#### Carolina gymnasts aim for the top as season kicks off

By GEOFFREY MOCK Staff Writer

With all but two starters returning from last year's 10-1 team, the North Carolina gymnastics team opens its season against Georgia College at 5 p.m. Saturday in Carmichael Auditorium.

Coach Ken Ourso said he usually didn't schedule asspect before the Christmas break, but said the team would be ready. "They'll be a little rough at this meet," he said. "The team we'll put on the floor Saturday won't be like the team in the regional meet (at the end of the season). We'll be better then."

The all-around lineup for the Georgia College meet will include two area competitors. Karen Kaiser from Chapel Hill and Rachel Thompson from Raleigh will compete in the all-around along with co-captain Diana Cates and Tiffany

Diana is improved from last year and is providing some good leadership," Ourso said, "Tiffany is a very solid and consistant competitor. Rachel is nice because she's a hard worker who

doesn't complain about anything."

Each individual exercise will consist of the four all-around contestants plus two additional competitors. Ourso said one of the floor competitors would be Catherine Williams. "She's improved tremendously over last year," Ourso said. "If she gets some confidence, she cold have one of the best floor exercises in this part of the country."

On the uneven bars will be Kathy Miles and Elsie Slobodin. Jennifer Britt and Jenny Owen will be on the balance team. "Jenny is a freshman who had a back injury in high school and hasn't competed in two years," Ourso said. "She should surprise some people on the beam."

Britt also will compete in the vaulting with the other spot still undecided, Ourso said. He said that



Gymnest Diana Cates on balance beam ... Carolina opens season Saturday

the team would be more consistent this year." We have more depth this year than ever before. We'll be strongest on the uneven bars and the beam."

Ourso said the highlight of the dual-meet season would be against Duke on Jan. 23. "Duke has a couple of new tough girls, plus their team lives and breathes to beat North Carolina. That's all they care about."

Other schedule highlights include the Jacksonville tournament at the University of Jacksonville of Alabama. Jacksonville was the only team to beat Carolina in dual meets last year. N.C. State is starting a gymnastics program that Ourso said should be tough. State will entertain the Tar Heels on Feb. 17.

Injuries hit hard

## Texas experiences an off year

By NORMAN CANNADA

The University of Texas spent most of the 1980 football season working on its own version of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

The Longhorns opened the season in typical Texas fashion, winning their first five games and climbing to No. 2 in the national polls. With two of the victories coming over national powers Arkansas and Oklahoma, talk circulated of a possible Cotton Bowl matchup for the national championship.

Enter Mr. Hyde. Within the next two weeks, the Longhorns fell all the way out of the polls with losses to Southern Methodist and Texas Tech. Texas continued its downhill skid and finished in a tie for third place in the Southwest Conference with a 4-4 conference record.

MAfter we moved to No. 2, there was a lot of talk about a national championship," said Texas All-Southwest Conference tackle Terry Tausch. "We had won some big games, and we had nothing but conference games left. I guess you could say that we bit the big one."

One of the reasons for the Longhorns' sluggish ending was an epidemic of injuries. Running backs Rodney Tate and A.J. "Jam" Jones did not play in many of the team's conference matchups, and both are questionable for the Dec. 31 Bluebonnet Bowl game against North Carolina. In addition, quarterback Donnie Little bruised a leg in the team's regular-season finale against Texas A&M, and is also questionable.

"Injuries have been our main problem this year," said consensus All-America Kenny Sims. "We had a few injuries to some key players and they kept mounting up. We just couldn't get it back together."

Even if the injury situation is cleared up, Little still may not be the starting quarterback in Houston. Little has had trouble with consistency as well as injuries and split time in some games with Rick McIvor.

"(Little) has played super at some times during the year and not so good at other times," Sims said. "Our biggest weakness has been a lack of consistency on the offense. We lost our timing early in the year and haven't regained it."

Despite the disappointment of finishing third in the conference and losing a Cotton Bowl berth, the Longhorns are happy to be going to the Bluebonnet

"Our first goal was to go to the Cotton Bowl, but that was kind of thrown out of the picture after the loss to Baylor," Tausch said. "I didn't want to go to the Sun Bowl again after playing in that the last two years, so I like the idea of playing a team that is 10-1. It's a challenge."

Sims said although he didn't know much about UNC, he believed the two teams would match up well together.

"I haven't seen them except on TV against Texas Tech. I've heard they have a great offensive team. I know that they have two great backs, but a running game best suits our style of play. I'm looking forward to lining up and going at it."

A win over the Tar Heels would be a sweet ending to an otherwise disappointing season.

"I think that we're a lot better than our record shows," Tausch said. "We believe that we belong in the Top 20. We'll have the opportunity to prove what we can do in the Bluebonnet Bowl."

## Growing up

#### No longer Tar Babies, they're still freshmen

Sam Perkins and Matt Doherty, students, basketball players and freshmen, were welcomed to Carmichael Auditorium Tuesday night and in their first game for keeps before the home folks, the twosome disappointed no one.

Never mind that in addition to 22 points and nine rebounds Perkins once blocked a shot on defense but went to the other end of the court, rushed a shot and had it blocked. Forget that in addition to seven assists, Doherty at times was too charitable and passed the ball when he should

Those were freshman mistakes, and first-year players from Pepperdine to North Carolina will make them. These are 18- and 19-year-old athletes, just months removed from the gymnasiums, study halls and proms of high school.

Now they're in college, and it's a new ballgame - both on and off the court - and since freshmen became eligible for varsity play in 1972, the demands on them have

Before 1972, freshmen had their own teams. At Carolina, the first-year players were called Tar Baoies, with the name symbolizing the youth it represented. The rookies would play a schedule of about 15 games, become oriented to college life and prepare for their sophomore season, when they would be allowed to play for varsity.

Although Tar Heel Head Coach Dean Smith has benefited from freshman eligibility - in the form of Phil Ford, for example - he is one coach in the NCAA that is against it. If he had his way, Perkins and Doherty and their classmates, Dean Shaffer, Cecil Exum and Timo Makkonen, would be Tar Babies, not Tar Heels.

"This past summer, 10 basketball coaches and 10 football coaches got together in a seminar with the NCAA, and 19 of the 20 wanted to do away with freshman eligibility," Smith said, "and I hear the athletic directors

The move to make freshmen eligible was primarily money-oriented and there's no doubt that Ford, Ervin Johnson and Gene Banks' presence on the court their first years in school contributed - however indirectly - to money in the school's bank account.

### **Bill Fields**

And with the start of freshmen eligibility came recruiting ars. N.C. State went on probation for the recruitment of David Thompson, and in the past two years, the attempts to sign Ralph Sampson and Earl Jones could have been plots for both soap operas and war movies.

Because freshmen often are seen as saviors, the catalysts to turn a mediocre team into a great one or a poor one into a challenger, they often assume roles of supermen.

Spectators, even fans from within the student body, forget that Sam Perkins and Matt Doherty have to take English 1 and History 11 and Math 22, or any of a number of first-year courses.

Following the Mercer game, Perkins and Doherty stood in the Carolina locker room and answered questions from reporters for the first of what should be many times.

Perkins talked confidently and assured listeners that he did not feel additional pressure as a freshman, because he was one of the best catches of the last recruiting year. "It is different from high school." Petkins said. "It's a faster pace, and there are many more games. And the

games in college are so close. Here you have to concentrate every time." Perkins talked about school work. Yes, quite naturally, he admitted, there is more work to be done. Doherty, also acknowledging a tougher academic burden, said he had

troubles adjusting socially to Chapel Hill at the beginning of the semester. Family and friends were left behind in Long Island, N.Y., and until he made friends here - especially with roommate Jim Braddock - he said the transition was not

smooth. But he's getting used to Chapel Hill now, and he and Perkins are becoming familiar with Dean Smith's offensive and defensive strategies. And he's also learning about strategies for term papers. He left the locker room to finish working on one.

But he showered and walked out as a Tar Heel, not a Tar Baby, and they're supposed to grow up faster - or at least that's what many people think.



## Basketball

#### Final Big Four next test for men

North Carolina, Duke, N.C. State and Wake Forest begin play tonight in the final Big Four basketball tournament at the Greensboro Coliseum.

The tournament, an annual affair for a decade, will be discontinued after this season because of complaints from schools about having to play each other head-to-head early in the season.

The Tar Heels meet the Blue Devils in the opener at 7 p.m. with State and Wake squaring off in the 9 p.m. game. Losers meet at 7 p.m. Saturday in the consolation game with the championship set for 9 p.m.

Carolina enters tonight's game ranked 10th in the country. The Tar Heels have a 4-0 record, including wins over Georgetown and Arkansas in the Great Alaska Shootout last weekend.

"We've got four games under our belt now," Tar Heel Al Wood said. "We've been down in some of those games, but we've proved we can come back."

Duke, N.C. State and Wake Forest are all unbeaten as well after taking wins over non-conference opponents. The Big Four games do not count in the Atlantic Coast Conference standings.

"I think we're ready for the Big Four," James Worthy said. "The Alaska Shootout helped. I think we'll

#### Tigers beat UNC; women face State

The UNC women's basketball team dropped its first Atlantic Coast Conference game at Clemson Wednesday, 85-70.

Barbara Kennedy led Clemson with 25 points as the UNC record fell to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in ACC play. The Tar Heels were led by Henrietta Walls, who had 22 points. Kathy Crawford had 14 points and Tresa Brown added 12 for

The Tar Heels face another tough test Saturday when they host the powerful N.C. State Wolfpack in Carmichael Auditorium.

"We'll see a completely different N.C. State team than we have seen in the past," UNC coach Jennifer Alley said. "In the past the team has been very disciplined, but this year it's not working the inside game. This year, State is relying on the fast break and its perimeter shooting for offense."

Gone from the Wolfpack is All-American center Genia Beasley, but the State team is by no means without

"It will be crucial for us to control the boards," Alley said. "The team that controls the boards will control

the game." Alley said she believed her team was coming along well and was at about the level she expected it would be at this time of the year.

"Individual performances have been steady," she said. "Different players in different positions have come on in different games. The players are more aggressive and are trying to mix up the defenses more than in the past."

## Tourneys greet wrestlers

By GEOFFREY MOCK Staff Writer

With four straight dual meets against nationally ranked opponents just around the corner, the North Carolina wrestling team hopes to gain some valuable experience in its next two tournaments.

The Tar Heels will participate in the Penn State Invitational Friday in University Park, Pa., and then coach Bill Lam will take some of his wrestlers to the Midlands Open in Evanston, Ill., on Dec. 27.

"It's good experience for the kids," Lam said. "There will be two other ACC schools at Penn State and we'll get to see what we have to do with them. They get two, three matches against tough competition without the pressure

of the team winning or losing." The team will need the competition because after Midlands the Tar Heels enter the toughest part of their schedule, starting with Auburn on Jan. 9. "The tournaments will be very important because the first four teams are nationally ranked," Lam said. "Auburn will be one of the toughest dual-meet teams in the nation. As we saw in our

tournament, they don't have a weak

Lam will be helped at the beginning of next semester when returning starter Jack Parry joins the team from the football squad and junior college national champion Doug Saunders will be ready to wrestle after nursing an injured knee.

Heading the 16-team field at Penn State will be Clarion State, Auburn, Michigan and the host Nittany Lions. An even tougher test lies ahead at Midlands, Lam said. "Midlands is like going to the nationals. We'll take our top people and send some freshmen to a tournament in Wilkes, Pa. Wilkes will be tough, but everyone can get a couple of matches. It makes no sense sending someone to Midlands who will get beat early."

The inexperience of the young Tar Heels may show in these bouts, but Lam said the team was improving every match. "I'm very pleased with their attitude," he said. "The pressure was on them in the win over Georgia Tech and if they always work like that we'll be tough at the end of the season. But we must survive those first four matches,"

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