

Ourso quits to sail for Christ

"This is my last year here. I have found what I was looking for and I'm going to sail around the world and spread the good news of the gospel."

University of North Carolina gymnastics coach Ken Ourso has resigned after seven years to become an independent missionary — he will not be associated with any church or any group.

Ourso said he does not know what country he will be going to. "All I know is that I'm supposed to leave and I'm supposed to go by boat," said the 31-year-old Louisiana State graduate. "I'm going to pray when I'm ready to leave. God will tell me where to go."

A demolition crew couldn't tear down the upper body muscles that Ourso has built through gymnastics and karate training. He has a black belt in karate, but the Samurai philosophies he used to adhere to are gone.

on a 38-foot sailboat. But UNC gave him more money and more time off to spend with his boat so he decided to stay.

"Before, he was very cynical and very critical of the world," Holmes said. "He just said 'the hell with the world. I can live on my own.'"

"The difference this time is that I'm sailing around the world for Jesus instead of myself," Ourso said with a wide grin.

"Before, he wanted to sail around the world because he thought there was something out there he had to find," Holmes said.

Ourso said he found that something between January and March of 1980. In January he saw a book called "The Late, Great Planet Earth." It intrigued him so he bought it and read it. Then he bought the Bible, which he had never read, to see if what the author said was true. From there it snowballed and he started buying books on scientific proofs and historical evidence of the Bible.

"I said, 'Wow, this is amazing. I accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour.' Then I started accepting everything in faith," he said.

Ourso said it is not true that one has to clean up his life before he comes to God. "When I first became a Christian I was still sleeping with women. Then I realized it was wrong and with God's strength I stopped all that stuff."

In March, Ourso said he completed the process with the Holy Spirit Baptism. "I asked Jesus to baptize me in the Holy Ghost," he said. "I just lay down on the bed and said, 'Look Lord, I've studied the scriptures and I believe what your word says. I ask you to baptize me now in the Holy Ghost and fire.'"

"Boy, I felt like somebody had poured gasoline on me and thrown a match on me," Ourso said, making a 'poof' sound. "I started praying in tongues — it just started coming out. I prayed for an hour and 45 minutes. It blew my natural mind away."

His mother had the same experience about the same time in Louisiana without knowing of her son's and since that time his father has also been saved, Ourso said.

Ourso's girlfriend, Paula, had the identical experience the next night, he said. In May, Ourso asked her to marry him and they were married nine days later. "The Lord told me to get married so I did," he said. "When the Lord tells me something, I do it. It's just great."

Seven years ago Ourso was married for the first time. About four years ago he and his wife separated and in 1979 he was divorced. "I wouldn't marry anybody without God's approval because I was married once and it was my own decision and I messed up," he said. "The concerns and cares of the world and my own self-righteousness came into the marriage."



Gymnastics coach Ken Ourso

His wife Paula will be by his side when he travels around the world. "She's as on fire for the Lord as I am," Ourso said. "She'll be right there sailing with me."

As of now they do not have a sailboat. "I'm going to pick up the boat June 1," he said. "I just believe God for it. It's my business to believe and his business to get it here."

Ourso is not worried about money or anything else for that matter. "I have a fair amount of money saved up," he said. "God has already told different people to donate to our ministry. I ask nobody for money. If God tells me to drop anchor and dive overboard there will be a chest of Spanish gold, I'll do it and it will be there."

Tiffany Terranova, a junior gymnast, said that the change in Ourso has positively affected the team. "Since the end of last year he has been more understanding and patient," she said. "He has completely changed. He has influenced all of us. We will miss him but we understand what he has to do."

Ourso said: "I don't care what people say. I know without a doubt that God is real, the Bible is true and I've been called to do this."

Late runs lift Heels to win

By SCOTT PETERSON Staff Writer

North Carolina knocked out six hits and scored five runs in the eighth inning and got 6 1/3 innings of solid pitching from Chris Kahler to defeat Fairfield 8-4 at Boshamer Stadium Tuesday.

Kahler relieved starter Dave Droschak in the third inning when Droschak received lacerations on his index and middle fingers fielding a Mike Butcaris line smash back to the mound.

Droschak gave up two runs and three hits in the second inning and had given up three straight walks in the third before Frank Zapalla flied out to right field. Drex Roberts threw from deep right field to pick off Bill Albino, who had tagged up at third, at the plate.

Butcaris' line drive again loaded the bases, but Kahler, who picked up his second win without a loss, got Joe DeVellis to fly out to left field.

The loss of Droschak, out for a minimum of three weeks, places a further strain on the already ailing Tar Heel pitching staff. Starter Peanut Parks and Franklin Roberts are sidelined with an injured shoulder and elbow, respectively.

The Tar Heels, 16-6, opened the scoring in the first inning when Greg Schuler's single to left field scored Pete Kumiaga, who had walked. But Fairfield catcher Pete Ciardiello hit a two-run home run in the second to give the Stags the lead, 2-1.

Mitch McCleney had a hand in on UNC's next two runs scoring on Chris Pittaro's single to tie the game at 2-2 in the second and doubling in Jeff Hubbard to tie the game at 3-3 after the Stags regained the lead in the top of the inning.

Fairfield, now 1-2, regained the lead for the last time at 4-3 when Sean Brophy reached first on an error by Jeff Hubbard and later scored on Dave Rosenfeld's hit to center field.

UNC got only one hit in the next three innings before rallying in the eighth. Joe Reto opened the inning with a hit and moved to second on Schuler's sacrifice. Pinch hitter Eddie Waynick's double scored Reto and Waynick moved to third on Shawn Dean's bloop single to right field.

Hubbard singled to left field to score Waynick and McCleney doubled down the leftfield line scoring Dean and Hubbard. Scott Bradley singled to right to score McCleney and give the Tar Heels a comfortable 8-4 cushion.

Clifton Barnes

"I still work out in karate but I'm not interested in the mysticism anymore," he said. "It doesn't mean as much to me because I don't have to depend on my own strength for protection. I have angels surrounding me for protection."

"Before I was saved I was hurting," Ourso said, leaning forward in his office chair and motioning furiously up and down with his hands. "I was hung up in self-righteousness, ego trips, machismo and grudges and revenge. Now the Lord has set me free."

Ourso was raised a Catholic in Baton Rouge, La., but started questioning things when he was about 16 years old.

"I never could understand because they would say 'Well, God is love but he's making you sick to teach you a lesson,'" he said. "Finally I just said 'this don't even make sense, I just can't take this stuff.' That's when I drifted away from Christianity and got into karate and all that Eastern religion stuff."

"There are no outward changes," said Randy Holmes, assistant tower manager at Granville Towers West and Ourso's friend. "He always led a pretty clean life. The change is within himself. He is happier, more relaxed and more open about things."

"Ken has always been a very self-sufficient, independent person," Holmes said. "One time he got tired of fighting rent so he upped and built a house. I mean, he cleared the land himself and built the house from scratch."

The house was sold a couple of years ago when Ourso thought he would leave coaching to sail around the world

Tennis team handles Iowa, 7-2

With only a week to go before the opening of the conference schedule, the UNC men's tennis team now 13-5, is riding a six-game winning streak. The latest victim was Iowa, a team the Tar Heels easily defeated 7-2 Tuesday in Chapel Hill.

"Iowa is a good scrappy team with a lot of depth," UNC coach Allen Morris said. The Hawkeyes depth, however, was no match for the Tar Heels, who captured the team win during the singles phase of competition.

Number six man Ken Ludwig won 7-5 in the third set of a grueling match to clinch the team victory.

The Tar Heels current streak has been accomplished without the services of the top two players — Ray Disco and Dek Potts. Morris hopes the injured duo will be ready when the ACC season opens next Tuesday against Virginia.

Freshman Ron Erskine has filled in at the No. 1 spot and has done a fine job.

Down 5-1 in the final set at Virginia Tech last week, Erskine rallied to win the set, 7-5. Erskine had little trouble at No. 1 yesterday, winning 6-1, 6-2, Ken Whitaker, Chris Fenichell, and Josh Sarnar captured straight-set victories at the three, four and five spots.

— ADAM KANDELL

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44 Relative of etc.

46 For each laboriously

47 Hereditary

48 Coffee cup

52 Unpleasant

53 Soft drink drug

54 Gives the high sign

56 Honed

58 Mermaid medium

64 Marion

66 Halloween mammal

67 Traditional knowhow

68 Watch crystal film

69 Whopper

70 Singer Home

71 Moves laboriously

72 Bark up the wrong tree

73 River in France

12 "O! — and the River"

16 Approximate: abbr.

21 Symbol

22 Beery and Webster

26 "Spare the rod, — the child"

27 Turned

28 Speed

29 Indian state

31 Pitching

32 Watering holes

33 Lakes or Plains

34 Like fish

36 Katmandu's country

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