

Women's soccer seeks to reclaim the throne

BY NICKI JHABVALA
STAFF WRITER

Losing 10 players to graduation normally will decimate any program — even one with a 27-year history of NCAA dominance.

Thankfully, for the sake of North Carolina women's soccer, there is still one player on the roster with enough talent to make up for all of the defections: senior midfielder Heather O'Reilly.

A gold-medal Olympian and U.S. National Team starter, O'Reilly led the ACC with 18 goals and 47 points and was named the conference's Offensive Player of the Year.

"I have to up my standards every practice and every game," she said. "You like to say that you always give it your all, but you really have to hold yourself to the utmost standards possible."

As one of four seniors on the team, she will be looked up to greatly. Though it's a role she said she's ready for, it's not one she's accepting based on class.

"I just want the freshmen to be confident and step up and take it," she said. "It doesn't matter how old you are as long as you earn respect on the field. That's all that matters."

Soccer Buzz, a national soccer magazine, named O'Reilly its pre-season player of the year.

Fresh faces give O'Reilly support

There is a long-standing reputation for North Carolina women's soccer — they win.

But coach Anson Dorrance and his dynasty face a new challenge this year.

UNC lost 10 players to graduation, five of which comprised possibly the top set of starters in the program's history: midfielders Kacey White and Lori Chalupny, forward Lindsay Tarpley, defender Kendall Fletcher and goalkeeper Aly Winget.

"I think most programs would look at a year like this as a rebuilding year," Dorrance said. "We don't have that luxury given our tradition that we've built."

"But we think by mid-October, November, we're going to be a formidable team and we'll give any-

GAMES YOU CAN'T MISS

- Sept. 10 at Portland
- Sept. 21 vs. Florida State
- Oct. 5 at Virginia
- Oct. 8 at Duke



COURTESY OF UNC ATHLETICS
Heather O'Reilly carries a depleted UNC women's soccer team that will begin the season ranked No. 3, despite losing 10 players.

body a run."

None of the Tar Heels' incoming players seems to fit the rookie stereotype of inexperience or immaturity.

Freshmen Casey Nogueira of Raleigh and Tobin Heath of Basking Ridge, N.J., were both ranked in the top 10 incoming freshmen in the nation by Soccer Buzz and are expected to put to use their scoring and "Brazilian-like" dribbling skills for the Tar Heels.

However, they will miss the first five games of the season, playing in Russia for the U.S. Under-20 National Team.

When the two freshmen return they will join a team that is out to prove it's doubters wrong.

"We love it when we're not ranked high," Dorrance said.

"This is one of those 'you suck'

motivations, and there's no better motivation in sport than that. We're going to be pumping that vein as long as we possibly can."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Golfers on the hunt for success

BY BRANDON STATON
SPORTS EDITOR

As sophomore North Carolina golfer Lauren Hunt will tell you, there aren't many sports other than golf that you can play with an 80-year-old man and still have fun.

Unless you're Tiger Woods, golf isn't about the money.

"I play for the competition," said Hunt, who said she recognizes the difficulty of making it to the professional level in her sport.

"For some players ... they work so hard and get to this peak point and get over top of it. I feel like if you want it bad enough, you will go over top of it, that peak, one day."

"It's just a matter of time. I'm pretty good with patience, but am starting to get a little irritated with patience because I'm ready to go

over that peak. ... I will be successful in tournaments."

Hunt's game echoes her sentiment. She's quiet and unimposing — until she hits the tee box.

At the 2006 Women's U.S. Amateur earlier this month, Hunt was on the fringe of achieving that success — one year after joining the college ranks.

Amid a seven-player playoff for five spots to qualify for match play, Hunt posted a bogey on each of the last two holes to fall short.

"I've played those 18 holes over and over again in my head," she said.

"But to know that I was so close makes me want to work even harder."

Confidence is key concern

In addition to Hunt, UNC boasts

Mann, Miller to fuel UNC

BY DAVID ELY
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Senior forward Karen Mann's game could easily be compared to a 2006 BMW M5.

Much like the M5, Mann is powerful yet glamorous, and commands attention whenever she is on the field.

In 2004, Mann's junior year, she finished second on the team with 11 goals and two assists.

The Tar Heels can expect to have that kind of production now that Mann is back at UNC after taking the 2005 season off to play for the Canadian national team at the Junior World Cup in Santiago, Chile.

"Just getting a chance to play against international competition was really great," Mann said.

"I got to see some of the top players in our age group in the world play, and just watching the game played at a really fast speed was really great."

Mann's speed and aggressive play should pay big dividends for a Tar Heel squad that was eliminated last year in the 1st round of the NCAA tournament by Indiana.

"She gives us a big impact, she is an aggressive forward, she's got good speed, she's a leader up front, she's improved significantly since she's been away," head coach Karen Shelton said. "She brings us some energy and enthusiasm up front

GAMES YOU CAN'T MISS

- Sept. 17 vs. Virginia
- Sept. 23 at Duke
- Sept. 30 vs. Wake Forest
- Oct. 22 at Maryland

and a scoring punch."

Brooke Miller — a silent assassin

For all of Mann's flair and goal-scoring prowess, UNC senior defender Brooke Miller counters with grit, unselfish play and leadership.

She received the Marjorie Moses Schwab Unsung Hero award for the second consecutive year.

"Brooke's outstanding," Shelton said. "I think she's unsung because she's kind of quiet but when she gets the ball, she's flashy."

"She's been, for a long time, one of our best players."

And, like a true leader, Miller was modest when asked about

MILLER

FROM PAGE 1B

time single-season and career strikeout leader, fanning 133 last season, giving him 325 in his three seasons as a Tar Heel.

In July, the junior was awarded the Roger Clemens Award, given to the nation's top collegiate pitcher. He was named the national player of the year by Baseball America.

But did the Tigers move Miller to the big leagues too fast?

Forbes isn't worried.

"I think the Tigers know what they're doing," he said. "I don't think they're gonna rush Andrew."

"Obviously (a September call-up) is in his contract — that might be for purposes we don't know."

Those purposes are likely because of contract negotiations that act as loopholes to a Major League system that is doing what it can to lower the ceiling on signing bonuses.

Whatever the case may be, a 6-foot-6-inch left-hander does wonders for the bullpen.

"If they pitch him in a big league game, then he's ready," Forbes said.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

the award, giving the credit to her teammates.

"I think it should really have been awarded to the whole defense because we're a unit," Miller said.

"And I'm just really lucky to be surrounded by really good players that I can work off of really well."

Having two players of the caliber of Mann and Miller is enough to make any coach excited for the upcoming season, but UNC has a strong freshmen class that already includes four projected starters.

"I'm excited about them, they're making a statement," Shelton said of the freshmen.

Despite facing a difficult ACC schedule, Shelton is confident.

"I think that we're capable of beating any team in the country."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

BOBCATS

FROM PAGE 1B

will be available only for the Oct. 17 game, when the Bobcats will be the home team. Because the Hawks will be the home team for the Oct. 27 game, student seating will change.

About 400 students will sit in the area where the risers normally are, which is equitable to the number of students who stand in the risers during UNC games.

While the risers will not be moved out for seating, students can sit in the normal stadium chairs.

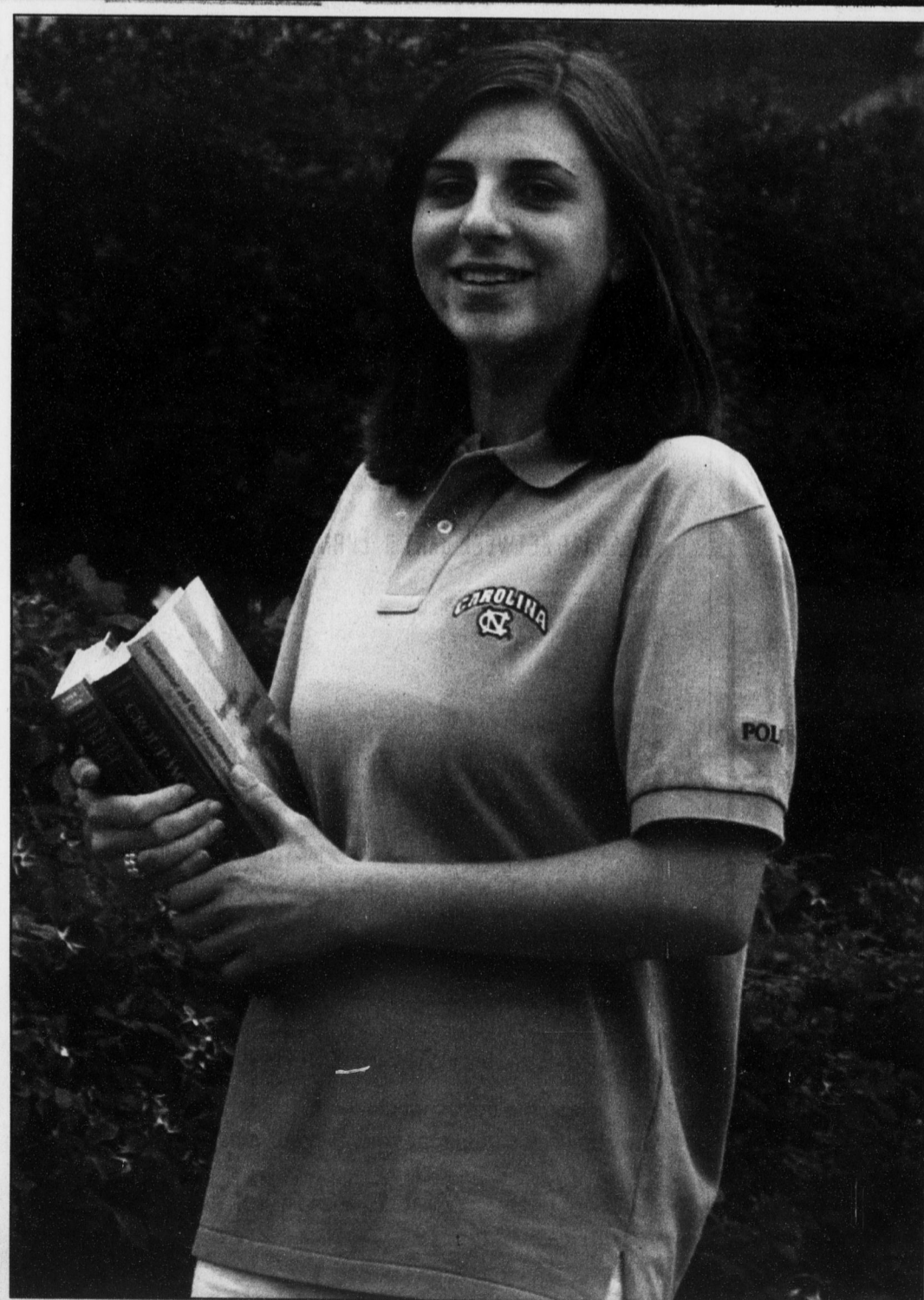
Promoters for the Bobcats originally made the proposal to have a special student section because the organization wanted to create a college atmosphere at an NBA game.

Where to buy tickets?

Fans interested in attending the games can purchase tickets through the UNC Athletic Box Office at the Smith Center, by phone at 1-800-722-4335 or online at TarHeelBlue.com.

The distribution for student tickets has not been decided yet, but that information will be available soon, said Angie Bitting, managing director of the Smith Center.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.



Not Just Any
Bookstore...
Student Stores
is YOUR Bookstore!

UNC Owned
and Operated

Student Stores is dedicated to serving the
University community.

Students Working
For Students

Student Stores is the largest employer of students
on the UNC campus.

Our Earnings go
to Scholarships

Student Stores gave \$1,000,000 to Student
Scholarships last year and over the years we've
given over \$21,000,000 to Student Scholarships.

Everything You Need

Student Stores has everything you need:
All Textbooks for All Classes, Only source for
CCI Computers, Printers and Software at
Educational Discount Prices, The Bull's Head
Bookshop, Art & School Supplies, Clothing
& Gifts, and much, much more!



UNC
STUDENT STORES