

2022 North Carolina Tar Heels Preview

The 2022 North Carolina Tar Heels are led by head coach Danna Durante in her first season. She is joined by assistant coaches Marie Denick and Amelia Hundley.



Elizabeth Culton

The Tar Heels finished the 2021 season ranked No. 41 with a national qualifying score of 195.581 and a regular season record of 11-2. Elizabeth Culton was an individual regional qualifier in the all around. The Tar Heels had four placements on the first all-EAGL team and seven on the second all-EAGL team. There were also 16 gymnasts named to the EAGL all-scholastic team.

The 2022 squad consists of four seniors, six juniors, five sophomores and six freshmen.

The Tar Heels' top returners are junior Elizabeth Culton and redshirt sophomore Hallie Thompson. In addition to being an individual regional qualifier, Culton was the EAGL champion on bars and in the all around and co-champion on beam. She was also first-team all-EAGL on bars (9.856 NQS), beam (9.950 NQS)

and in the all around (39.300 NQS) and second-team on floor (9.863 NQS) as well as Gymnast of the Week for week nine and Specialist of the Week for week two. Thompson was also an EAGL co-champion on beam as well as second-team all-EAGL on vault (9.838 NQS) and beam (9.825 NQS). Other major contributors returning are juniors Hannah Nam and Brianna Greenlow and senior Emery Summey.



Hallie Thompson

North Carolina brings in six freshmen for the 2022 season—Jenna Cashman, Lali Dekanoidze, Julia Knower, Bella Miller, Isabelle Schaefer and Jayati Sridhar. The top contributors are expected to be Dekanoidze and Knower. Dekanoidze is a five time level 10 national qualifier, a three time Nastia Liukin Cup qualifier and a former College Gym News five-star recruit. She was the level 10 all around champion in 2018 and 2021 and is expected to make a major impact on the team right away. Knower is a four time level 10 national qualifier, with her best finish being an 11th place finish on beam and in the all around in 2021.

The Tar Heels open up the season on Friday, Jan. 7 at home against Auburn, Bowling Green and NC State.