

SPORTS

Tar Heel grapplers to be tested in Virginia Duals

By MICHAEL PERSINGER
Staff Writer

The UNC wrestling team is young, but coach Bill Lam is trying to make sure nobody calls it inexperienced. Lam has guided his team through a torturous early-season schedule with a lineup that has included as many as seven freshmen in an effort to prepare them for the approaching ACC schedule.

This weekend will provide the last warm-up for the ACC season as the Tar Heel grapplers compete in the Virginia Duals at Hampton Coliseum in Hampton, Va. It also will mark the first action this season for Jan Michaels, a two-time All-American. Lam had considered red-shirting Michaels, but recently changed his mind.

The format for the Duals is different from most wrestling tournaments in that the team, rather than the individual advances.

The Tar Heels, seeded fourth in the tournament, will meet Air Force in the first round. The Tar Heels are in the same bracket as Wilkes, the tournament's No. 1 seed.

1 seed.

Other teams in the tournament are Clemson, George Mason, Morgan State, West Virginia and Old Dominion. Clemson, currently ranked 18th in the nation by Amateur Wrestling News, is seeded only third in the tourney, behind Wilkes and West Virginia.

This is the first time North Carolina has appeared in the 3-year-old event. Lam said he felt the event was good for his team in terms of recognition, and also said that the accompanying high school tournament would provide him with an opportunity to watch some of the best scholastic wrestlers in Virginia and also do a little recruiting.

"There will be a lot of competition in this meet, and it is a well-run event," Lam said. "We should be very competitive, but with as many young people as we have, it is hard to tell how good we will be."

The Tar Heels will open up the ACC season Tuesday night, Jan. 25, at Duke. UNC will return home Jan. 28 for a match against N.C. State in Carmichael Auditorium.

Swimmers to challenge Tennessee Vols

By TRACY YOUNG
Staff Writer

Most people think of "fun in the sun" when they think of a trip to Florida. But the combination of Florida and Christmas break means intense training for the UNC swim teams.

This year's trip to Fort Pierce was no exception. Co-captain Sue Walsh even called it more intense than in past years.

In the long run, Coach Frank Comfort said he hoped the trip would help his swimmers to perform better come championship time. But in the short run, Comfort said he was looking for a good showing by the swimmers who qualified for the USS Internationals last week and by all of his swimmers throughout the next couple of weeks when they will be repeatedly challenged by top-notch teams. The first of these meets will be Saturday when the Tar Heels travel to Tennessee.

Comfort's wish for the USS Internationals, held in Indianapolis, came true. With 15 national teams and various invited swimmers from the U.S. competing, UNC swimmers made it to the finals in nine events.

Walsh and freshman Polly Winde, both of whom swam for the United States team and not North Carolina, led the way for

the Tar Heel swimmers. Walsh placed third in the 100-meter backstroke (1:02.44), fourth in the 50-meter freestyle (26.01) and seventh in the 200-meter backstroke (2:16.67). She also swam the backstroke leg (1:02.87 for 100 meters) of the second place 400-meter medley relay team.

"I was pleased with my 50 free and 100 back. My 200 back I wasn't real happy with," Walsh said. "I don't know if I would have placed any better if I was rested, though, because the East Germans came out very fast."

Winde took fifth place in the 200- and 400-meter individual medleys. Her times were 2:17.67 and 4:48.35, respectively. Winde also placed sixth in the 100-meter breaststroke (1:12.25).

Comfort said that aside from the U.S. Championships, the USS Internationals was the most important meet of the season. For the men, Eric Ericson placed twice for Carolina, with a sixth in the 100-meter backstroke (57.33) and a seventh in the 200-meter backstroke (2:05.18). Dirk Marshall placed eighth in the 100-meter butterfly (56.30).

The other UNC swimmers who competed in Indianapolis were Sue Scott, Jenny Strickland, Roger Vredevelid and Chris Stevenson.

Stevenson, a freshman who placed 11th in two events, is con-

tinually improving.

"I just keep learning more and more about Chris Stevenson," Comfort said. "We recruited him as a backstroke and he's still not swimming that."

Now Comfort has to look forward to the Tennessee meet this weekend. This is a team his men have never beaten.

"I told our men we've got to be careful because we can end up with a losing record and still win the conference title and end up in the top 15," Comfort said.

"The three teams that beat us (in the regular season) last year, we beat in the nationals."

Comfort added that the Tennessee men are especially strong in the freestyle sprint area.

The UNC women's team, ranked third nationally, also will have good competition on Saturday, when they swim against Tennessee's 10th-ranked team. Walsh is confident Carolina will win though.

"They'll give us a chance to see where we stand now," she said. "I think our girls are experienced enough that if they give us more competition than we expected we can turn it around."

The women's team currently is undefeated at 4-0, while the men are 1-1.

Broken foot could end Whittenburg's career at State

From Staff Reports

North Carolina State guard Derek Whittenburg's college basketball career may have ended Wednesday night when he broke his foot in the Wolfpack's 88-80 loss to Virginia.

Coach Jim Valvano said it would be impossible to adequately replace Whitten-

burg. Freshman Ernie Myers will likely start in his place.

Whittenburg broke his foot when he landed on Virginia guard Othell Wilson's leg after taking a corner jump shot. He scored 27 first-half points, including seven of nine three-point goals before he left the game.

"It's a devastating blow for a senior,"

Valvano said. "There's no chance of any hardship. He's played his 10 games. It is going to be difficult to replace him this year and it does certainly make things a lot more difficult for us this season."

But N.C. State trainer Craig Sink said it was impossible to say how long Whittenburg would be out, since recovery could be as short as four weeks.

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