

## Baseball opens home season

Sophomore Greg Norris draws the starting mound assignment for Carolina today when the Tar Heels play their first home baseball game of the year against Atlantic Christian at 2:30 p.m. at Cary Boshamer Stadium.

Having played seven games in Georgia and Florida over spring break, the Tar Heels will be home for eight games in the next seven days and then host N.C. State in the conference opener March 24.

After today's Atlantic Christian matchup, Western Carolina visits Chapel Hill for a doubleheader. UNC then has single home

dates scheduled with Old Dominion, High Point, Campbell, Methodist and East Carolina.

Coach Walter Rabb, in his 31st and final year as head coach at Carolina, saw his team win three and lose four on the season-opening road trip. The Tar Heels went under the .500 mark Saturday when they lost in the ninth inning, 8-7, to Georgia Southern.

"Right now I'd say I was disappointed but not discouraged with the way we've played this spring," Rabb said Monday. "I think we'll settle down to be a good ball club."

He indicated that Norris, a 6-foot-3, 210 pounder who played jayvee ball last spring, would be his starting pitcher against Atlantic Christian in the home opener. Norris was 4-3 in the North Carolina Summer League and compiled a 2.36 earned run average.

—PETE MITCHELL

### Pep rally set tonight

A pep rally will be held tonight to boost the Carolina basketball team as it prepares to travel to College Park, Md., to play in the NCAA Eastern Regionals. Carolina, after its win over Purdue Saturday, will meet Notre Dame Thursday at 9 p.m.

The pep rally, sponsored by the cheerleaders and the pep band, will begin at 9 p.m. at Carmichael Auditorium. A parade will then wind across campus and end at the Granville Towers parking lot, where cheerleaders say the main activities of the evening will occur. The basketball team will be present at Granville.

—KEVIN BARRIS

## Yankee tix to be distributed

Student tickets for the exhibition baseball game between UNC and the New York Yankees April 2 in Chapel Hill will be distributed today beginning at 5 p.m. in Carmichael Auditorium.

Ticket distribution will be similar to the way basketball tickets have been distributed this year. Ushers will use the numbered card system to determine the first 1,000 students in line.

The 1,000 seats available to students are one-half the seats in Boshamer Stadium. The remaining 1,000 seats, along with 500 bleacher seats on the right field line, are to be sold to the public, with Ram's Club members getting first choice.

Students will also be allowed to sit on the bank beside Avery Dorm by presenting their UNC I.D. the day of the game. UNC students will be the only ones allowed to sit in this area.

## Heels net victory over Gamecocks, 5-4

The UNC women's tennis team opened its spring season with a 5-4 win over South Carolina Monday in Chapel Hill. Jean Scott's backhand down-the-line shot in the first-court doubles match ended the ordeal, as Carolina narrowly avoided a defeat at the hands of a surprisingly strong Gamecock squad.

South Carolina took wins on the first, second and sixth singles courts to force a 3-3 deadlock going into the doubles play. The Tar Heels gained a straight-set victory on court three, but USC retaliated by winning the second court match. Carolina's Susie Black and Scott then won in three sets to give UNC the 5-4 victory.

Singles: Cindy Kincaid (UNC) d. Susie Black 2-6, 6-2, 6-3; Deborah Cooper (USC)

d. Suzanne Bowron 6-4, 6-4; Nina Cloaninger (UNC) d. Kathy Wheeler 6-0, 6-0; Rebecca Garcia (UNC) d. Beth Keil 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; Lisa Dodson (UNC) d. Cindy Johnson 6-0, 7-6 (5-3); Sally Wilson (USC) d. Jean Scott 6-2, 6-2.

## UNC netters move to 4-0

The UNC tennis team won three dual matches over spring break, boosting its record to 4-0. The team defeated West Virginia 9-0, Furman 9-0 and Tennessee-Chattanooga 6-1. Two doubles matches were rained out in the Tennessee match. Carolina travels to Guilford for a 2 p.m. match today.

Doubles: Black-Scott (UNC) d. Kincaid-Johnson 6-3, 6-7 (5-2), 6-3; Wheeler-Cooper (USC) d. Cloaninger-Dodson 6-3, 7-6 (5-3); Garcia-Janet Shands (UNC) d. Ann Pasky-Cissie Melson 6-3, 6-2.

## Loses opener to Terps

# UNC lacrosse takes to the turf

By TOD HUGHES  
Staff Writer

UNC's lacrosse team launches its 1977 campaign with high expectations after coming off its finest season ever, which included a 9-2 season mark, a trip to the NCAA championships and a fifth-place finish in the nation.

Saturday the new year opened on a sour note, however, as the Heels lost out to powerful Maryland 14-6 at College Park. UNC trailed by only a goal after the first quarter, but the Terps moved ahead 7-2 by halftime. Maryland then tossed in three goals in the first two minutes of the third quarter and this proved to be the turning point of the game. This put the Heels down 10-2, and although they played the Terps even from there, the deficit could not be overcome.

Despite this initial setback, prospects remain bright for a successful year for the Tar Heel stickmen.

"For the first time since I've been here we've got some experience," Carolina Coach Paul Doty said. "We finally have some guys who have played real good competition lacrosse for a long period of time. We have more team depth than we've ever had, particularly in the attack and midfield areas."

"If we have a weakness, it's our defense. We graduated two starters off our defense and we've had some injury problems there. This was the strength of our team last year. I think if statistics were taken of the big games in Division I, our defense probably had the



All-America Tom Venier

lowest goals against of any team in the country."

The Heels return three All-America players from their 1976 squad, midfielders Randy Gilbert and captain John Donato and attack Tom Venier. Other top returnees include leading scorer Danny Cox, senior Steve Sartorio, junior Paul Worstell and

junior college All-America Joe Yevoli. The mainstays on defense will include John Threshie and Doug Fierro, Rip Davy and Dan Foley.

In order to qualify for the NCAA playoffs in lacrosse, a team must finish in the top eight in the nation. This means that strength of schedule and won-loss record are extremely important for teams with post-season aspirations.

"It used to be that teams would schedule everybody and go 7-4 and still get into the playoffs," Doty said. "Now teams are dropping some of the stronger teams so they'll go 9-2 and be assured of getting in the playoffs. We find it a lot harder to get teams to play us now. We used to be considered a team that was easy to beat, but now we're not that way anymore."

Last year the Heels were No. 5 nationally, and Doty hopes his team can do better in '77.

"We've improved every year on our national ranking in the last four or five years, but it's going to be more difficult this year for us to be ranked as high. For one, people know we're good this year. They'll be much more prepared to play us."

Doty sees the Atlantic Coast Conference race shaping up as one of the closest ever. He cited Virginia, Maryland and UNC as being the top three contenders, with N.C. State and Duke a notch below.

"It's just like in basketball," Doty said. "In order to win our conference, we just about have to be a national contender."

Next, the Heel stickmen scrimmage Yale Wednesday at 3 p.m. on the astroturf field.

## Heels collect first place in Pinehurst golf; King, Buttner, McGough lead early efforts

By LEE PACE  
Assistant Sports Editor

It was about this time a year ago that things looked pretty good for UNC's men's golf team.

The Tar Heels had followed a successful fall campaign with second-place finishes in their opening spring tournaments and found themselves ranked sixth in the nation at one point. If anyone stood a solid chance of catching Wake Forest in its annual Atlantic Coast Conference championship run, it was Carolina.

But soon after the Heels' tee shots were finding the rough; their approach shots were landing in the sand traps and their putts were going anywhere but into the hole. And by the time the Heels trudged in with a fourth-place finish in the ACC tournament, they were ready to call a mulligan on the whole season.

"We've all wondered what happened last year," UNC Head Golf Coach Mike McLeod said. "If there's any way of avoiding it this year we'll do it. I think last year we might possibly have relaxed and gotten a little complacent after we saw our names in print. But I think it's made us work harder this year."

Provided the Tar Heels can avoid a similar slump this year, they might very well equal the expectations of last spring's team. And they've gotten off to a good start, finishing sixth, first and third in three tournaments the last two weeks.

The Tar Heels opened with the sixth best performance in the 32-team Bing Crosby Tournament in Guadalajara, Mex. The UNC effort, which, according to McLeod, "wasn't terribly disappointing since we were competing against teams from the Southwest that had been playing all winter," was led by Kevin King's four-day total of 287.

Carolina then slipped by Brevard (Fla.) Junior College by three strokes to capture the Pinehurst Intercollegiate Tournament, with King again being low man. He fired a three-day total of 228.

"We didn't have anybody finish in the top five," McLeod said. "But we didn't have any bad scores. That's what did it—balance."

UNC then collected a third place behind Wake Forest and Georgia in the Palmetto Classic in Orangeburg, S.C. Bill Buttner and John McGough tied for third place in individual competition, both recording even-par 216s for three days. Buttner would have challenged for first had he not suffered a double bogey, a triple bogey and a bogey on the last hole each day.

"Buttner has really arrived," McLeod said of the junior who was rated as only the No. 5 player on the team. "He's shown he can be one of our steadiest players. The biggest thing he needed was confidence in himself. He's never realized how good he is."

Buttner, who made the team as a walk-on, is cocaptain of the squad along with junior Bill Sibbick, who made all-ACC as a freshman.

McGough and King both started last year as freshmen, with McGough taking medalist honors in the Palmetto Classic.

"McGough has yo-yoed a little this year," McLeod said, "having some bad rounds for him and some good ones. King is extremely confident and extremely capable. He attacks the course with the ferocity of a toy terrier. He's a small guy, but he's not afraid of any course or anybody."

The top six is rounded out by juniors Johnny Elam and Freddie Palmer. Elam, who doubles as the Tar Heels' football punter, has not yet played up to McLeod's expectations, as he's been hampered the last year by a knee injury.

"Elam doesn't seem to be recovered completely from his knee injury," McLeod



John McGough

said. "It doesn't consciously hurt him, but I think it apparently still affects him. He has to get his confidence back. He isn't attacking the course quite like he should."

Palmer, said McLeod, has steadily improved and adds additional depth to the squad. Billy Varn blends more depth and is capable of "moving up the ladder quite high."

A good indication of just how good the 1977 Tar Heels are will come this weekend in the Iron Duke Classic in Durham.

"How we finish at Duke will give a good indication," McLeod said. "If we do well we could be off and running."

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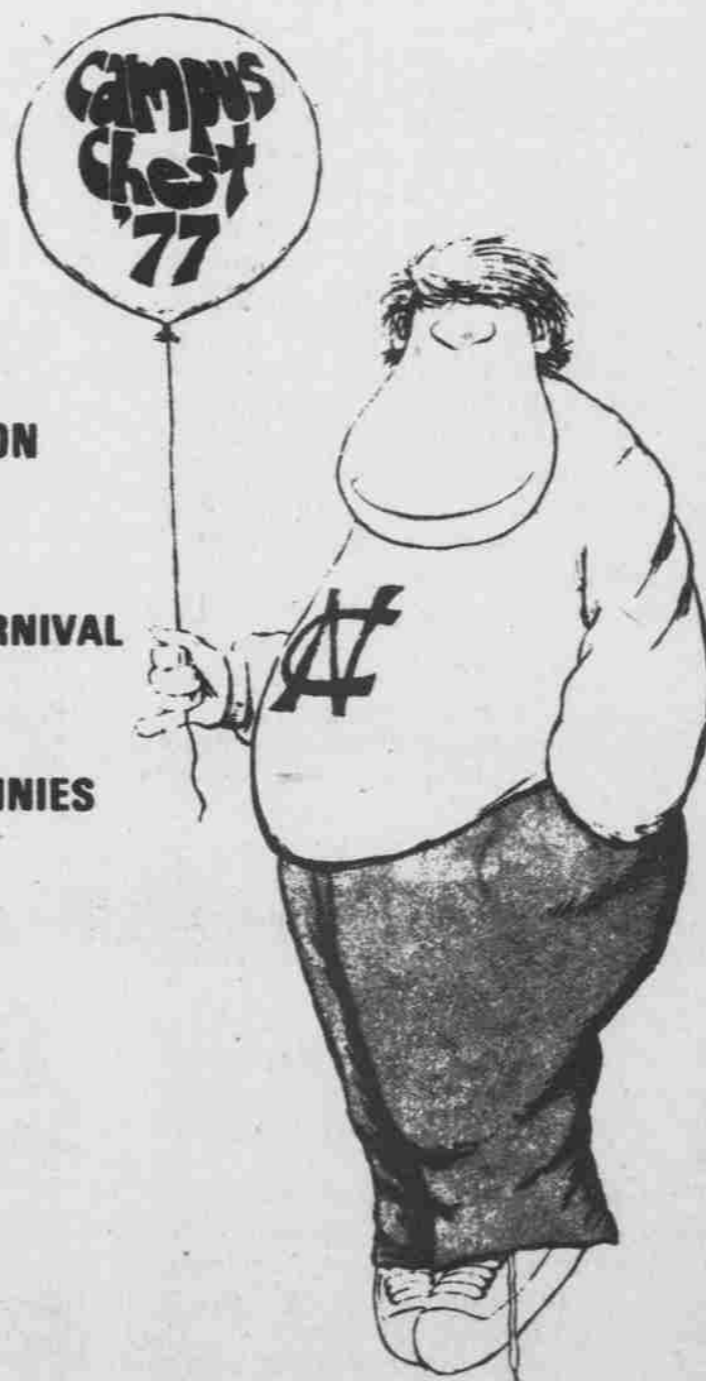
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