Soccer players return from national team trip

By KURT ROSENBERG Staff Writer

Roommates usually choose to live together because they share interests. This holds true for UNC soccer players Jay Ainslie and Mark Devey. But Ainslie, a junior, and Devey, a freshman, are tworoommates who have more in common than just a love for the same sport.

The two athletes met last fall after being selected for the U.S. National Youth Team. After training in West Germany for two weeks, Ainslie and Devey, along with 16 others, traveled to Australia for the Junior World Cup and then to China, where they played for the Great Wall Youth Cup. As a result, they missed the fall semester and UNC's soccer season. Still, both players agree that competing for the National Youth Team was an opportunity they could not pass up.

"There was no decision to make," Devey said. "For a soccer player of 21 or younger it's the greatest thing in the world you could hope for. It's certainly worth missing a semester for."

It was the second time around for Ainslie, who co-captained the team the previous year. This time he was captain of the squad. "The soccer experience that I've gained is amazing," the Miami native said. "It's something that no other kid in the U.S. could equal."

Ainslie and Devey are not the only UNC players who have gone on tour with the National Youth Team. Seniors Ricky Marvin and Adam Abronski have played on the team in the past.

Ainslie, who plays defender for Carolina, was impressed by the ability of the competition abroad. "The skill level is unbelievable," he said. "It's a totally different brand of soccer compared to what you would find in youth leagues or colleges. It's country vs. country and there is national pride at stake."

In Australia, the Americans played three games, losing to Uruguay and Poland and tying Oatar. Devey, who will be playing striker for the Tar Heels next season, scored the only goal for the United States in those three games.

Playing in China was hardly an easy task for the young American team. "We played in front of 50,000 fans there, and I think there were many people that were intimidated by the surroundings and the

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opposition," Devey said. Nevertheless, the team did not fare badly, defeating Australia, while losing to China and Egypt. "We looked good," Devey said. "I thought our team played better as a whole in China."

Traveling to Australia and China was far from just an extended summer vacation for Ainslie and Devey. Physically and emotionally, it was an exhausting experience. "The strain of being on that team was incredible," Devey said.

And upon returning home it was not easy to re-adjust. "Coming home was actually a culture shock," the freshman recalled. "After eating all that Chinese food ... I hardly ate for the first two weeks I was back."

Their interaction with foreigners, particularly the Chinese, was a valuable learning experience, Ainslie said. "Their whole culture is just amazing," he said. "We were in awe of their whole society. " It's so orderly and everyone lives in more or less equal conditions."

But Ainslie was anxious to return to Carolina after the month-long trip. "I really wanted to get back," he said. "I enjoy it here and I missed playing with the team this season. I was expected to be

UNC soccer coach Anson Dorrance feels that Ainslie's presence in the lineup would have made a difference. "I think Jay would have stabilized our defense if he had stayed," he said, "but it did give us a chance to let someone else play a full

season." Devey's decision to join the National Youth Team was a fortunate one for Dorrance. Had he not gone on the tour, Devey would have been playing for Lafayette College in Easton, Penn., the school he had originally chosen. "When Jay came back from the tour he told me 'You've got to recruit Mark Devey,' ' Dorrance said. Dorrance took Ainslie's advice and convinced Devey to come to

Devey was a high school All-American and scored over 100 goals in his career at Moravian Academy in Bethlehem, Penn. On one memorable occasion he scored 14 goals in consecutive games. He was also an all-conference point guard in basketball and the top player on his tennis team.

"I never saw Mark play until we started having off-season practices," Dorrance said. "Almost immediately I realized his potential. He's a very dynamic goal scorer. He has tremendous strength and tremendous acrobatic ability. Mark's go-

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UNC soccer players Jay Ainslie (L) and Mark Devey ...they missed fall semester to tour with National youth team

ing to make a real difference for us next

Dorrance already knew what Ainslie could do. He started for UNC his freshman year and was chosen Most Versatile Player among freshmen. "Jay's a very powerful player," Dorrance said. "His power and strength contribute to his intimidation. He's also a good field organizer."

After playing for the National Youth Team Ainslie views the 1984 Olympics as a realistic goal. "I've always said, 'I want to be there (in the Olympics),' It's always been one of my goals," he said. "I'll probably start training for it a little later this spring."

Devey does not necessarily share his roommate's goal. He considers his participation on the National Youth Team a greater accomplishment. "It's (the 1984 Olympics) not anything I'm anticipating doing. I've had the experience of playing for my country already." Devey said.

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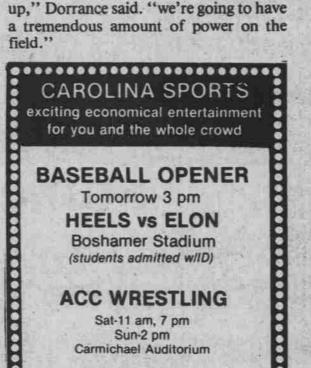
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"That was the first time ever that the U.S. team qualified to be in the Junior World Cup."

In addition, the Youth Team includes professionals, while the Olympic Team consists only of amateur players. "The Youth Team is more select than the Olympic Team," Devey said. "There's no doubt about it."

After missing a full season in the United States, Ainslie and Devey are looking forward to the fall with enthusiasm. "With the proper attitude we could be a Top-10 team, or even a national contender," Ainslie said.

Their coach is equally excited about next season, especially because of two players who will be back in UNC uniforms. "With Mark and Jay in our lineup," Dorrance said. "we're going to have a tremendous amount of power on the



In Charlottesville

Swimmers in ACC meet

By TRACY YOUNG Staff Writer

With the Atlantic Coast Conference swimming championship starting today in Charlottesville, Virginia, head coach Frank Comfort is looking for both his men and women to finish No. 1.

"We're looking at 19 swimmers to come together and win the conference title," Comfort said. "These people have to do well in all their specified areas."

The men's team has finished second for the past four years and has fallen to ACC rivals Clemson and N.C. State this season. Despite this, Comfort is counting on a strong finish.

In the 1981 ACC championship, returning Carolina lettermen won the 200-yard freestyle, the 100-yard backstroke, the 400-yard medley relay, and the 800-yard

free relay. Eric Ericson, 1981 winner of the 100,

also hopes to finish well this year. "I would like to go 1:48 in the 200-yard backstroke,"Ericson said. "I also swim the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke back-to-back. I should be able to win the backstroke, and I hope to finish in the top three in the butterfly."

The women have had better luck at the ACC's than the men in previous years. In both 1979 and 1980, the Tar Heels placed

second, and they won the championship last year. Another factor the women have working for them this year is that they finished

ACC opponents soundly. "The women will certainly be the favorites," Comfort said.

the season undefeated, beating all of their

Last year UNC women captured 10 events: the 50-, 100- and 200-yard backstroke, the 50-yard freestyle and breaststroke, the 100- and 200-yard individual medley, the 200-yard medley relay, and the 200- and 800-yard freestyle

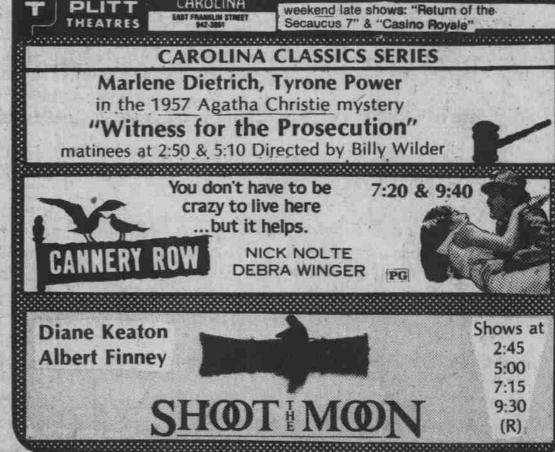
Sue Walsh won three events and was named the ACC Swimmer of the Year. Comfort said his team's depth would

be valuable in the conference champion-

"The main thing we have to do is swim together fully as a team," he said. "We have tremendous spirit and emotion and we have to carry this through every event this week. If we do that, we will be successful. It's really going to take a tremendous effort from all 19."



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by Garry Trudeau

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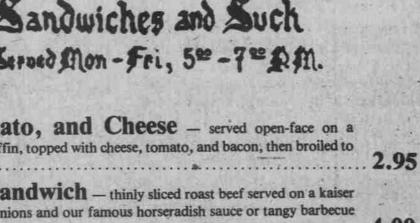
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