

# Brown among winning swimmers at World Games in dismal Bulgaria

By DEDE BILES  
Staff Writer

During the week of Aug. 21 through 28, most UNC students' concerns centered around the yearly ritual of moving to Chapel Hill, picking up schedules and going through drop-add.

But while Carolina swimmer Bonny Brown was scheduled to enter the University as a sophomore, her concerns — at least for that week — were focused on the University of Bulgaria in Sofia where she was swimming for the United States in the World University Games.

Being chosen to represent the United States in international sports competition is not an easy process.

As a freshman, Brown won the national championship and set an American record in the 100-meter individual medley at the National AIAW (Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) championships with a time of 58.99.

Her time in the 100-meter freestyle last spring was enough to qualify her among the 12 women considered for that event for the USA team.

From June until August, each girl was required to swim as many AAU sanctioned meets as possible. In August, those with the

top times were selected for the World Games.

"It was really a patience builder waiting from April to August to find out if I made the team," Brown said. "I was very happy when they called me on the phone Aug. 1 — I had had to wait and pray about it so long."

A 100-meter freestyle time of 59.0 in early July earned Brown the third position out of five available to 100-meter freestylers.

One of Brown's first impressions of Bulgaria and its people was that everything was so dismal.

The athletes were housed in a drab, brick dormitory, she said, and had to wear dog tags in order to get past security guards armed with machine guns.

"I was sort of offended by the atmosphere," said Brown. "We tried very hard to get people to smile over there. As much as you could do to smile, they wouldn't respond."

Even though the individual Bulgarians were unresponsive, toward the end of the competition the U.S. athletes had the crowds cheering for them. Brown said they did this because the U.S. athletes were so friendly. When the Americans would stand on the awards blocks to receive their medals, they would wave and smile at the crowd.

The young men and women of the United

States had many opportunities to be friendly as they captured 24 of the 42 possible medals. Brown's 400-meter freestyle relay team contributed to the Americans' medal total with a first-place finish.

In addition, Brown served as captain of the U.S. women's swim team.

Brown felt a deep pride for the United States while standing on the award block waving at the crowd.

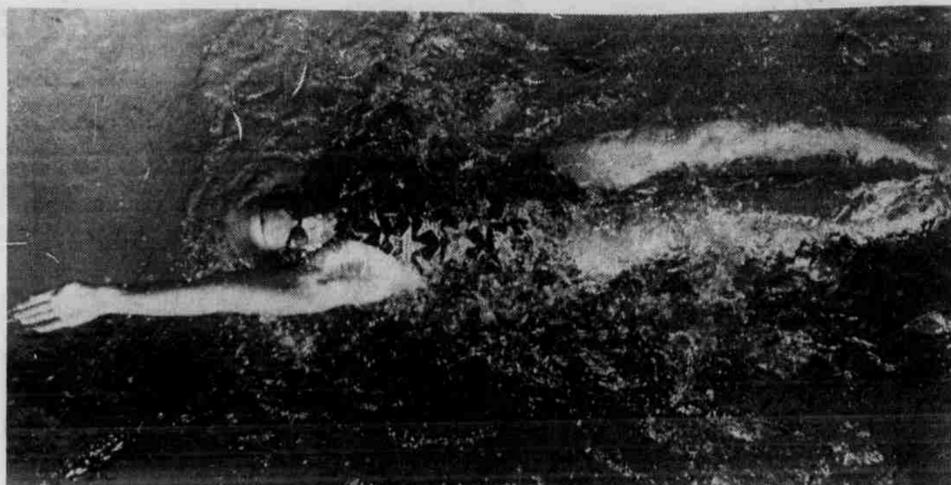
"When you get on the award blocks and they raise the flag behind you, you're so proud you almost want to cry," Brown said.

Despite the absence of the strong East German women's team in the games, Brown said the swimming competition was very tough with the presence of several Olympians and a strong Russian team. Brown said although the meet was international she was not nervous.

"Whatever the outcome, I'm always at peace because I know it's God's will," Brown said. "I still get the same amount of adrenalin flowing. I'm still competitive, it's just a more peaceful kind of competitiveness."

The American athletes discovered their days in Bulgaria to be busy ones with only one day for sight-seeing. But Brown and her teammates still found time to meet numerous athletes from other countries.

The Americans met many foreign athletes



Tar Heel swimmer Bonny Brown was one of a number of talented collegiate swimmers from across the United States who qualified to participate in the World University Games held in August in Bulgaria. Staff photo by Fred Barbour.

by congratulating them when they won or did well in a race. Though they didn't understand the words the Americans were using, they understood the smiles, hand shakes and nods of the head.

Another way of meeting the other athletes was using the "trading method."

"They would trade over anything with USA on it," Brown said. "People were getting specialties of the country... T-shirts, pins and shorts."

"While trading, we would ask the athletes how they were doing and talk to them a little bit. They would ask us if we had any more friends who wanted to trade."

Compared to the other athletes, Brown said the USA "outcheered them all." She said the Canadians had a close team and that no one saw the Russians except during competition because they were secluded from the other athletes.

Brown definitely believes the USA will be able to continue to compete with other swimming powerhouses such as the Russians and East Germans.

"As far as men's swimming, we will always be domineering," Brown said. "Their program is good as it stands. Men mature to their capabilities in college and they're not afraid to get better."

Brown said she believed the USA would come back in woman's swimming, which has been dominated by the East Germans since 1973.

"I don't think people are afraid to say 'lift weights' now, and we're beginning to specialize more in certain events like the East Germans," Brown said.

Of all the people she met and the memories she brought back with her from Bulgaria, Brown said the association with the athletes on the USA team would have to be the thing she enjoyed most.

Participating in the World University Games may have been an unforgettable experience for Brown, but Monday, Aug. 29th found her back at UNC coping with the beginning-of-the-year hassles and jet lag from a lengthy return trip.

"When I got to school I only had nine hours," said Brown.

## Hockey blasts ECU, 9-0

East Carolina may be coming up in the world with its new medical school and successful football team, but in the area of women's field hockey it is digressing. Last year the Tar Heels embarrassed the Pirates 8-0, and expected a revenge-minded opponent when they traveled to Greenville Tuesday.

As it turned out, however, all Carolina's worries about the Pirates were unnecessary as the Heels humiliated ECU again 9-0.

Though UNC coach Dolly Hunter said the game was not her team's best of the season, she had to give the Heels credit for putting on the best scoring show of the year as they knocked in four goals in the first half and five in the second. "We were very persistent about scoring when they got the ball in the scoring circle."

There was more of a contest between inners Bashi Buba and Vicki Greenwood to see who would get the most goals than there

was between the two teams. Greenwood got the first score on an assist by Joanne Fresco, and proceeded to assist Buba on the next goal making it one apiece. Next, Buba got an assist from Laurie Ginter to go one up, while freshman Libby Mathiason tallied the last goal of the half.

While no coach could frown on such prolific scoring, Hunter didn't think the passing and stickwork was up to the Heels' potential. "It was difficult to play our passing game because there were so many fouls (on both teams)," Hunter said. "They (the fouls) ruined the continuity of the game because the officials had to keep stopping it."

The defense didn't have as much action as the offense as Carolina kept the ball close to the ECU goal for the most part.

The Heels' next game may be their toughest of the season, when they take on Virginia at 3 p.m. Friday on James field.

— ISABEL WORTHY

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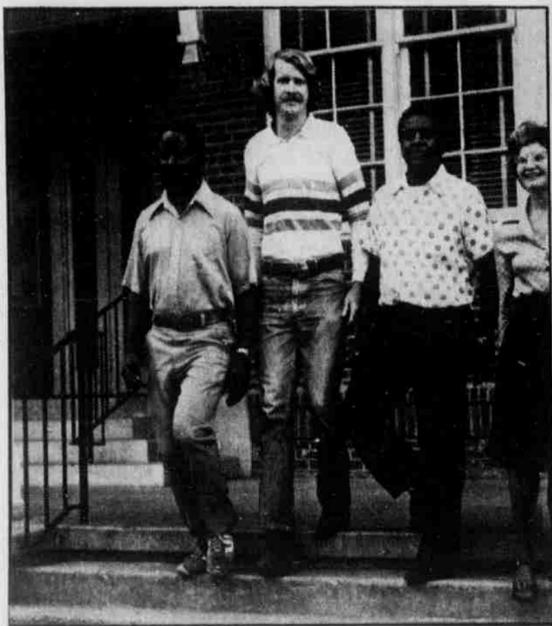
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Here is when and where to register:

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Thursday, Oct. 6 8:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 7 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 8 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.  
Monday, Oct. 10 Last Day 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

In Chapel Hill Municipal Building, Airport Road (Next to Fire Station)  
Thursday, Oct. 6 Noon to 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, Oct. 8 9 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.  
Monday, Oct. 10 Last Day 9 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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SHOWS 3:15-9:15  
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**Plaza 3** STARTS TOMORROW  
ELIJAH RD. AT E. FRANKLIN  
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