

# Ready for regional action in Georgia

## UNC softball is excited for the postseason after missing out in 2011.

**By Henry Gargan**  
Staff Writer

After losing to Virginia Tech 4-1 in the second round of the ACC softball tournament, Haleigh Dickey said she wasn't sure if that game would be the season's last.

The North Carolina softball team won the ACC's regular season outright, but after the Tar Heels were snubbed from the NCAA tournament last year – after being runners-up for both ACC titles – she was hesitant to take the postseason for granted.

On Sunday, though, Dickey and her teammates breathed a sigh of relief. No. 22 UNC was selected

as the second seed in the tournament's Athens, Ga., regional. The Tar Heels will play their first game on Friday against Georgia Southern at 2:30 p.m.

“Last year we were told we were the number two seed and we'd finished second in the ACC,” coach Donna Papa said.

“We were second in everything, and we wound up not getting in. And the teams that were third and fourth in their conference, even in our conference, got in. I think there's a little hesitation from some of the players because we were a shoo-in, and then we got shooed out,” Papa said.

Though the Tar Heels are happy to still be playing, they're even happier with their tournament path, beginning in Georgia. Four of UNC's starters—Logan Foulks, Lori Spingola, Kelli Wheeler and Dickey—hail from

the Peach State.

“Of all the regions we could have been put in, I'm really excited about this one,” Papa said. “I feel like this one's very doable.”

Even better, should both the Tar Heels and the Hokies make it out of their region, they would meet for a best-of-three series in the Super Regional.

But regardless of who the team's playing, UNC believes an improved focus on the simple things will prevent lapses such as the one against Virginia Tech last week.

“The past few days we've been working a lot on fundamentals in the infield,” sophomore pitcher Spingola said. “I'll go in knowing that I can be successful with great defense and great bats behind me.”

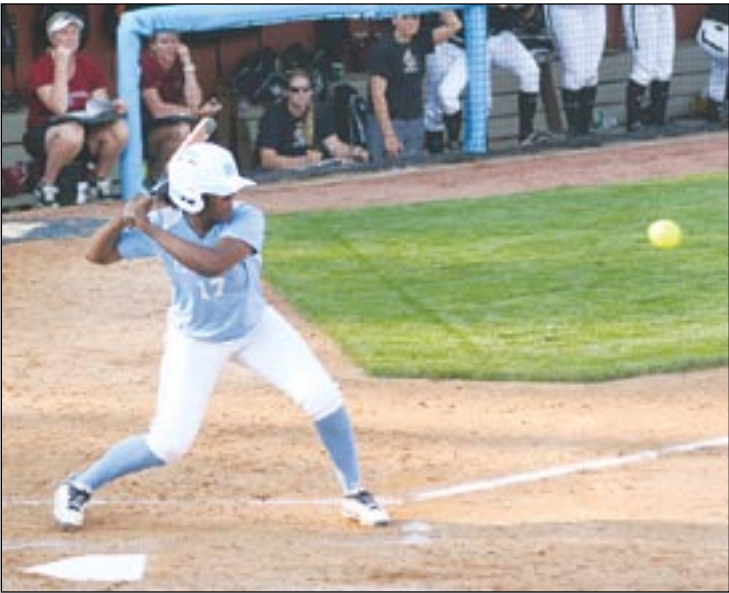
For the Tar Heels, two-a-day practices and simply working on players' swings have replaced technical scrutiny. Papa wants to

emphasize the game's simplicity more than anything.

“We're just trying to stay focused and stay within ourselves,” she said. “There were a couple of times this year, at Florida State and against Virginia Tech, when we go away from being ourselves and trying to be something that we weren't.”

Papa said her team had made great strides at the plate since last season. But the loss to VT proved that when the offense isn't producing, Spingola can't afford to pitch anything but lights-out. For that ailment, Papa's prescription is simple.

“We're just trying to stay calm and focused and put the ball in play,” she said. “Get on, get 'em over, get 'em in.”



DTH FILE/KATIE GERDON

UNC's Constance Orr will be looking to keep the Tar Heels on track at the plate as they head into the NCAA tournament in Georgia this weekend.

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).

## Both tennis teams move on to Athens

### The Tar Heels dominated the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament.

**By Brandon Moree**  
Sports Editor

After first- and second-round matches at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center this weekend, both the North Carolina men's and women's tennis teams advanced to the third round of the NCAA tournament – otherwise known as the Sweet 16.

The men's team bested the College of Charleston on Saturday and Tennessee on Sunday. In both matches the Tar Heels clinched victory after the first four matchups, and they head into the Sweet 16 without having dropped a point.

But head coach Sam Paul isn't concerned with the scores – it's the outcome that generates momentum.

“I just think winning gives

confidence,” Paul said. “It means we're playing well and we want to keep that going.”

No. 15 UNC will face No. 3 Georgia on Friday, and like all of the other third-round matches – men and women alike – it will be in Athens, Ga. The Tar Heels just happen to be on a collision course with the hosts.

“We've played a tough schedule all year,” Paul said. “Obviously, (Georgia) is a great team and a great program. So we'll just do the stuff that we've done. We've played them a couple times last couple years so it won't be something totally different to us.”

When Brennan Boyajian clinched Sunday's victory with a 6-1, 6-3 win, it punched UNC's first ticket to the Sweet 16 since 2008.

In fact, the men's team has lost in the second round each of the last three seasons.

The women, on the other hand, have been to the Sweet 16 three consecutive years now after beating Richmond 4-0 and Arizona 4-2. Head coach Brian

Kalbas contributes that consistent success to his core of upper-classmen.

“The three seniors we have, have been amazing leaders,” Kalbas said. “As far as leading by example, vocally – it's just impressive to see all three of them have their best year as a senior.”

The win lines the No. 7 Tar Heels up with No. 11 Miami in the regional semifinals. North Carolina beat Miami in Chapel Hill in early April 4-3 but the Hurricanes have lost just once since then.

“I think it's going to be a very different match,” Kalbas said.

“There will be a lot of different matchups, especially in singles. So the doubles point will be important like it was ... There's no secrets playing another ACC opponent again.”

UNC and Miami will play Thursday at the Dan Magill Tennis Complex in Athens at 7 p.m.

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).

## Virginia Tech will be the final ACC series for seniors

### Only 1 baseball series remains before postseason.

**By Brandon Moree**  
Sports Editor

After Tuesday night's 10-4 victory at UNC-Asheville, the North Carolina baseball team hopes that they can park the team bus for a while.

The trip to McCormick Field is the last scheduled road trip of the regular season as the Tar Heels will close out the schedule this weekend at Boshamer Stadium.

The Thursday-Friday-Saturday series with Virginia Tech makes up the final three games of the season, the series will also be the final regular season home games for two North Carolina seniors.

One of those being catcher Jacob Stallings.

“He's had a tremendous impact, on the field and off,” coach Mike Fox said about his catcher. “He's a special young man and he's

turned himself into a really, really good player with a lot of hard work.”

The only other senior is relief pitcher Jimmy Messer who Fox said was the only player he'd ever had that won the team's hardest working player award each of his four years.

The Tar Heels will have their hands full with the Hokies (34-18) as they are trying to make their case for a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

“I haven't heard a lot about them except for that they're swinging it really well right now,” Stallings said. “They're pretty hot and they're a pretty good offensive ballclub. They'll be at their best because they have a lot at stake.”

The seventh-ranked Tar Heels will have to make the short drive down to Greensboro for the ACC Tournament May 22-27, but they are in line to host a Regional in the first weekend of the NCAA tournament. And if all goes according to plan, a Super Regional the following weekend.

Hobbs Johnson, who was supposed to start Sunday's series finale with Duke, missed that start due to illness and started Tuesday against the Bulldogs.

He struck out five batters in four innings while giving up five hits and one earned run on his way to picking up his fifth win of the season.

“He looked OK,” Fox said.

“He settled in, I'm not sure if Hobbs was 100 percent tonight. I know he felt a lot a better. But he pitched OK, he settled in there and gave us four good innings.”

If Johnson's health continues to improve Fox said he saw no reason that he wouldn't start Saturday's season finale in his usual role as the third weekend starter.

On Thursday, the Tar Heels will start the staff ace sophomore lefty Kent Emanuel who is 7-3 with a 1.74 ERA. Friday, freshman Benton Moss will get the start and he is 5-2 with an ERA of 2.40.

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@dailytarheel.com](mailto:sports@dailytarheel.com).

games

Level: **1** 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution to April 25 puzzle

2	3	9	8	5	6	7	4	1
5	4	7	1	3	9	8	6	2
1	8	6	4	7	2	5	3	9
4	6	1	5	9	8	3	2	7
8	5	2	7	6	3	9	1	4
7	9	3	2	1	4	6	5	8
9	1	5	3	2	7	4	8	6
3	7	8	6	4	1	2	9	5
6	2	4	9	8	5	1	7	3

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### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Ginger cookies

6 Take down \_\_\_\_; humble

10 1040, for example

14 Stand-up in a club

15 Close by

16 Ireland's best-selling solo artist

17 Plentiful

18 \_\_\_\_ Bell

19 Sinister look

20 Christian led by the Pope

23 Passionate

24 "Amadeus" subject

27 Paper with NYSE news

30 300, to Caesar

31 Federal agency support org.

32 Michele of "Glee"

33 Lotion ingredient

35 Road for Caesar

37 Brook or lake fish

39 Equine that originated in Italy's Campania region

42 Iraqi currency

43 "Pleecease?"

44 Wedding cake level

45 Part of USDA: Abbr.

46 RR depot

48 Big name in kitchen gadgets

50 Harris and McMahon

51 1862 Tennessee battle site

53 Dolly the sheep, e.g.

55 Slatted window

**DOWN**

1 Capone facial mark

2 Pitcher Hideo

3 Clock radio letters

4 Seasoned rice dish

5 Like many postcard photos

6 Continent with penguins

7 Like bogs

8 Apiece

9 Cleans and brushes, as a horse

10 \_\_\_\_ Navidad

11 Diet soda claim

12 Deli bread choice

13 Fold, spindle or mutilate

21 Director DeMille

22 Disinclined

25 Acted in an environmentally conscious way

26 Spuds

27 Comedian Sykes and a fish

28 "... in a one-horse open \_\_\_\_"

29 "Can We Talk?" comedienne

31 Nature Valley snack

34 Govt. antipollution org.

36 Inbound flight approx.

38 Decay

40 Welles of "Citizen Kane"

41 Watergate president

47 Grad student's paper

49 Having just hit a double, say

52 Like a faulty pipe

53 Approximately, in dates

54 Supreme Court justice Kagan

56 Camping gear

57 Some nest eggs, briefly

58 Swoosh logo company

59 Accomplishment

60 WWII leader

61 Brit's bathroom

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