

Smyth fills 'big hands' in UNC soccer midfield

By KIMBALL CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

If in sports playing with the hands — football, basketball and baseball — the cliché for replacing a key player is "big shoes to fill," then the phrase in soccer must be "big hands to fill."

At the end of last season, North Carolina soccer head coach Anson Dorrance was faced with the task of

replacing graduating team captain Jim Poff, the squad's throw-in specialist and biggest player.

Dorrance says he has filled those hands, and more, with freshman midfielder David Smyth.

A good team needs to have a player who can throw the ball in from the sidelines toward the opponent's goal, says Dorrance.

"It gives us the ability to threaten all the time," Dorrance says. "The other team can't afford to kick the ball out of bounds on their own end, because we have a player capable of throwing the ball right into their box... it causes defensive tension."

Just how much of a threat Smyth's throw-ins can be was made obvious during an earlier game against Virginia when his throw-in 10 yards up the sideline from the corner flag turned into a one-touch volley and a UNC goal.

By looking at the 6-2, 195-pound freshman, who with his blond hair and moustache resembles movie tough-guy Nick Nolte, it's easy to tell that Smyth wasn't recruited just to throw the ball

in. In fact, the Long Island, N.Y., native and U.S. Junior National Team member was one of the five or six most heavily recruited prep players in the country, Dorrance says, adding that Smyth's size was a factor.

"It was a consideration, because in our league size is becoming increasingly important," Dorrance says.

Though easy to stereotype him as a defensive or physical player because of his size, Smyth thinks of himself as a distributing player and an offensive threat, both of which are supported by statistics which have him tied for second in scoring with three goals and five assists.

"I think everyone has recognized me as a player who can distribute the ball," Smyth says. "I don't really think I'm that much of a physical player... sometimes I think I should use my size more than I do, but that will come."

Dorrance agrees with Smyth in regard to the defensive midfielder's offensive ability, saying that Smyth has the talent to finish opportunities, shoot,

serve the ball, take on players and use his size in the air on headballs. However, Dorrance still sees room for improvement.

"I think he can improve his quickness 20 percent," Dorrance says.

But Dorrance says Smyth's ultimate strength is his leadership potential. He recalls a time earlier in the season, when things weren't going very well for the team.

"(Smyth) was congratulating players, keeping faith, not pointing fingers... thinking about what he can do himself," Dorrance says. "Now, that's a leader." Smyth never actually took over Poff's stopper position, where the ability to win headballs is considered vital, but he has frequently marked the opposition's biggest player while playing in the midfield.

Senior midfielder Billy Hartman also credits Smyth with being a stabilizing influence in the UNC midfield. "We've had trouble settling things down in our midfield," Hartman says. "Smyth's a composed player with the ball, and that's really helped."

SPORTS

Maye: What's the scoop?

A side dish of leftovers from the UNC-N.C. State football game:

The on-field presence of quarterback Mark Maye Saturday raised a number of questions about the status of the redshirt freshman, the most notable of which: What's going on with this guy?

Maye, who has suffered from a "sore shoulder" — that's how it's officially described — started Saturday's game, and played almost all of the first half, but never threw a pass.

Frank Kennedy

Two things to note here: the game-plan called for all runs while Maye was in there. The shoulder was still acting up and coach Dick Crum said he didn't want to take any chances. After the game, a weary Crum looked at one reporter who had asked, "How far can Maye throw the ball right now?" and he said, "From me to you," a distance of about 15 feet.

Crum's primary purpose in entering Maye was two-fold: to give him more game experience, and to take the pressure of starting off sophomore Kevin Anthony, who struggled against Clemson and Wake Forest.

Maye later said he was excited to have gotten the opportunity to play, and almost decided to throw the ball on one option play, but he couldn't explain, in specific terms, just what is wrong.

That's the rub. No one really seems to know. Crum said the team doctors have a name for it, but Crum wouldn't explain it to the press because he said he didn't really understand it himself. In the meantime, there is no telling when Maye's shoulder will be at full health again, and the Tar Heels could be in a real bind.

Consider: UNC did move the ball well against the Wolfpack, but who's to say the Wolfpack is such a powerhouse?

When you come right down to it, the Tar Heels are probably the better team. Next up is Memphis State, at 5-1-1 a team that is on a roll, and a team that tied Florida State just two weeks ago.

If Maye starts, but cannot pass, will the Tar Heels be able to run all over Memphis like they did against State? And if they can't, how far behind might they get before Anthony is brought back into the game? And what if Anthony continues to struggle through the air?

No doubt about it, the Tar Heels could be in a real bind. Crum said Saturday that when Maye gets healthy, "He'll be something else."


That may be true, but right now he's not healthy, and UNC cannot and will not win football games against its tough upcoming schedule without going to the air. Unless Maye turns the corner in the next few days, he should spend most, if not all, of Saturday evening on the bench.

Notable changes in the Tar Heel lineup: Brian Johnston, who was moved to center from his defensive tackle spot last week, will remain at center until further notice. That from offensive coordinator John Matsko. Meanwhile, Dennis Barron is taking Johnston's old spot, and Harris Barton, a pre-season All-ACC at center, has moved to left tackle, where Pat Sheehan went down with an injury against Wake Forest. Barton and reserve tackle Bill Viggers will be competing for that role.

The NFL's doghouse gang isn't getting any larger, just much more outrageous.

Highlight of the week: In a deadly battle for entry into the doghouse gang, Minnesota led Detroit (both then 2-5) by 14-0 at the half. But the Vikings, always guaranteed to show you a couple of quarters of sheer stupidity, lost 16-14 after Detroit scored four times in the second half.

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Assists: UNC 0, ODU 3
Shots: UNC 4, ODU 18
Saves: UNC 10, ODU 4
Defensive Saves: UNC 1, ODU 0
Corners: UNC 3, ODU 9
Record: UNC 9-4, ODU 15-0

Men's Golf
John Ryan Memorial at Duke Golf Course

Team scores: 1-Wake Forest, 856; 2-Duke, 857; 3-UNC, 859.

UNC Individuals: Davis Love, 213 (7th); Greg Parker, 213 (7th); Kurt Beck, 215; Bryan Sullivan, 218; Jack Nicklaus, 233.

Men's Soccer

UNC 1, Maryland 0
0 0-0
0 1-1

Goals: UNC 1 (Richie)
Assists: UNC - Colvin
Shots: UNC 11, Maryland 11
Corners: UNC 7, Maryland 4
Saves: UNC (Goldberg) 5, Maryland (Powers) 5
Fouls: UNC 21, Maryland 26
Record: UNC 8-6-1, Maryland 4-8-1

Calendar

Tuesday

WOMEN'S SOCCER vs. William & Mary at Fetzer Field.
WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. Richmond at Country Club Courts.
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL at Duke, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

FIELD HOCKEY at Duke, 4 p.m.
MEN'S SOCCER at Belmont Abbey, 3:30 p.m.

INTRAMURALS

Innertube Water Polo

Entries close October 26. Teams consist of seven players. There will be a mandatory meeting held Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. Play begins Sunday, Nov. 4.

Soccer

Season begins Thursday, Oct. 25.

Football

Finals on Thursday, Carmichael Fields

5 p.m. Fraternity competitive
6 p.m. Residence hall competitive
6 p.m. Independent competitive
7 p.m. Grad. Faculty competitive
7 p.m. Women's competitive
8 p.m. Co-Rec competitive
8 p.m. Co-Rec recreational
9 p.m. Men's recreational

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Turntable Clinic



Tuesday, October 23rd 11:00 AM-8:00 PM

On Tuesday, October 23rd, representatives from Signet will be at our Chapel Hill store. Bring your turntable* and we will thoroughly inspect it, check tone arm calibration, check against manufacturer specifications, and do minor adjustments. You must be present when your turntable is being worked on. First come, first served. Limited to approximately 75 turntables a day.

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