

# Heels look to bounce back

BY POWELL LATIMER  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After the first losing season in recent memory, North Carolina volleyball has high hopes for a return to the top.

None of the players on this year's team had known a losing season before 2006's 11-20 campaign, and the memories of those losses serve as motivation for the 2007 squad.

"We don't really say it very often, but it's kind of in the back of everyone's minds," senior Christie Clark said. "It's kind of fueling us for this year. It's motivation to have a great year and come back. We learned a lot last year, and I think we can take that and put it into this year. It's definitely fueling us, because no one likes to have a losing season."

Exactly how far UNC can rise is debatable, since no player from 2006's team ranked in the national top 50 in any major category. However, if the Tar Heels have to rely on intangibles, they certainly have them in seniors Ashley Board and Clark.

"They've come in and created a really good climate for the returning players and for the freshmen to be welcome, and that's what you want," head coach Joe Sagula said. "And making it competitive and holding people accountable."

Board in particular immediately stands out as a leader. In her first practice back after a hip injury, Board hit the floor again and again on the wrapped hip.

"When I'm out there I don't real-



DTH/RICKY LEUNG

Senior Ashley Board goes for a dig in practice. Board and the rest of the volleyball team hope to rebound after a disappointing 11-20 season.

ly feel anything," Board said. "It's just instinct to go hard all the time, and I'll think about the pain later."

Leading by example would have been enough, but Board kept up a constant dialogue of encouragement and advice to her teammates.

"It's so much fun — there's never a dull moment with Ashley on the court," Clarke said. "She's always talking in a positive way; she's always telling you where to hit the ball because she sees the court really well."

But Board is not the only cause for optimism on the Tar Heel side. The program brought in a few highly touted recruits — Courtney Johnston and Sue Haydel. Haydel

was the 2005 National Junior Player of the Year and Gatorade Louisiana Player of the Year in 2005 and 2006.

"They both attack very, very well with a lot of velocity and power, and they're significantly more mature than most freshmen coming in," Sagula said. "They've acclimated extremely well to the program."

A few returning players for the Tar Heels also have sparked the coaches' interest.

"The person that first comes to mind is Christine Vaughen," Sagula said. "As a sophomore she has really seemed to have impressed a lot of the coaches, and I think her teammates. She's come in extremely fit; she's worked really hard to get to this point."

Vaughen had the second-highest kill percentage on the team last year and was fourth in blocks per game.

Another sophomore who could take a bigger role is Ingrid Hanson-Tuntland, who averaged 2.49 points per game and 2.03 kills per game.

Heading into 2007, Sagula's hopes are high for his team.

"I believe that this team will compete for the ACC title, will get into the NCAA tournament and before it's all over will be ranked as one of the top teams in the East Region, and then nationally will put us somewhere to be ranked in the top 25," Sagula said.

"I think that is a realistic expectation for this program. I think we're going to bounce back real big."

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

# Freshmen tackle death penalty

BY EMILY STEPHENSON  
STAFF WRITER

UNC's first-year students brought a national political issue into an academic setting before they even set foot in their first classes.

About 20 first-year students met with Chancellor

James Moeser and Student Body President Eve Carson on Monday afternoon to discuss this year's summer-reading book.

Moeser began by asking students to share what surprised them most

about Sister Helen Prejean's "The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions."

The book gives Prejean's account of her relationship with two men on death row whom she believed to be innocent.

Several students expressed their concern with Prejean's representation of the American justice system.

In the book, Prejean defends her anti-death-penalty stance with examples of prosecutorial misconduct and convoluted legal procedures.

"I was surprised that something like this actually happened in the American justice system," freshman Brad Waters said.

Lizzy Hazeltine, another first-year participant, said she thinks the book also reveals the modern legal system's deviation from the adage "innocent until proven guilty."

Moeser said the problems of prosecutorial misconduct and assumptions of guilt have been illuminated by events following last year's Duke University lacrosse scandal.

Former N.C. District Attorney Mike Nifong, was disbarred from the N.C. State Bar because of his actions in prosecuting the case.

Many of the students also said they were astonished to read Prejean's evidence implying that the death penalty is not the quick, cheap solution that many of its supporters claim.

"I feel like it kind of gave me a perspective that you don't usually see as much," Waters said. "I am much more informed about the topic now."

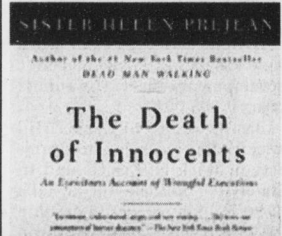
Most group members said that the discussion session forced them to examine their beliefs.

"I won't say that it converted me in any way," freshman Jordan Seal said. "But I would like to sit down and have a conversation with Helen Prejean."

Moeser, who has led a summer-reading discussion group at the start of each of his eight years at the University, said different opinions are desirable in group discussions.

"The quality of this discussion was really wonderful," he said. "I would have been disappointed if there had been no difference of opinions. This is what a University discussion should look like."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).



# Ruling sends death-penalty debate back to N.C. officials

BY ALEXANDER TROWBRIDGE  
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

A judicial decision this summer added a new twist to the continuing debate about N.C. execution protocols, but the opinions of involved parties remain largely unchanged.

Senior Administrative Law Judge Fred G. Morrison decided to send the issue back to the N.C. Council of State, a board consisting of Gov. Mike Easley and other elected officials.

The ruling was the latest in a long line of decisions about the death penalty made at the judicial and legislative levels.

The debate began Jan. 18, when the N.C. Medical Board effectively stalled executions in the state by deeming it unethical for doctors to participate in state executions.

Execution protocol requires that a doctor be present during an execution.

Morrison's concluding remarks chided the board for overstepping its boundaries.

"To threaten to discipline a doctor for helping in this manner is not regulating medicine for the benefit and protection of the people of North Carolina," the conclusion states.

He said that the council, which considered the issue in February without hearing from condemned inmates' lawyers, erroneously approved a protocol allowing doctors to be present without participating.

Morrison concluded that the limited participation of trained medical professionals in lethal-injection

executions posed serious risks of undue pain to the condemned.

Even after Morrison's decision, the debate among lawmakers, activists and the Medical Board remains at a standstill, as do executions in North Carolina.

Senate Minority Leader Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, who proposed a bill last February to strip the Board of its power to punish doctors involved with executions, remains opposed to the decision of the board and wants the power to continue executions placed back in the hands of elected officials.

"The legislature should certainly address the issue and, in my opinion, should address it in a matter that is consistent with the views of the majority of the people in the state," Berger said.

Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, an Orange County Democrat and opponent of capital punishment, supports the Medical Board's authority and said that doctors' moral responsibilities transcend politics.

Medical Board officials said it was inappropriate for Morrison to mention the board in a case in which it was not involved.

As they are a party in other cases still being tried, though, they refused to comment beyond their position statement: "Physician participation in capital punishment is a departure from the ethics of the medical profession."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

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