

Swimmers Need Champion Performers

By JOE SANDERS
DTH Staff Writer

When the UNC junior varsity swimming team clobbered Clemson's varsity squad 79-25 last week, Coach Pat Earey was pleased in his low key way. It was what coaches like to call a "solid effort with several individuals putting out fine performances," meaning that things went pretty much as expected.

"The big question, this year," said Earey, "is whether our front runners will develop into first calibre champions." It will take the champions

to place the Dolphins anywhere near the national top-ten standings that they have been flirting with now for years. For as everyone in swimming knows, a well-rounded team can come through a season undefeated and not even send a swimmer to the national championships in March.

Earey and nearly every

coach of a minor sport in the ACC tries to build a powerful team with everything he has on hand—everything, that is, except money. The top teams—Southern Cal, Indiana and Yale—have the funds to lure the best of the high school athletes, and that's where most of the top talent goes. When a boy in high school knows he's good, he'll usually have a price tag attached.

What the minor-sport coaches like Earey try to work with is scheduling, training and psychology. In these departments Earey excels, and he had built as many second-rate swimmers into champions as have come to him already at the top in their event.

This year, for instance, Earey has worked out a schedule that will develop his athletes bit-by-bit, meet by meet. Clemson and Duke, who each year have a battle with Virginia for last spot in the conference, lead off the schedule. Saturday the Dolphins face an improving South Carolina squad here in Chapel Hill for the varsity's first test of the season.

From then on, those varsity swimmers with potential will have to start performing if Earey's hopes for a great team are to bear fruit. Those swimmers are Fred Danneman, a senior backstroke whose up-again, down-again career has led to collegiate All-American standing; Jim Edwards, a strong senior with a reputation for pulling UNC's relay finishes from second to first place, and Frank McElroy, a junior whose gung-ho attitude on swimming has helped him win races where no bookie would have given him the odds.

If after South Carolina the Dolphins can deliver a one-two punch to Maryland and Navy, the next two opponents, Earey

can look forward to fighting the real toughies: Florida State, Florida and N.C. State.

All the while he'll have his eye on the freshmen. Of David Bedell, Curt Chambers and William Wallace, Earey has high hopes. Chambers is one of those freshmen who has been on top ever since he entered prep school and is as sure a bet to win events as a freshman can be. But freshmen are always question marks; no coach counts these eggs in December when hatching time is in March.

If Earey is worried about the team, or money, or anything, he doesn't show it. His psychological treatment of his swimmers is one of calm, quiet determination. Swimming has more than its share of the "clout-'em-over-the-head" variety of coach, the type cartoonists like to draw as screaming in the locker-room.

Although he has the size (6'5") and the muscle for such antics, his method of psyching his swimmers is atypical. His pre-meet locker-room talks are optimistic, calm appraisals of how the Dolphins might win and which members should be feeling the pressure (usually all of them).

You can see him before an event with both hands on a swimmer's shoulders, staring him in the face and talking quietly. Usually the psyching amounts to no more than, "with all the strength you've

been showing and the way you've been going recently, there's no reason why you can't be right in there . . ."

Combined with Earey's general demeanor, such words have more than once aroused a swimmer to maniacal and pathological determination to either win or go off in a corner and die. None have died yet.

As for the money, Earey is ambivalent. "We'd like to have the funds, but this sort of thing can get out of hand. If we get four scholarships, State says, 'look, we've got to have four more,' and so on. Our emphasis is on the athlete and this matter of funds can get cutthroat and lose sight of our basic goals."

Earey's attitude on funds highlights the East Carolina meet scheduled for the end of the season (set for that time because an earlier one could not be worked out.)

It seems that a few years ago some one at East Carolina College convinced the College that what an aspiring regional university needed was an expensive swimming pool and a national championship.

So they built an expensive pool and hosted a national championship and when it was over all the visiting swimmers and reporters went home.

Now there the pool sits—presumably full of water. As far as anyone has heard, the new pool has boosted neither the athletic nor academic standing of ECU, but if we detect an improvement, we'll let you know.



Swimming Coach Pat Earey

... Counting On Several Key Men To Boost Team

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Knowlton Places

A UNC journalism student tied for third place in the national William Randolph Hearst writing competition for the month of October.

Steve Knowlton, a senior from Degewater, Fla., received a \$250 scholarship for his entry. The School of Journalism was the recipient of an equal grant.

The Hearst contest is sponsored monthly for undergraduates of the 55 accredited journalism schools in the nation. The October competition was in the general news writing division.

Knowlton submitted an article written for the Long Island Suffolk Sun in September dealing with a bus accident in Oneida, N.Y.

This is not Knowlton's first award in the Hearst competition. Last year he tied for seventh place in the editorial writing division and received a \$100 scholarship. He also received a \$500 scholarship for second place in the "spot news" category.

Knowlton is currently a stringer for the Charlotte Observer.

Campus Calendar

ORIENTAL POETRY, Experimental College class, will meet tonight at 7 p.m. in 112 Murphey.

MIXED MEDIA reading hour on Vachel Lindsay, 4:30 p.m. in Room 111, Murphey.

Philological Club presents Aldo Scaglione who will lecture on 'Literary and Architectural Analogies in the Language of Baroque.' The Faculty Lounge, Dey Hall, 7:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS are

invited to a party given by the faculty at the Newman Center, 415 Pittsboro Street, 4:30-6:30.

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE meets tonight at 7:30 p.m. in 203 Alumni.

Direct Action

LONDON (UPI)—The owner of a London hairdressing salon told his staff to take flu shots or face getting no sick pay if they come down with the ailment.



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