pepperdine had seen this year.

And the final score could have been more lopsided without a career performance by Pepperdine goalkeeper Anna Picarelli.

Picarelli finished with 14 saves, a career high, and rebuffed several promising attempts with diving stops.

"The save she made on Jaime Gilbert's shot is the best save I've ever seen an opponent goalkeeper make on that field," Dorrance said.

"She was actually moving to her left and managed to almost 'Matrix'-like stop in the air, reorganize her body and throw an arm up to hit it over the bar."

UNC now advances to the round of eight — where they are 22-0 all time — to face Florida State on Friday at 3 p.m., once again at home.

And if they turn in another effort like Saturday's, it will take a Neolike performance to stop them.

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GARDNER-WEBB

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The Bulldog guards, on the other hand, didn't miss much.

Senior starters T.J. McCullough and Tim Jennings and backup freshman Ricky McPhee, who had a team-high 21 points in just 20 minutes, combined to go 9-for-16 from beyond the arc.

And G-W, which hit close to 60 percent from the floor in the first half, just might have shot the Tar Heels right out of their own building if not for the solid inside play of freshman sensation Tyler Hansbrough.

He had 15 of his team-high 21 points by halftime and generally lived up to the enormous hype that has been bestowed upon him.

Still, Hansbrough was reluctant to take all the credit for North Carolina's inside play.

"I wouldn't say I carry the load," he said. "With David and Byron (Sanders), I think we all do it equal."

That might be true — except for the Sanders part, of course — and against G-W, the Tar Heels were extremely fortunate that both Hansbrough and Noel came up big.

And while it was the freshman who provided the most points, it was the senior who provided the ones that proved most important.

"I'm extremely happy for David Noel, because he's done a great

job of leading this team through preseason practice," Williams said.

"Overall, you just feel as lucky as you can possibly be and just get the heck out of town."

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UNC 83, Gardner-Webb 80

Gardner-Webb 46 34 80

North Carolina 46 37 83

Gardner-Webb (80)										
	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp				
Bender	34	1-10	0-2	3-6	2	4	3			
Gash	31	2-8	3-4	2-4	4	1	7			
Conn	36	6-8	4-4	1-3	2	4	16			
McCullough	36	5-8	0-0	2-6	3	4	13			
Jennings	37	9-15	0-0	0-6	4	3	20			
McPhee	20	6-8	5-5	0-0	1	3	21			
Jones	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	2	0			
Siddie	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0			
Total	200	29-58	12-15	10-27	16	21	80			

Percentages — FG 50.0, FT 80.0, 3-point goals — 10-27 (370) (Bender 3-7, Jennings 2-6, McPhee 4-6, McCullough 3-4, Gash 0-3, Siddie 0-1). Team rebounds — 2. Blocked shots — 0. Turnovers — 23 (Jennings 8, McCullough 6, Gash 4, Bender 3, McPhee 3, Steals — 14 (McCullough 4, Jennings 4, Bender 2, McPhee 2, Gash, Conn).

North Carolina (83)

	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp				
Noel	32	6-7	3-7	9-5	2	1	17			
Hansbrough	26	9-12	3-4	1-4	1	2	21			
Terry	27	5-8	3-6	3-5	2	2	13			
Ginnyard	26	4-9	0-0	1-3	2	1	8			
Frasor	21	1-6	0-1	0-2	7	1	2			
Thomas	19	0-3	0-0	0-2	4	1	0			
Green	13	4-6	6-8	1-1	1	1	17			
Miller	14	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0			
Sanders	18	2-4	1-2	1-3	0	2	5			
Copeland	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0			
Total	200	31-56	16-26	11-28	22	12	83			

Percentages — FG 55.4, FT 81.5, 3-point goals — 5-16 (333) (Green 0-3, Frasier 0-4, Noel 2-2, Terry 0-2, Ginnyard 0-1, Miller 0-1). Team rebounds — 3. Blocked shots — 0. Turnovers — 20 (Frasor 5, Ginnyard 3, Thomas 3, Noel 2, Hansbrough 2, Terry 2, Sanders 2, Miller). Steals — 14 (Hansbrough 4, Noel 3, Terry 3, Frasier, Thomas, Green, Miller).

Technical fouls — None. Attendance — 19,761.

FOOTBALL

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Richardson.

"That got us out of our game plan, out of our mind-set. They had us fussing at each other because we were trying to get each other under control."

Even when North Carolina seemed to reverse the game's momentum with a big defensive play, it backfired. Three times — twice on interceptions, once on a fourth-down stand at the goal line — the defense handed the ball to the offense on its own 1-yard line.

And when injuries to defensive

stalwarts Chase Page and Tommy Davis threatened to decimate a depleted defensive line, the Tar Heels had every opportunity to fold.

But quarterback Matt Baker — who threw for 238 yards and one touchdown in the game — wouldn't let it happen.

Trailing 21-17 with five minutes left in the fourth quarter, the offense began to drive with no alternative but to score a touchdown.

"It was like, 'We'd better get in the end zone, or this isn't going to be pretty,'" Baker said. "Everyone in that huddle knew we were going to do it."

But with the way the Tar Heels had struggled to that point, the final drive certainly couldn't be smooth.

On the fourth play of the drive, an apparent touchdown pass to Jesse Holley went instead as an offensive pass-interference penalty and left the Tar Heels back in their own territory.

Three plays later, with the Tar Heels facing a do-or-die fourth down in Duke territory, tailback Ronnie McGill found a sliver of daylight on the right side of the line and stretched for the first down by the slimmest of margins.

"At first, I thought he had definitely gotten it, and then I looked at the chains from the sideline and looked at the ball spot, and I knew it was going to be pretty close," said offensive tackle Skip Seagraves.

But the tide-turning play of the drive came when Baker, having thrown two straight incomplete passes, put the game in the hands of his feet. With Duke linebacker Jeremy Edwards hot in pursuit, Baker sprinted to the left sideline and slid safely for a 19-yard gain.

"I thought I had beat him to the corner, but you never know

where they are, if they're going to dive and get you," he said. "I felt something hit my shoulder pad, and I was waiting for my feet to get clipped."

It never happened. Two plays later, McGill scored the game-winning touchdown from three yards out, capping a 28-carry, 146-yard day, his most prolific output of the season in both categories.

All that remained was for Richardson to intercept a pass from Blue Devil replacement quarterback Mike Schneider — Richardson's first career interception.

"He's been dying to get a pick all season," Davis said. "It was a great way to end his home career."

The early struggles with discipline, however, left a sour taste in the mouths of those Tar Heels who saw an opportunity to decide the game well before the fourth quarter.

"We're still a much better team than Duke," Baker said.

"I'm not afraid to sit here and tell you that. The score shouldn't have been as close as it was. ... It's going to be a tougher game, always, than what it should be, but it still shouldn't have been that close."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Tarpley, White lead the waves of UNC offense

BY DANIEL MALLOY
SPORTS EDITOR

Pepperdine goalkeeper Anna Picarelli looked like she had been in a fight.

She walked into the interview room of the McCaskill Soccer Center with a dazed look on her face and sat down at the podium with one sleeve covered in grass stains, the other rolled up with an ice pack taped to her shoulder.

Though Picarelli had turned in arguably the finest game of her career, she had just been the victim of a relentless Tar Heel attack keyed by two record-setting seniors, who led the team to a 6-0 victory that wasn't even as close as the score.

News flash: Kacey White and Lindsay Tarpley are good. Real good.

White took her usual sidekick role to a new height Saturday, setting an NCAA Tournament record with five assists by masterfully manning the right midfield and humbly setting up her talented forwards.

"It's a tribute to the great finishers we have on this team," White said. "I try to put the balls in the

right areas but ultimately it's up to them to finish it."

In her four years in Chapel Hill White now has put the ball in the right area 58 times, tying her for third on UNC's all-time assist list.

No. 56 came when White collected the ball on the right side, biding her time until she found just enough of an opening to slip the ball to a wide open Heather O'Reilly 5 yards in front of the goal. Picarelli had no chance. It's those kinds of plays that make White, in UNC coach Anson Dorrance's eyes, worthy of a national team spot.

"I'm hoping this is a platform for her to get to play for her country," Dorrance said. "Because I can't think of a flank player in the United States right now that's playing better soccer than Kacey White."

The other player with 58 career assists is one more known for her scoring — Tarpley. She netted a hat trick for the second straight game, earning the UNC record for career NCAA Tournament goals that was previously owned by someone named Mia.

After the match, Pepperdine head

coach Tim Ward sounded more like a fan than an opponent as he gushed about Tarpley's ability.

"She's better than most guys I've played against," Ward said. "So I can't say she plays like a guy because she plays better than a lot of guys. She's more sophisticated."

Fittingly, Tarpley's final two goals came from the foot of White, the first a cross from the right side of the box, the second a perfectly placed through ball.

"Up front, their understanding of where their teammates are," Ward said. "They can link up, one touch. It's fantastic."

It's that kind of quick passing and deft ball movement that has the Tar Heels back in the NCAA quarterfinals after a one-year absence. And has them playing some of their best soccer of the season.

"The timing couldn't be better," Dorrance said. "If you want to play at your highest level, I think if you pick the NCAA Tournament as your time to peak, you've picked wisely."

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DAVIDSON

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already had engineered an 11-1 run, and it entered the break with a 48-24 lead despite being outbounded by the Wildcats (0-1) by four.

"We were trying to get to the offensive end without the basketball," Hatchell said.

"You have to get the basketball first before you can get to the other end. We have to block out and get the rebound before we can fast

"They're ranked (seventh) in the nation, and they certainly played like it. ... We were kind of rattled there a little."

ANNETTE WATTS, DAVIDSON COACH

break, and I think maybe we forgot that."

The Tar Heels corrected the rebound margin in the second half, besting their opponents on the boards 28-22, and they quickly put the game away as well.

By the first media timeout, they led by 30. Less than four minutes later, the lead had ballooned to 39.

"They're ranked (seventh) in the nation, and they certainly played like it," said Davidson coach Annette Watts. "They tried to trap and press us ... and we were kind of rattled there a little."

The lopsided score allowed the Tar Heels to empty their bench, with all five freshmen on the roster playing for at least three minutes each.

Rashanda McCants led the rookies with nine points though she struggled with her shooting, making only four of 15 from the floor for a dismal field goal percentage of .267.

Fellow freshman Christina Dewitt also contributed eight points and led the team with nine rebounds in 16 minutes on the floor.

The contest against Davidson was Dewitt's first after being suspended for UNC's final exhibition game against Athletes in Action for an unspecified violation of team rules.

"(The freshmen) just have to relax and play," Hatchell said. "They're reacting instead of anticipating or being there ahead of time — they're not sure about every-

thing. The tempo of the game is much, much faster than how they played in high school."

Considering the fact that the five first-year players contributed a total of 29 points, 17 rebounds and seven assists in only their first game of the season, however, things could be worse.

And if Friday is any indication, it could be a long season for North Carolina's opponents if the freshmen can adjust to college-game speed.

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UNC 86, Davidson 48

Davidson 24 24 48

North Carolina 48 38 86

Davidson (48)										
	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp				
Kelly	25	2-4	4-5	5-10	1	3	8			
Hemerka	29	2-10	3-5	2-2	2	7	7			
Crayton	20	5-12	2-3	2-4	0	3	13			
Mitchell	21	0-4	0-0	2-3	0	1	0			
Washington	37	3-3	3-5	1-2	2	0	9			
Robinson	9	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	2	0			
Gassie	16	0-3	0-0	1-6	0	2	0			
Housley	22	1-4	0-0	1-4	2	2	2			
Hatchell	31	2-7	3-4	2-8	1	3	9			
Total	200	16-58	15-22	24-46	8	18	48			

Percentages — FG 27.6, FT 68.2, 3-point goals — 1-16 (052) (Housley 0-7, Mitchell 0-4, Hemerka 0-3, Crayton 1-2). Team rebounds — 2. Blocked shots — 2 (Crayton, Gassie). Turnovers — 26 (Housley 5, Washington 6, Hemerka 3, Kelly 2, Crayton 2, Mitchell 2, Robinson 2, Gassie). Steals — 8 (Kelly 2, Hemerka 2, Washington 2, Crayton, Mitchell).

North Carolina (86)

	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp				
Little	21	2-7	3-6	3-6	4	1	7			
Larkins	17	6-8	0-0	0-6	1	1	12			
Atkinson	15	1-6	0-0	2-3	1	1	2			
Sell	15	1-3	0-0	0-2	1	1	3			
Latta	26	7-12	2-2	0-2	7	0	20			
McCants	21	4-15	0-0	5-8	4	1	9			
Miller	18	2-6	0-0	0-1	1	1	5			
Pringle	17	1-3	2-5	4-7	1	2	4			
Dewitt	16	4-7	0-2	4-9	1	3	8			
McFarland	8	1-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	2			
Clayton	9	2-5	1-2	1-1	0	7	7			