

UNC swimmers open season

By KEN ROBERTS
Staff Writer

The very mention of a meeting between Carolina and State teams causes blood to boil, gives birth to blasphemous bumper stickers and insures a resurgence of demeaning wit.

Most of the time.

The UNC swim team opens its season with the ACC relays Sunday in Raleigh and, well, the usual sentiments don't seem to be there.

"Absolutely all we're trying to do is learn a little about the (UNC) team. I haven't seen any of them in competition yet," Coach Frank Comfort said.

While this is Comfort's first season as head coach, he is not a complete stranger to Chapel Hill. After serving as an assistant coach here for the 1967-68 season, he accepted the top post at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

His nine-year stay there climaxed in last season's Division III national championship.

"November is a training month and a learning month," he said.

There will be no scoring kept in the meet.

The swimmers will compete in three other meets before the Christmas break: Dec. 1 the team travels to face Pittsburgh; Dec. 3 it will race in the Penn State Relays and on Dec. 6 the Heels face East Carolina.

After a quick Christmas, team members will go to Florida for 12 days of practice from Dec. 26 until Jan. 8.

"It's a great place to be for 12 days of training. We don't swim anybody down there; we just train," Comfort said.

The 1978 schedule is a strong one. In addition to conference foes Clemson, Duke, Wake Forest and Virginia, Carolina will go up against Auburn (No. 5 finisher in last season's NCAA nationals), Georgia and South Carolina.

The men's team has a 170-27 cumulative record against the squads it will face this season. The women have an equally impressive 11-1 mark against the same foes, excluding Wake Forest and Pitt, which do not field teams.

Comfort has inherited two strong teams. The women's team swam to a seventh-place finish in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Nationals

held last March in Providence, R.I. All the members of that team are returning, and Comfort is confident about the upcoming season.

"Our women would like to do better nationally. That's making it difficult though," Comfort said. "There's only six places ahead."

Co-captains Bonnie Brown and Laurie Potter gained All-America status in the national meet. Brown won the 100-yard individual medley, setting an American record, and Potter was 12th in the 200-yard butterfly.

Potter said she optimistic about the year and happy with the new coach.

"He stresses the fundamentals a little more than I'm used to, but that's good," she said.

Senior men's team co-captain Mark List also said there were differences in the coaching this year.

"There's definitely a difference in the program. It's a lot more organized and there's more communication," he said. "He's really working hard, but he's not trying to do everything himself. There's just too much for one person to do," List said.

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The UNC women's golf team completed its fall schedule with a ninth-place finish in the Lady Gator Invitational Nov. 14-16 in Gainesville, Fla.

Arizona State topped the 18-team field with a three-day total of 947. The University of Miami fell one stroke short at 948. Florida International had 956; Tulsa, 964; Florida, 968; Texas, 969; Georgia, 992; Ohio State, 992; and UNC, 995.

The individual winner was an independent

That's why Comfort, the first full-time swimming coach at UNC, has three assistants. Alan Toll is a 1977 graduate of Carolina. Comfort brought Richard Goodale from Johns Hopkins, Susan Allen, the third assistant, is a 1977 graduate of Virginia.

While the outlook for the men's team is far from bleak, it is not as promising as the women's. In last year's ACC championships at Clemson, the Heels finished third behind Clemson and No. 1 N.C. State. In the national's Carolina managed a 29th-place finish.

A very strong recruiting year should prove important in improving the marks from last season. UNC landed a horde of swimmers from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Tom Prassas, Clay Gilbert and Arnold Perez swam for Pine Crest. Bob Omansky, Ken Ireland and Keith Holtman swam for Nova High, also in Fort Lauderdale.

"This is the best men's class Carolina has recruited in 12 years," Comfort said.

Comfort said one of his main goals is rebuilding a strong program for Carolina.



Women's swim team co-captain Laurie Potter prepares for the ACC relays Sunday at N.C. State. Staff photo by Mike Sneed.

UNC women's golf finishes ninth in Lady Gator Invitational

from Miami Dade, Pam Elder, who shot a 226.

Carolina sophomore Stephanie Kornegay was finished 10th. Had it not been for a first-day 85, Kornegay could have finished higher. She dropped nine strokes the second day, shooting a 76. Her final round of 77 gave her

a 238 total.

The entire Tar Heel squad — Susan Cary, Janet Haire, Bonnie Bell, Maureen Long and Kornegay — had a poor first-day showing. Taking the four low scores from the five golfers, the Heels shot a 352.

On the second day, Bell, a senior, slashed 11 strokes from her opening 91. Cary chopped 10 strokes from her first-day score of 89. Long improved her score to an 83.

The Tar Heels second-day round of 318 was the second lowest total of the day, topped only by the University of Miami.

The third day the Heels came through with another good round, a 325. Kornegay was low for the Heels with a 77, followed by Long, who shot an 82.

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