

Allan wins in soccer, school, thanks to day in the park

By B. A. VELLIQUETTE
Staff Writer

Although Senga Allan has played on a soccer team that has won a national championship every year she has played and which never lost a match in over 50 straight outings, probably the most important match of her life took place one winter evening five years ago in New York City.

A year and a half before, Allan, at the age of 19, traveled from her seaport home in Glasgow, Scotland, to New York City where her sister Mary lived. Mary had moved there a few years earlier, and she wanted Senga to come too. So when a job opened up at the Canadian Consulate, she telephoned Senga in Glasgow and urged her to fly over and apply for it.

Allan came, got the job and generally felt content with her new life in the United States.

But one evening in December, Allan tramped through the snow in Central Park to play a cold game of soccer. The ground was icy, the sky slate-gray, and the park desolate. Allan was bundled up in so many layers of clothes that at first glance she looked like just another boy playing soccer in the park.

That's exactly what one passerby thought when he asked if he could join in the four-on-four match. That passerby just happened to be a soccer coach from Alabama A & M, and he knew a good soccer player when he saw one.

When he realized Allan was a young woman, he felt certain he was competing with one of the best female players he had ever seen.

Afterwards he struck up a conversation with Allan. Did she play for a university? No. Did she know that universities gave scholarships to women players? No. Did she know she was good enough to get one? No.

"At first I thought he was just giving me a line," Allan said. "He thought I was good enough to start on one of the top teams."

For Allan the idea of going to college on an athletic scholarship must have



Scot Senga Allan has gradually adjusted to life in America

Photo by B.A. Velliquette

seemed the most unlikely thing she ever could have imagined.

As a child in Scotland, Allan loved soccer, but she received little encouragement. None of her six older brothers, three older sisters or four younger stepsisters had ever played soccer. In fact, few women there had ever played soccer.

"They have really good men's programs," she said, "but women's soccer is really put down."

As she was growing up it was tough for her to find any real competition. "I was better than half the guys on my high school team, and yet I wasn't allowed to play on the team because I was female."

Also, attending college was about the last thing on her mind. "I just got a really good job making a couple of hundred a week," she said. "I was very comfortable there."

When she did come south to Chapel

Hill, it was not without a great deal of trepidation. "I didn't unpack for two weeks because I wondered, 'Had I really made the right decision?'"

Allan, at last, did unpack and decide to stay. The athletic part of her scholarship came easily for her. Head Coach Anson Dorrance placed her in the starting lineup, and the team won the national championship that year.

But the scholar part of her scholarship did not come so easily. "She was very insecure that first year," Dorrance said. "She was so afraid. She was probably studying all the wrong things."

Despite the fact that her SAT scores were high enough for her to be accepted at UNC, her academic skills had lain dormant for too long. "It was really tough when I first came. I had been out of school for about four years. This whole system, this whole way of living was totally different. I didn't know how to study," she said. "I had never studied in my life."

Her academic performance in her first year stung, but she says she never considered quitting. She adjusted, and she learned how to study. "Since that first semester, my grades have improved tremendously."

Allan, a senior now, sits in her dormitory room, the same one she's lived in since she came as a freshman. On a 60-degree November day, the windows are thrown wide open, and a fan whirrs in the corner.

As she talks about herself, her thick Scottish brogue sometimes obscures her words, but she's open and eager to answer every question.

Asked to describe herself she says, "I'm generally happy, easy going, considerate, affectionate, understanding, a good listener and eager to help out anybody."

Asked to describe herself when she's playing soccer she laughs out loud. "When I'm on the field, I'm a different person; a split personality. When I'm on the field, the person that I'm marking, I don't talk to her at all unless I'm growling at her or trying to intimidate her. My whole attitude changes. I become really aggressive, really determined."

About his defensive player, Dorrance said, "She's a real character. She's very different than everyone else on the team. I think one reason that we are very competitive is because of her."

"But the real story with Senga is her metamorphosis," Dorrance said, "because now she's an educated woman."

Tar Heels applaud fans after Clemson victory

By SCOTT FOWLER
Assistant Sports Editor

Well, UNC fans, give yourselves a hand. The football team would do it for you, but they can't seem to get you all in one place at one time.

It finally seems as if the Kenan Stadium blaws have lifted. The last two home games, against Florida State and Clemson, have been loud. Not earsplitting amplification, mind you, but quite loud.

And the players say the noise has inspired them. "I think our fans did a helluva job against Clemson," said linebacker Carl Carr. "I have to give the credit for our Clemson win to the fans. They went nuts."

Tight end Arnold Franklin agreed that he had seen a big difference in the decibel level this season. "They're so much more into the games," he said. "We used to score TDs, and maybe they'd holler, but you couldn't really tell whether it had been a touchdown or a 10-yard gain. Now you know."

Perhaps there is more to it than the fact that UNC fans have suddenly regained their voice. For one thing, except for the VMI and Wake Forest games, this year's home schedule has featured very good games against very good teams. We haven't had a streak of William & Marys.

LSU, Florida State and Clemson have all been close, hard-fought games. Nothing can make someone cheer like a nailbiter, and all three of those have been.

But maybe a bigger reason is the team's obvious emotionality this season. On the defense, especially, there are some very good cheerleaders, even if they are unable to do splits. Reuben Davis is a good example. When fans feel like a team is playing for them and not just in front of them, it's bound to make a difference.

Other Gridiron Grub:

Eric Streater is out for the rest of the season with a very sore shoulder sustained in his diving catch of a Jonathan Hall pass late in the fourth quarter. That means that the formerly unheralded Quinton Smith, who burst into prominence last week, will start with Earl Winfield at wide receiver. Coach Dick Crum said he's not worried about starting Smith. "Jon's very comfortable with him, because they're both on the second unit and he's caught a lot of balls from Jon," Crum said.

UNC will start three freshman offensively against Virginia — center Jeff Garnica, right tackle Creighton Incorminias and Hall. Crum said that's the most he's ever started offensively. "I didn't change my thinking (in regard to starting freshmen), they just happen to be the best at their positions," he said.

Speaking of Incorminias, he is an absolute Frigidaire Deluxe. At 6-4, 318 lbs., he outweighs William Perry by 16 pounds and is two inches taller. How about using him as a fullback in short-yardage situations?

A note on Perry for those who missed David Letterman Monday night — the former Clemson All-American said he drank 48 beers without getting sick after the UNC game his freshman year.

Crum said he never considered pulling Hall out of the game Saturday. "It never crossed my mind," he said. As far as Kevin Anthony, who holds many of the UNC passing records but now has been relegated to just holding the ball for extra points and field goals, Crum said: "I don't think he likes (the move), but I'd be disappointed if he did."

Crum also interrupted a question about Hall at his press conference Tuesday. "Do you think it's fair to compare Jonathan to any..." "No," Crum said.

unc athlete of the week

Without much discussion, we all decided that this week's UNC athlete of the week would be Jonathan Hall.

Hall, a true freshman (not redshirted) from Vienna, Va., quarterbacked the North Carolina football team to its first win over Clemson in five tries Saturday and its first win over the Tigers in Kenan Stadium since the Nixon presidency. Hall went 12-for-20 passing for 182 yards and a touchdown, and was unstoppable on the two UNC fourth-quarter scoring drives that gave the Tar Heels the 21-20 win. To be fair, the award should go to the whole team, but for a freshman in his first collegiate start to perform with the poise that Hall did makes him stand out among his teammates.

This week's honorable mention deserving goes to wrestler Rob Koll, who was named outstanding wrestler of the tournament in this weekend's Eastern Nationals in Norfolk, Va. Koll



Jonathan Hall

won his weight class and led the Tar Heels to a tournament-record 124 points in their first grapple of the season.

To both UNC students, our heartfelt congratulations.

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And for the feature attraction, you get to see the Tar Heels in their first game of the season—Who'll start for the Heels?—Who'll be the next three "starters" into the lineup? Will there be a Blue Team?—a speedy, ball stealing, three-guard lineup? And who will be this year's crowd pleasing Tar Heel in the game? You'll get the answers this Saturday night, November 16th, plus all the color, pomp and ceremony of an international game in Blue Heaven.
But you better hurry before student tickets run out—just bring your student I.D. and athletic pass to Carmichael. The tickets are yours FREE while they last.

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