

UNC and Clemson square off at Fetzer Field in soccer

By KIMBALL CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

There can be no letdown. The North Carolina men's soccer team can't let its sudden No. 4 national ranking, its stunning road victories over then-No. 4 University of Connecticut and then-No. 5 Boston College, and their 6-0 record, go to its head, because the battle has just begun.

This Sunday at 2 p.m. on Fetzer Field, the Tar Heels kick off their ACC season with a game against Clemson University. Clemson is ranked No. 10 nationally. Clemson is a long-standing ACC rival. Clemson is 3 and 0. Clemson is no slouch.

For those who forget quickly, last year Clemson tied Duke, the NCAA Tournament runner-up, for first in the ACC. Clemson gave up only one goal in six ACC games last season, that being to Duke in a 1-0 loss. Duke also knocked Clemson out of the NCAA Tournament in the second round. It takes a great team to beat Clemson.

One has to begin wondering just who the underdog is in this game? The same teams that scored only one goal against Clemson managed to hold the Tar Heels winless in divisional play last year, as UNC went 0-4-2 in the ACC. However, if you think the outlook is beginning to look grim for the team from Chapel Hill, then realize that this is a much different soccer team than it was last year.

This year the team once again has the services of Mark Devey, and that means a lot. Last year's team was 8-0-3 with a healthy Devey in the lineup. Though Devey is not 100 percent healthy, it looks like his game might be coming back. Wednesday, Devey had two goals and two assists in UNC's 4-0 win over UNC-Wilmington.

Even without Devey, this year's team seems improved. Last year no one could salvage the struggling offense when Devey went down. This year the Tar

Heels have freshman Shawn Ritchie, who has seven goals in six games.

In all, the Tar Heels' offense has been a team effort, with 11 players on the team with at least one goal. The young defense has also held up well, and the midfield has been stabilized by the strong play of Chris Colavita.

The rise to No. 4 has been fast. Too fast. The big wins have come just a little too easily for the Tar Heels. The team must now watch out for the overconfidence bug.

"We know why we're up there (No. 4)," UNC's 1982 leading scorer, Billy Hartman, said. "It's a set of circumstances ... a lot of top teams losing."

"It hasn't gone to our heads." Hartman also had praise for captain Jim Poff, the team's stopper back. He credits Poff with being the player who sets the team's attitude, keeping things in perspective — including Sunday's opponent.

"Everyone on this team knows how good Clemson is," Hartman says.

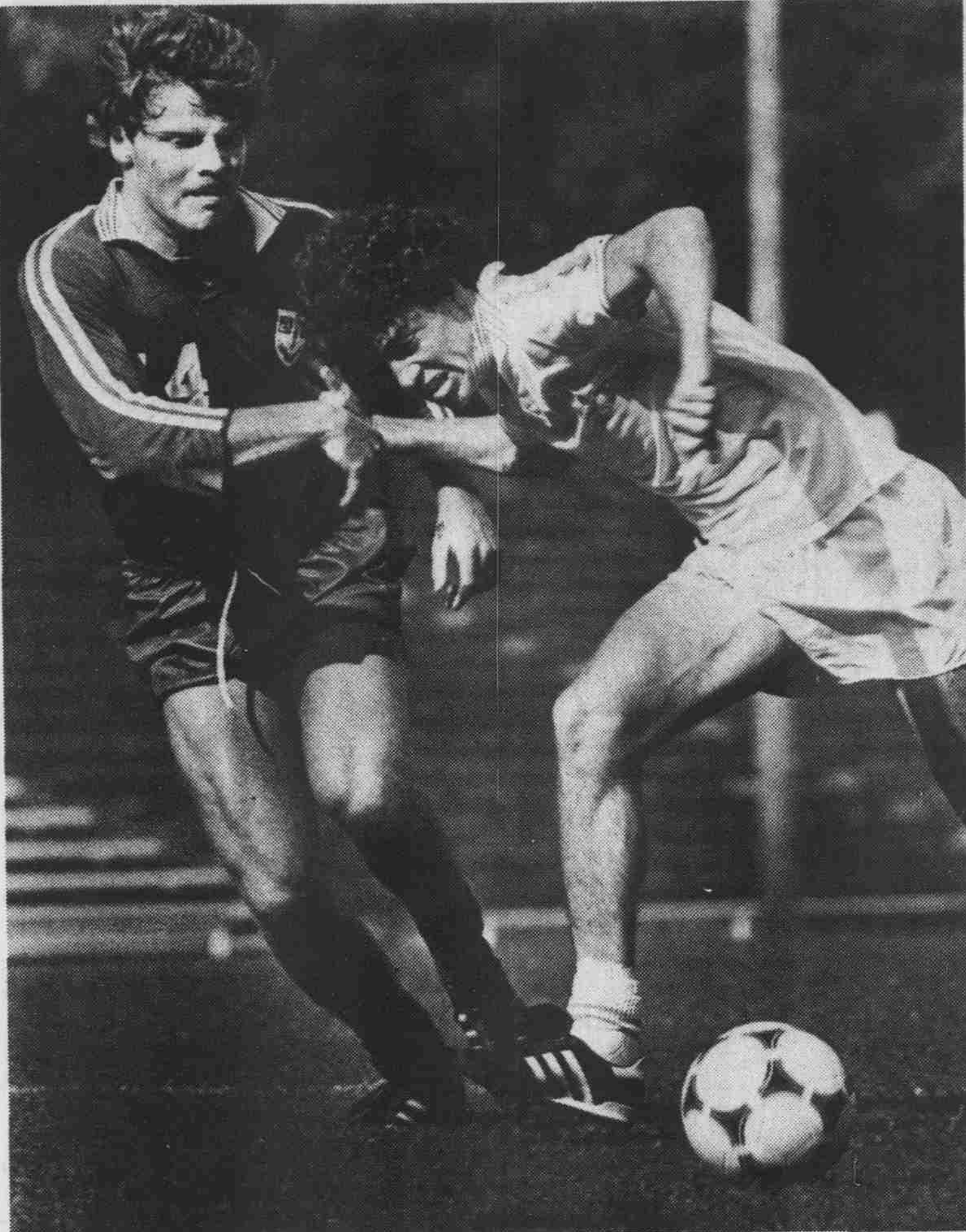
In fact, a good argument can be made that Clemson will be the best team the Tar Heels have faced this season, because U. Conn., a perennial power, has lost twice since the UNC game.

While Clemson is also a perennial power, it will probably not slip this year; the team returns eight starters from last year's ACC co-championship team, including one All-American.

Clemson will have a different look this year, though. In the past Clemson lineups were full of recruits from Nigeria. This year the team has only two Nigerians. In their place, coach I.M. Ibrahim has brought in a freshman recruiting class of 13 Americans.

"American soccer has improved now, to the point where he (Ibrahim) doesn't have to go to Nigeria," said Tim Bourret, Clemson Assistant Sports Information Director.

It sure has.



UNC's Billy Hartman shoves Atlantic Christian College's Michael Foderalm in early season win. The Tar Heels clash with Clemson Sunday on Fetzer Field.

AP Football Poll

1. Nebraska (51)	2-0-0	1,114
2. Oklahoma (2)	1-0-0	1,034
3. Texas (2)	0-0-0	964
4. Notre Dame	1-0-0	909
5. Auburn (1)	1-0-0	903
6. Ohio State	1-0-0	756
7. Arizona	2-0-0	667
8. Michigan	1-0-0	624
9. Florida State	2-0-0	623
10. North Carolina	2-0-0	622
11. Georgia	1-0-0	568
12. Alabama	1-0-0	452
13. Iowa	1-0-0	427
14. Southern Cal	0-0-1	353
15. Florida	1-0-1	319
16. Washington	1-0-0	236
17. Maryland	1-0-0	211
18. So. Methodist	2-0-0	196
19. Pittsburgh	2-0-0	193
20. West Virginia	2-0-0	180

UPI Football Poll

1. Nebraska (36)	2-0-0	582
2. Oklahoma (2)	1-0-0	485
3. Texas (2)	0-0-0	465
4. Auburn	1-0-0	438
5. Notre Dame (1)	1-0-0	417
6. Ohio State	1-0-0	350
7. Georgia	1-0-0	262
8. North Carolina	2-0-0	248
9. Florida State	2-0-0	247
10. Michigan	1-0-0	211
11. Alabama	1-0-0	174
12. Iowa	1-0-0	160
13. Pittsburgh	2-0-0	120
14. West Virginia	2-0-0	98
15. Florida	1-0-1	93
16. Washington	1-0-0	78
17. So. Methodist	2-0-0	73
18. Arizona State	1-0-0	42
19. Maryland	1-0-0	36
20. Boston College	2-0-0	24

Johnston

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"Each defense has to develop its own personality," Johnston said. "I think we are a quiet defense; we do what has to be done. We would like to be known as an awesome defense. We know we're No. 1, but we want to be No. 1 nine games from now. That's when it counts."

Johnston said he thinks the closeness of this defensive unit is what will set it

apart.

"All of the guys on the defense, especially in the line, are really close friends," Johnston said. "We talk about making the big play. In 90 degree heat, we're not gasping for air, we're talking about who is going to come up with the big play."

"I'd like to be known as a defensive

leader, but you not only have to show it on the field, you have to relate off the field," he said. "I think I naturally have leadership capabilities. I say stuff out on the field when the guys are down to help pick them back up. We like to stay on that even keel, and that's a part of it."

The thing Johnston said he likes most about playing defense is that instant recognition.

ognition.

"On offense, I was satisfied when I got downfield to make a good block for (tailbacks) Kelvin (Bryant) or Ethan (Horton)," Johnston said. "But when you make a big play on defense, you can hear 50,000 people screaming, and it's very satisfying immediately."

"You don't have to wait for films."

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