

North Carolina squads set for full weekend slate

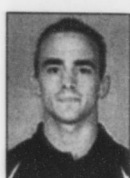
BY JOHN DOUGHERTY, BETH MECHUM AND BRIAN WILLETT
STAFF WRITERS

A year after leading the ACC in fielding, the UNC softball team came into 2008 looking to improve at the plate. So far this season, North Carolina has succeeded beyond expectations and put up numbers unlike any in the team's history. Offensively, the Tar Heels have managed astronomical production, breaking the school record for runs twice in the season's first weekend. Fueled by such offensive explo-

sions, UNC now stands at 5-0 on the season. Junior outfielders Emily Troup and Whitney Allen have led the Tar Heel offense with a combined three home runs and 16 RBIs. UNC coach Donna Papa attributed her team's improved run-scoring ability to an offensive focus in the off-season and, of all things, pitching. She said her batters are better prepared to face tough pitching this year because they see it in practice. Posting an ERA of 2.57, junior Lisa Norris has pitched two complete games for a dominant UNC staff.



Emily Troup has been a big part of the Tar Heels' offensive explosion to start the 2008 season.



Keegan Mueller looks to continue his standout year with two weekend wins.

Of course, even the Tar Heels' blazing bats and steady arms are no match for Mother Nature. The Tar Heels had to nix a set of road games against UNC-Wilmington on Wednesday because of rain. The Tar Heels' next test comes this weekend when they escape the weather for Gainesville, Fla., and a matchup with No. 10 Florida.

Though Papa expects an elevated level of competition from the Gators, she said her team will try not to prepare any differently. "We try to worry about ourselves more," Papa said. "We focus on what we need to do to win a game."

Junior Amber Falcone is expected to be the defensive leader — a grueling task, considering that Levy believes UNC's defense will be the Tar Heels' biggest strength this year.

But for tonight's game, the defense isn't at the forefront of Levy's mind. "We need consistent play and to just put the ball in the back of the net," she said.

After coming off a strong win Feb. 8 against ACC rival N.C. State, the

keep score, Levy said the main thing the team is worried about is getting in the right competitive mind-set.

"There will be a little bit of a mental change from preparation mode to competition mode," she said.

UNC played teams including Louisville and UVA. in the South of the Border Tournament at the Finley Fields practice complex in Chapel Hill.

Despite the fact that there were no official scores, Levy said she was happy with the team's overall performance because she could see the pre-season practices coming to fruition.

Wrestlers head north

After coming off a strong win Feb. 8 against ACC rival N.C. State, the

North Carolina wrestling team is looking forward to an action-packed weekend filled with similar success.

UNC coach C.D. Mock said the decisive victory provided a big boost for the Tar Heels.

"It was a great win, particularly because State has such a strong following," Mock said. "And they're also pretty hostile."

Indeed, no love was lost during the match, with continued dominance from redshirt junior Keegan Mueller, who recorded his second pin of the season to keep a streak of 17 straight victories alive.

"Mueller has been great — he's stepped up and demonstrated," Mock said. "He shows the huge difference between wrestling with confidence and without it. That's

the hardest thing for coaches to teach."

UNC's toughness will be tested with a busy schedule this weekend, as the team faces Ohio tonight and No. 22 Pittsburgh on Saturday.

To make matters worse, UNC will face personnel shortages throughout both matches, with redshirt senior Drew Forshey sidelined until the ACC Championships with an ankle injury.

"Against Ohio we'll be bringing up a true freshman at 125 (pounds) who's seen no college competition," Mock said. "But Ohio we should beat, and we're capable of doing the same against Pitt."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

my focus my future

MY BRYAN MBA

Prepare yourself for opportunities

- ✓ Applications from all majors accepted
- ✓ Scholarships, fellowships, and graduate assistantships offered
- ✓ 12 hours of elective credit to focus on the subjects important to you
- ✓ Gain practical experience through consulting projects and an internship program

MyBryanMBA.com

Lacrosse begins season

"Excited" is the word of the pre-season for the North Carolina women's lacrosse team. UNC coach Jenny Levy said they're just ready to play.

After weeks of practice and an exhibition tournament last weekend in Chapel Hill, Levy said the girls are pumped for Loyola tonight.

"We're excited about this year's team," she said. "Our defense is going to be great."

Since the exhibition games did not

Wrestlers head north

After coming off a strong win Feb. 8 against ACC rival N.C. State, the

THE LOWDOWN ON TONIGHT'S GAME

No. 3 North Carolina at Virginia
John Paul Jones Arena, 7 p.m.
Broadcast: RSN
Radio: 1360 WCHL

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Backcourt
Cetera DeGraffenreid has steadily improved her game throughout the season, averaging 15.3 points in her last four games. UVA's Shamee Zoll will have a tough task stopping the UNC frosh. **Edge: UNC**

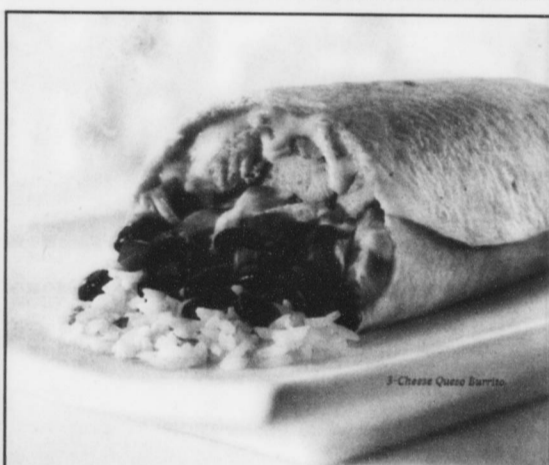
Frontcourt
Aisha Mohammed nearly averages a double-double at 12.5 points and 9.4 boards a game, giving UVA. muscle down low. But she alone won't be enough to neutralize seniors LaToya Pringle and Erlana Larkins. **Edge: UNC**

Bench
Virginia throws a lot of bodies onto the court — too bad the Cavaliers' depth doesn't equal production. No one on UVA. can match North Carolina sophomore Jessica Breland's production. **Edge: UNC**

Intangibles
On paper, this game looks to have the makings of another UNC rout — don't expect that to be the case. UVA. has played inspired hoops of late, losing by just six at Maryland and winning 12 of its past 14. **Edge: UVA.**

The Bottom Line — North Carolina 78, Virginia 70

COMPILED BY DAVID ELY



THE MORE FLAVORFUL THE SAUCE, THE MORE FLAVORFUL THE BURRITO.

A unique sauce makes a unique burrito. That's why, at Qdoba, we've invented some inspiring sauces that are far from ordinary Mexican fare. From our wildly popular Warm 3-Cheese Queso and zesty Ranchera sauce to our proprietary Poblano Pesto sauce and Ancho Chile BBQ, there's a flavor with your name on it here. What are you going to love at Qdoba?TM



(corner of Franklin & Columbia)
929.8998 • 100 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill • www.qdoba.com

Qdoba and Qdoba Mexican Grill are registered trademarks of the Qdoba Restaurant Corporation ©2008. "What are you going to love at Qdoba?" is a trademark of the Qdoba Restaurant Corporation ©2008.

NEED AN EDGE

Read The Wall Street Journal

Only \$19.95 - 10 weeks (print and WSJ.com)

To subscribe, go to: <http://subscribe.wsj.com/unc>

These educational rates are for a limited time only for students in the U.S. Sales tax may apply. Offer expires 8/01/08.

I work.

I play.

I help.

I am Blackbaud.

Blackbaud isn't just about technology. It's about individuals wanting to make a difference, being part of the community, and working to serve nonprofits.

Are you Blackbaud?

Blackbaud Careers

www.blackbaud.info/IamBlackbaud

I was there... Carolina vs. Virginia Tech February 16th, 2008

turn it blue in the Smith Center

Carolina vs. Virginia Tech Saturday, Feb. 16th

TURN IT BLUE T-SHIRTS WILL BE PLACED IN EVERY SEAT OF THE SMITH CENTER FOR FANS TO WEAR DURING THE GAME.

Shirts provided by FedEx Express and Chapel Hill Sportswear

Nominate your favorite UNC-CH staff member or employee

The Student Undergraduate Staff Awards (SUSA) committee is now accepting nominations for the 2007 SUSA Award. SUSA is a \$1000 award funded by student fees for undergraduates to recognize excellent staff and employees (any UNC-CH employee that is not a professor or TA):

Examples of those eligible for SUSA (this is NOT a complete list):

- Housekeepers
- Academic advisors who are not professors
- Student Health Services employees
- Librarians
- Grounds-keepers
- Public safety employees

For information and to submit a nomination, visit <http://studentorgs.unc.edu/suta>. You must be an undergraduate student to submit a nomination.

Nomination Deadline: Friday, February 15 by 11:59 PM

Email nomination form as a Microsoft Word attachment