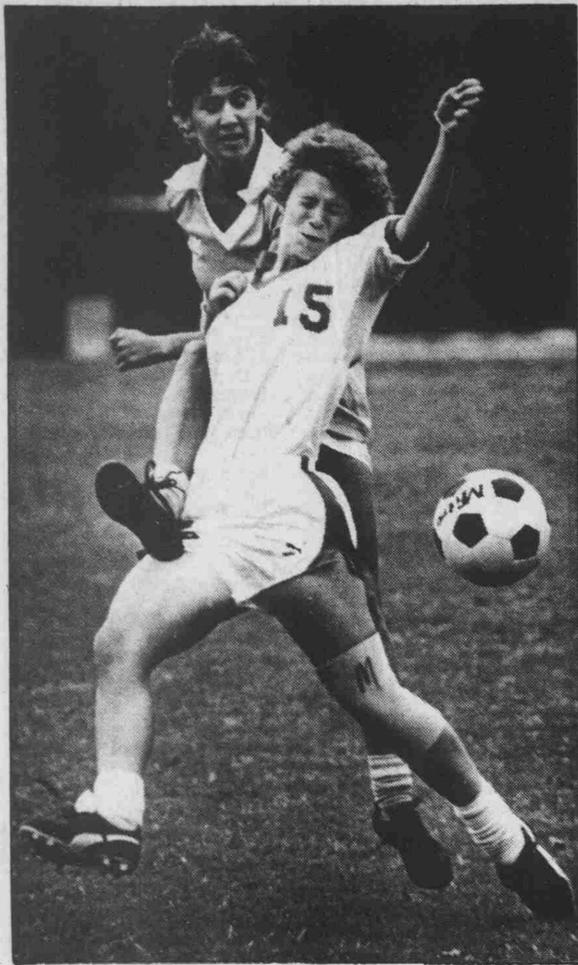


Women's soccer seeks NCAA title again



Jo Boobas (background) is back to lead the UNC soccer frontline as the team tries to gain its fifth national title in the last six years.

By LAURA GRIMMER
Staff Writer

North Carolina's women's soccer team, always one of the top-rated squads in the country, is ready, willing and able to face the challenges of the 1986 season.

After being national champions for four consecutive years, the Tar Heels lost to George Mason in the finals of the NCAA Tournament in 1985. This season, according to eighth-year head coach Anson Dorrance, the challenge is "to rebuild an All-America defense as well as to regain the national title."

To complicate the defensive situation, there are five starters absent from last year's runner-up team. Those include All-America backfielders Senga Allen, Stacey Enos, and Dori Kovenan, as well as reserve Toni Catchings. During their stay at UNC, these defenders held opponents to a 0.5 scoring average over five seasons. That's a tough act for any backfield to follow, yet coach Dorrance is hopeful.

"We've had a good recruiting year," Dorrance said. "We've got a lot of quality and strength in the newcomers." Several of the freshmen backfield candidates include Lori Henry, who is from Seattle, Wash., a two-time All-America; Carla Werden (Dallas), a two-time member of the U.S. National Team; and Ava Hyatt from Tampa, Fla., an all-state performer.

Returners from last year's reserves include sophomore Andrea Zeman (East Northport, N.Y.), who participated in 16 matches last fall, junior Keith Castellone, from Raleigh, N.C., and sophomore Annie McNeill, who hails from Bowie, Maryland.

Senior Kathleen O'Dell, from Annapolis, Md., will be returning as starting goalkeeper and she may have some help from Gretchen Gegg (Seattle, Wash.), a top newcomer and national team member, and sophomore reserves Anne Sherow (Dayton, Ohio) and Kasey Jones (Dallas, Texas).

Despite major reconstructive surgery in the backfield, the Tar Heel midfield is returning in strong form. Although All-America and team captain Betsy Johnson is gone, along with Stacey Nelson, a handful of candidates hope to fill their shoes. At the midfield position, returning starters

are senior NCAA All-Tournament member Marcia McDermott, a native of McLean, Va., who scored nine goals in 20 games last season and sophomore Tracey Bates of Dallas.

Others expected to pick up any slack include sophomore Wendy Gebauer (Reston, Va.), who took part in 17 games and scored eight goals last season, and junior Lisa Duffy (Raleigh, N.C.). Freshman Shannon Higgins (Kent, Wash.), a triple NSCAA All-America performer, could also provide penetration and range in the midfield.

The UNC front line is the only position to go unscathed through graduation with all three starters returning. April Heinrichs (Littleton, Colo.), a senior, has led the team in scoring all three years of her collegiate career and is a three-time All-America. Sophomore Carrie Serwetyk, coming to North Carolina from Mississauga, Ontario, led the team in goals scored last year with 19 and Jo Boobas, a senior from McLean, Va., was the team's third leading scorer with 15 goals and was named to the NCAA All-Tournament team.

Other returning front line reserves include Birthe Hegstad (Great Falls, Va.), Bettina Bernardi (Dallas, Texas), who is coming back after being red-shirted due to a knee-injury, and Sherri McDavid (Fairfax, Va.), and newcomer Julie Guanotta, from Winchester, Mass.

"We do have some problems with the backfield and that's what we've been concentrating on," Dorrance said.

The Tar Heels' first match is the North Carolina Invitational Aug. 30-31 at Fetzer Field. UNC will play the University of Massachusetts Saturday at 1 p.m. and will square off against Central Florida Sunday at 5 p.m. This could very well be a preview of the Final Four in women's soccer, as the fourth team in the tournament will be George Mason.

"Massachusetts is returning their whole team from last season and Central Florida has a lot of talent," Dorrance said. "And George Mason won the NAAs last year, so this should be the best women's soccer action in the country."

Cross country tries to keep 1985 momentum

By BOB YOUNG
Assistant Sports Editor

November 25, 1985. On that date, UNC cross country completed one of the biggest non-foreign-athlete-related turnarounds in collegiate sports.

That was the date when All-American George Nicholas led his team to a fifth-place finish in the NCAA Cross Country Championships in Milwaukee, Wis. How much of a turnaround? The year before, the Tar Heels finished sixth — in the conference, that is.

This year, the men's team will be out to solidify its newly-found, highly-ranked, lofty-expectations status in the absence of Nicholas, while the women's team will seek to regain the successes it enjoyed in the early '80s.

Although the men's team loses the services of Nicholas, it returns everybody else from the defending ACC champion squad.

The top returnee is Jim Farmer, a senior from Raleigh, who also earned All-America honors last season with a 36th-place finish at nationals. He will be joined by three other seniors — Mike Currier, Reggie Harris and Bill Will.

"Those guys are the strength of the team," according to men's coach Chris Fox. "They're seniors who have been with the program and know what it takes to win."

Other team members that show promise are sophomores Mike McGowan and Danny Howat,

along with freshmen Mike Clinebell (North Carolina prep champ) and Johan Boakes (a 18-year-old Brit who recently ran a four-minute mile).

On the women's side, the graduation of three-time All-America Holly Murray leaves a slight gap in the team-leader column. Ready to fill that gap are seniors Karol Chambers and Heather Zimmerman. Last year's frosh phenom, Chrissa Nicholas, has been slowed, slightly by stress fractures, but should be in good shape for end-of-season competition.

Filling out the squad, which finished a disappointing fourth in the conference in 1985, will be juniors Vicki Verinder and Jeanne Matta, and newcomers Kari Torjussen and Carmen Richardson.

The main competition for both teams will come from N.C. State. Again, the Raleigh teams lost virtually nothing by way of graduation and won important recruiting battles.

"And I'm sure the men are looking to avenge last year's loss at the ACCs," Fox said.

The two teams probably will not square off this year until the conference championships, which will be run Nov. 1 at Clemson. Before that, UNC will compete in some low-key meets in the East, host its own invitational (Sept. 27), and will get a preliminary look at this year's NCAA course (at the Arizona National in Tucson).

Baseball

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is the best second baseman in baseball. He has drawn 65 walks this year, second only to Hernandez. If Doran played in Wrigley Field, Ryne Sandberg's annual ticket to the All-Star Game would be revoked.

Before we leave the National League, one final note. Two teams in the West, the Padres and Braves, are laboring under the unnoticed yoke of terrible management. Atlanta is victimized by the genial incompetent Chuck Tanner, who knows little about the vices of a four-man rotation and even less about constructing a lineup which can help his team score runs.

A worse situation is that in San Diego, because the Padres have the talent to win and it's being wasted. San Diego is led by the academic Steve Boros, whose only visible virtue is that he reads books. When the year began, San Diego had two of the finest young players in baseball in its outfield with Kevin McReynolds and Carmelo Martinez. Both of them currently reside on the pine, while Steve Garvey continues, inexplicably, to play.

Let's travel now to the American League. In many respects, it has been a very compelling year in the Junior Circuit. Both divisions have good pennant races going, and everyone knows about the bumper crop of rookies. It's been the season of Wally Joyner, still hitting .308, Jose Can-

seco, who now has 94 RBI, and the splendid Danny Tartabull. Tartabull has in fact been the consistently best rookie this year, hitting .284 with 21 homers and 75 RBI in 100 fewer at-bats than Joyner. And he walks.

As for the pennant races, it's still anyone's guess who will win the AL East. Boston is now up by 5½, but Red Sox fans have seen too many late-season collapses to be confident about a division title. Five teams are within 8½ games, and if the Orioles get hot, they could be very tough to stop. Fred Lynn, by the way, has had a spectacular season for Baltimore, and Earl Weaver has become thoroughly enamored of his star centerfielder.

In Cleveland, the Tribe has stayed in the thick of it, and reaped the benefits at the turnstiles. The Indians have as fine a starting lineup as any team in baseball, and an unbelievable crop of young players. Carter, Hall, Jacoby and the rookie Cory Snyder are going to be good for a long time to come.

What's left? Oh, the AL West. Well, California and Texas are locked up in a fine duel, a fascinating study in contrasts, as a recent article in Baseball America discussed. Bobby Valentine has done a fantastic job with the Rangers, who have the weirdest and youngest pitching staff in baseball and a brilliant shortstop in Scott Fletcher. The Rangers have capitalized on the fading act of Kansas City and the disappointing performance of Seattle, and have a fine shot at taking the title. All in all, it could be a barnburner of a September, a fitting cap to a really great baseball summer.



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