

Looking for number 3

Sears makes saves as North Carolina netminder



UNC's Tom Sears looks upfield on Fetzer Field frolic... senior guards cage in run for Heels' third title

By MIKE DESISTI
Sports Editor

It seems as crazy as a notoriously poor performer taking to the stage in Elizabethan England, knowing that if the demanding crowd—before him, beside him, everywhere but behind him—wasn't pleased with the play, rocks and bottles would fly and the actors fall.

What kind of masochist, woven leather basket on a stick in hand, modified birdcage on head, would stand in the way of a band of similarly dressed thugs flinging rubber grenades at a net?

A sick, sick man. Or Tom Sears.

The goalkeeper for North Carolina's two-time defending national champion lacrosse team has more than America's Catalogue Store for a last name to draw attention.

He's lost but one game in his last 27 times minding the nets. He's a two-time all-ACC selection and 1982 Conference Player of the Year. He's a two-time All-American. He's won the Kenner's Award—national Goalie of the Year—in both the 1981 and 1982 seasons. He was the 1982 choice for the Enner's Award, national Player of the Year. And he topped it all off with a Most Valuable Player selection in the 1982 NCAA championship match.

The only thing close to being sick about Sears is that he's humble—still. And he has fun playing goal. His way, at least.

"People ask me why I always carry the ball upfield," he says. "It's no fun to just stand in the goal and get hit with the ball."

So he catches it. Then he initiates the attack with a well-aimed pass to a teammate no one knew was on the field, not until Sears had more or less laid the ball in the player's web like Lady Diana setting Little William in the cradle.

Or he runs.

Sears is known as well for his jaunts downfield with the ball—when his outlets are covered and he's not—as for his apparently self-sacrificing and undoubtedly impeccable housekeeping in goal. He doesn't like to shave much and wears his hair fairly long by conservative standards, but Sears is a meticulous type of guy when it comes to lacrosse. He keeps the opponents' side of the scoreboard clean.

In a game where 25 goals in 60 minutes is the rule rather than the exception, Sears plays protege to Ebenezer Scrooge, having limited the Other Guys to a miserly average of 6.8 goals per game in his last two years as a Tar Heel.

But that's not the only eccentricity Sears has in playing an eccentric's position. While the men tending the nets in hockey get their shins spanked by teammates' sticks before a game, while their soccer counterparts are often flopping around on the ground before the kickoff like Mexican jumping beans on a lawn fertilized with Spanish Fly, Sears gets ready for a game in his own way. He relaxes.

"I feel I'm different in that I take a different view of the game," he says. "I don't think there's any pressure on me. Pressure's what you make it. The calmer I can stay, the better I can react to the ball."

For Sears, playing goal is like sitting in front of the studio switcher as a television director. Communication is the key, and he holds it. He's in charge of the defense and lets it know what's going on when it would otherwise be playing in the dark.

"You're not assigned to one man," Sears says. "And a lot of times they (his teammates) have to listen to me to find out where the ball is."

He picks up all the loose ends. Yet it's the team—hardly a four-letter word to Sears—that puts them together. "It's just like a machine," he says. "We do it together and don't rely on just one guy."

Sears is a part of that machine which gears up after

the Holidays, stay then consistently en route to that season, or therea School's out for ning themselves. lina lacrosse tea finest squad in t

Athletics are a argue that athle not bouncing in through the air a Kenan, or gettin ter's swat in Bos care to see the b

And once aga "The best thin Carolina," says lacrosse has been it should be. It k

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He stresses the life now, and it's release. And it's

LACROSSE SCHEDULE

Mar. 12		Hobart	Baltimore, MD
Mar. 19	2:30 pm	Towson State	CHAPEL HILL
Mar. 27	2:30 pm	Adelphi	Manhasset, NY
Apr. 2	2:00 pm	Maryland	College Park, MD
Apr. 9	1:00 pm	Johns Hopkins	CHAPEL HILL
Apr. 12	3:00 pm	Duke	Durham, NC
Apr. 16	2:00 pm	Maryland-Baltimore County	CHAPEL HILL
Apr. 20	3:00 pm	Baltimore	CHAPEL HILL
Apr. 23	2:00 pm	Washington & Lee	CHAPEL HILL
Apr. 26	3:00 pm	Roanoke College	CHAPEL HILL
Apr. 30	2:00 pm	Virginia	Charlottesville, VA
May 18	TBA	NCAA Quarter-Finals	TBA
May 21	TBA	NCAA Semi-Finals	TBA
May 28	2:00 pm	NCAA Finals	Rutgers, N.J.

1983 UNC Lacrosse

NO.	NAME	YR	POS.
2	Mike Tummlillo	Fr.	A
3	Mike Burnett	Sr.	A/M
4	Jeb Saunders	Fr.	M
5	George Pappas	Fr.	M
6	Steve Martel	So.	M
7	Paul Hazelhurst	Jr.	D
8	Dan Weintraub	So.	M
9	Keith Braddish	Jr.	A
10	James Koester	Fr.	M

11	Tim Mealey	So.	G
12	Mac Ford	So.	A
13	Tom Haus	Fr.	D
14	Terry Martinello	Jr.	M
15	J.B. Howard	So.	G
16	Kevin Gilligan	So.	M
17	Ray Crosby	Jr.	M
18	Jeff Homire	Sr.	M
19	Dave Wingate	Sr.	A
20	Greg Cox	So.	M
21	Pete Voelkel	Sr.	M
22	Brian Rice	Jr.	M

23	Bill Ness	Sr.	M	35	Randy Cox
24	Joey Seivold	Fr.	M	36	Steve Green
25	John Murphy	Fr.	M	37	John Haus
26	Andy Smith	Jr.	M	38	Dean King
27	Tom Sears	Sr.	G	39	David Harg
28	Paul Danko	Jr.	A	40	Ken Wyker
29	Rusty Hueglin	Sr.	A	41	Pat McDona
30	Bob Jones	Sr.	M	42	Arthur Bow
31	Ward Steidle	Jr.	M	43	Brent Voelk
32	Robby Russell	Fr.	M	44	Bill Eyre
33	Dan Andrews	Fr.	D	45	James Craw
34	Taylor Classen	Fr.	D	46	Greg Heado



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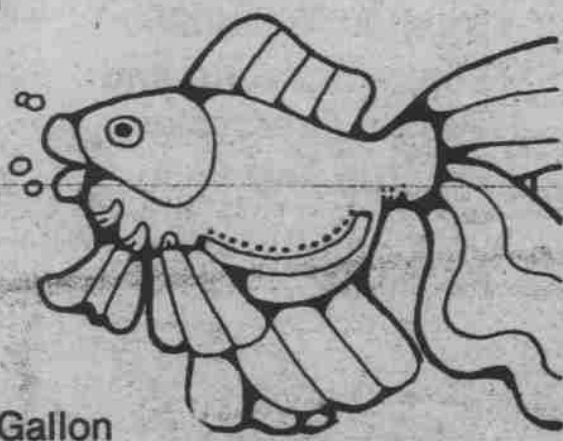
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