so strongly about, and it's an honor to

Monday, November 8, 1999

be able to share that with someone."

As a result of her father's Air Force commitment, Hamm and her five siblings spent her youth traveling from base to base. As a result, Hamm used sports as a way of making friends and fitting in. She approached soccer as a

way to tag along with her siblings.
"I had an older brother and sister who played, and I would just go to the field and hang out," she said. "Until I was old enough to play organized soccer, I would go out to their practices and try to participate as much as I could."

In 1987 – well before Erica Roberson was born – Mariel Margaret Hamm joined the U.S. National Team at age 15, becoming the youngest-ever member of the team. It was not until Hamm, who played high school basketball, made the squad that she devoted herself full-time

to soccer.
"It exposed me to the highest level that there was, and as a player it really kind of laid out for me what I needed to do to become better and also the chal-

lenges that were there," she said. It was there that she developed a

Born: March 17, 1972

of the U.S. National Team.

Where Is She Now? Member

Check it out at.....

Career: 1989-1993

UNC Career Leader

Goals (103)

Assists (72)

Points (278)

TAR HEEL LEGENDS

Personal Achievements:

■ 2-time National Player of the Year

■ 3-time national scoring champion

■ 1996 Olympic Gold Medal winner

■ 1991, 1999 Women's World Cup

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■ All-time leader in international goals

■ 2-time ACC Female Athlete of the Year ■ 1994 Patterson Medal winner



In between appearances with the U.S. National Team, Hamm serves as a volunteer assistant coach for the UNC women's soccer team.

friendship with Dorrance, the team's coach. The friendship would carry through four years of college and Hamm's international career.

Today, in between her numerous appearances, Hamm helps Dorrance d the current Tar Heels continue the tradition she helped to cement during

her playing days.

The presence of the game's most famous player on the sidelines is not intimidating to current Tar Heels. Lorrie Fair, Hamm's teammate in the 1999 World Cup and a senior UNC captain, said Hamm never preached to the team.

"She'd much rather be known as one of the girls. I think she really likes being around us," said Fair, who described the witty Hamm as a 'character.

Hamm said she loved the cama-raderie involved with being a part of the team, one of the reasons she continues to play with the national team.

Her charm, obvious to outsiders, is one reason she attracts such media attention and world-wide fame.

"She'll never admit that she's a super-star, even though she is; she's very humble. She's the kind of athlete that everybody should look up to and say, 'Hey, this is the way to behave if you're as great as you are." Fair said.

It's a lesson that Erica Roberson has already learned.

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The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

Women Swimmers Defeat Ranked Foes

Carolina's 18th-ranked en's swimming and diving team pulled off three upsets, topping No. 7 Michigan 187-183, No. 12 Nebraska 243-125 and No. 16 Minnesota 188-182 in dual meets at Minnesota's Aquatic Center. The Tar Heels improved to 3-1

UNC's Katie Hathaway won two

The men's team split their races in Minneapolis, topping the 14th-ranked Cornhuskers 196-174. The No. 22 Tar ON THE ROAD

Heels were unable to overcome the No.

11 Golden Gophers 234-135. Men's Golf Takes 11th Place

North Carolina's men's golf team finished in a tie for eleventh place after shooting a final-round 289 at the Golf World/Palmetto Dunes Collegiate.

Tar Heel senior Max Harris and

junior Rob Simmons fired scores of 208 to share 11th place with three other

Women's Doubles Team Falls

The North Carolina doubles team of Kendrick Bunn and Kate Pinchbeck were defeated in the quarterfinals of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Women's Southeast Regional Indoor Championship by Wake Forest's fifth-seeded doubles team.

From Staff Reports

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