

Earl Winfield is UNC's middle man

By MIKE SCHOOR
Staff Writer

Wide receiver is the cushiest non-kicking position on a football field, right?

Lining up wide left or wide right, receivers scamper down the turf unmolested, propelled by the wind and 4.3 sprinter's speed.

It's no wonder that receivers claim ownership to the widths of the field.

But the middle — that's linebacker territory, a zone where bodies converge and collide at the whim of an easily-provoked defense. Right-minded receivers shouldn't want to frolic there. Golly Wally, it's too dangerous.

But UNC receiver Earl Winfield says he isn't be intimidated.

"I take pride in being able to take a lick across the middle," he said. "Receivers can't let the defense intimidate."

"Respect" is a word you'll hear often from Winfield, a junior from Dunwoody, Va.

Winfield spent a pre-college year at Fork Union Military Academy, developing confidence and learning priorities.

"I learned respect," he said of the experience.

"It was the toughest year I've ever been through, but I wouldn't change it for the world. It made me see that I could do anything I set my mind to."

Like playing major-college football.

Winfield said he was wrongly labeled as having an attitude problem back in high school. Fork Union helped him develop into the athlete and person he wanted to be, he said.

"I take great pride in lifting weights," Winfield said, adding that he had little else to do during free time at Fork Union besides working out.

Winfield's physical fitness and durability complement his aversion to intimidation. Coach Dick Crum looks to Winfield for big plays, using him as a regular receiver and kickoff return specialist.

"I feel very confident of my ability to make big plays," Winfield said. "In our scheme, one receiver goes deep on every pass play."

Winfield says the strong arms of UNC's alternating quarterbacks, Kevin Anthony and Mark Maye, make his job easier.

"They give us a deep threat," Winfield said.



Winfield one-handed Navy with a 40-yard catch

But it's Winfield's concentration in crowded secondaries that gives the Tar Heels an across-the-middle threat.

Crum called a one-handed, 40-yard reception by Winfield last week against Navy an exceptional catch.

Winfield humbly called it a well-thrown ball.

He is just as reserved about disclosing personal goals for the season.

"I want to wait before commenting on that," he said. "Ask me again at the end of the year."

That's Winfield's fly-pattern response to a question he's decided to table. Receivers can't run across the middle all the time.

Huber is lonely in soccer goal

By SCOTT SMITH
Staff Writer

North Carolina goalkeeper Beth Huber isn't joking when she says that she gets challenged more in practice than she does in a real game.

"We had a blue-white game yesterday and I got more action than I'll get in any regular-season game," Huber said. "That's how good we are."

Huber, a senior who has been on three national championship Tar Heel squads, often becomes a forgotten figure in UNC games. That's because the ball rarely finds its way near the area that Huber patrols. Sometimes opponents have trouble getting the ball past midfield against the powerful UNC women.

So, it's not surprising that Huber often feels like another spectator in the crowd witnessing a usual Tar Heel scoring barrage.

Things like that happen when you play goalkeeper for a team that is heads

and shoulders above the rest of the collegiate women's soccer world. With an offense that often scores in double figures, coach Anson Dorrance must wonder sometimes if he really even needs someone to patrol the nets.

When the ball stays on the opponent's end of the field it's good news for Dorrance, because it usually means another UNC victory. But it creates a problem for Huber. Namely, one of concentration.

During her career Huber said that she has found different ways to psychologically stay in the game, even when she doesn't have to make one save the entire game. This year a particular strategy has done the trick.

"This year I've been talking to the team more, even when the ball is way down at the other end," she said. "So I'm watching the game and letting the players know what's happening and it keeps my mind in the game."

Huber's psychological ploys have apparently worked well for her, as she has a record 36 shutouts in her career. She was also selected to the U.S. National team this summer.

All of this seems a bit much to Huber, who was not recruited by any college

out of high school. A six-sport letterman in high school, Huber wanted to play some sport in college. She chose soccer over her first-love of basketball because she thought it would give her a better chance to excel.

Huber made the team in a tryout, but she had to sit on the bench behind former UNC star Mary Anne Johnson for two years. Through hard work and patience Huber became the Tar Heel goalie last year and has been a stronghold there ever since.

Through it all, Huber thought her goal of starting would materialize. "I've always been a hard worker and my goal was to start," she said. "I knew I would work hard enough to become a starter."

Her emergence as one of the top goalkeepers in the country is ironic in that she originally took to the position only after an accident.

After breaking her ankle in high school four weeks before the opening of the season, she made the switch to goalkeeper to gain playing time. "After that kind of injury, I really couldn't run," Huber said. "So I figured my best chance of starting would be in goal."

Both Huber and Dorrance consider that injury a blessing in disguise.

What's wrong with UNC men's soccer team?

By MIKE WATERS
Staff Writer

What's wrong with North Carolina's men's soccer team? What has happened to the squad that entered the 1984 season with hopes of improving on last year's 16-3-2 record and aspirations that included an NCAA tournament bid?

The Tar Heels started off with an impressive win over a strong Philadelphia Textile team, 4-3 in overtime, and everything seemed rosy. But UNC went on a downhill slide which has left its record after five games at 2-3, it's only win since the opener being against

South Carolina.

Intervened in the past three weeks were disheartening upsets to the likes of Winthrop and Atlantic Christian plus Sunday's 2-1 loss to Clemson. The close loss to the Tigers may be a sign of the Tar Heels snapping out of their early season doldrums in time to salvage the remainder of the schedule and earn that NCAA bid.

"I don't think anything is wrong with the team," co-captain Billy Hartman said Monday. "We dropped two unlucky games that could have made us 4-1 instead of 2-3. I don't think we

can feel too bad. Clemson had beaten us 5-0 and 7-0 the past two years, so it was a respectable loss."

"We need to do well outside (the conference)," Hartman said. "But we compete against ACC teams for the tournament bids. The conference has got to be our major concern."

The influx of talented but young players into the starting line-up has caused some inconsistent play and damaging lapses. Hartman, a senior, has been able to see most of the problems from his new position in the midfield after spending last year at striker.

In 1983 Hartman scored eight goals and provided a team-record 12 assists. His career total of 26 assists places him first on North Carolina's all-time list. But thus far the senior has collected just three points.

"Our inconsistency has meant playing more defense for me," Hartman said. "It's frustrating that I haven't gotten into the attack, but as the team has gotten more accustomed to each other I've been allowed to move forward."

Hartman said he had seen improvement in the defense and a decrease in the inconsistent play. The overall play against Clemson last Sunday gave one of the team's leaders something to pin his hopes on.

"The inconsistency has gone down and down with each game we've played," Hartman noted. "Any team that can hold Clemson to just two goals is a good team. They knew we were going to be good; we didn't surprise them. Clemson had to play a good game in order to win."

"We can't afford any more Atlantic Christians," Hartman said. "We should be 4-1 right now, but we have to win the games we are supposed to win."

"If we can beat two of the three tough ACC teams, meaning Duke, State and Virginia, then we'll be set for a bid. The team can do it."

"Everyone feels real confident about the team," Hartman said. "I think you're going to see a lot of wins this year still."

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