

Sports

Troubles are sweet to freshman Cox

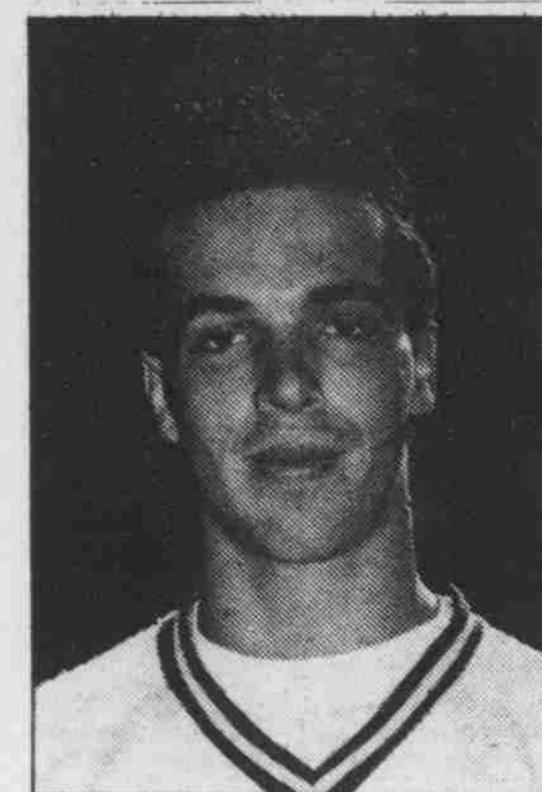
By ANDREW PODOLSKY
Staff Writer

Number 32 streaks down Fetzer Field, weaving in between defenders to zip a shot over the goalie's right shoulder. The crowd, on hand to watch the defending national champion Tar Heels, explodes as the team takes one step closer to this year's NCAA tournament. A seasoned fan leans over to me and says excitedly, "Boy, that Cox kid sure has a lot of natural ability, doesn't he? And he looks like he's having so much fun!"

Judging from his attitude on and off the field, it is definitely safe to say that freshman midfielder Scott Cox is enjoying his inaugural season with the UNC lacrosse team. "I love it here. From the weather to the people there's just no way you can beat Chapel Hill," Cox said. Standing just over six feet tall with an evenly distributed 180 pounds, Cox is able to do more than score.

He also dishes out beaucoup de punishment as well. Many times this season, the fans have been treated to the opponents Cox has strewn across the field slowly rise from a crushing check. Yet Cox never seems to deliver these blows with the slightest bit of malicious intent.

Cox, hailing from lacrosse powerhouse Sachem High School on Long Island, New York, has had to contend with many factors that had the potential to provide a difficult freshman year.



Scott Cox
... has nine goals as a freshman

First and foremost, he is the third of three brothers to play for UNC. He has had to contend with constant comparisons to his brother Randy, who played defense from 1981-84, and Greg, who roamed the midfield for the Tar Heels from 1982-1985. Both brothers were four year lettermen, with Randy achieving All-American and ACC player of the year honors.

"It is tough sometimes, but I knew about the pressure from my brothers," Cox said. "UNC was my first choice because of its big time lacrosse

program and its great physical education department."

Cox has also had to contend with the quaint nickname of "pebble". (Brother Randy was "rock" while Greg answered to "stone").

More importantly, this sibling combination has the potential to achieve an amazing statistic. If the Tar Heels win another national championship while Cox is here, all three brothers will don championship rings from different years.

Cox has also had to contend with his family moving from New York to Carrboro in September. He hasn't been home since August of last summer. "Well, I do miss my friends, but I made friends quick enough down here. Everyone is so friendly down here," he quipped.

Judging from his statistics this year however, these travails haven't hurt him too much. The highly touted freshman has amassed nine goals and four assists in eight games. He also has the honor of being the only freshman to start this year, taking the field at the open of the Hopkins game two weeks ago.

Cox admittedly lives life a little on the carefree side. He's planning on majoring in physical education, and knows that the grueling lacrosse season will force him to attend summer school all four years here. He loves little children and tries to help out the Special Olympics whenever he can. He even holds the job of the country bear mascot for

a local radio station, which entails dancing at various events.

He's quick to emphasize how much different college life is however. "I sure didn't expect to see as much playing time with the defending national champs and I didn't know there was so much homework," he said. "I was amazed at how close the sports teams, especially lacrosse, are."

The highlight of his short career came a short time ago. "After the Hopkins game, a little girl came up and asked for my autograph. I went nuts!"

Holding very strong family ties, Cox spends almost all his weekends at his parent's house or helping both his brothers clear the land for their new house in Alamance County. Cox enjoys spending time toying with his family's five cars, and says that friendship is very important to him. Cox hopes to get an athletic-related job that will allow him both to help young children and stay active as well.

Number 32 is at it again. After flipping a pass for an assist on a brilliant move, he has just brilliantly flattened a Hopkins attackman in front of the goal to stop a vital drive. But later in the day, it's not the crushing body blows he remembers, or even the spectacular moves. He remembers instead a solitary little girl, who brings out the wide eyed little boy in Scott Cox.

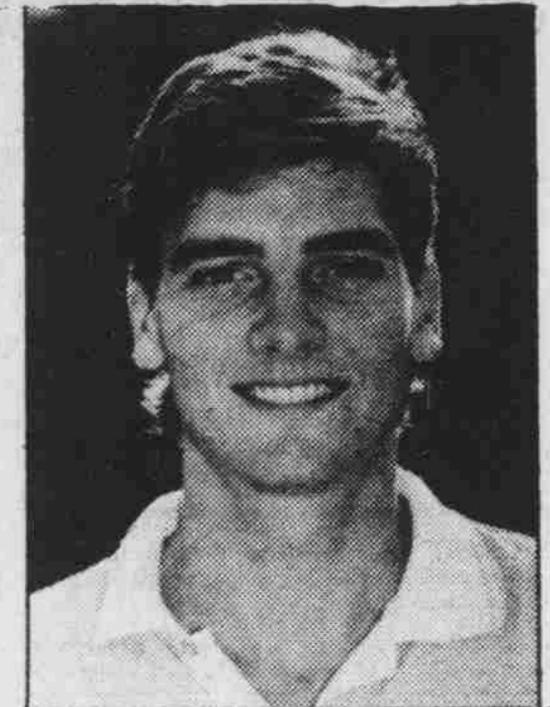
Jim Daugherty was the winning pitcher for the Tar Heels as he went the whole game. He gave up only four hits while striking out a dozen Devils.

Fowler took the loss for Duke.

The victory was the sixth in a row for UNC, which now sports a season record of 22-11. The Tar Heels are 9-4 in ACC competition.

Coach Mike Roberts' charges stay on the road for the remainder of the week. The Heels play against the Pirates of ECU in Greenville today. Then UNC heads north for a Friday game against the Maryland Terrapins and Saturday and Sunday tilts against Virginia.

UNC Athlete of the Week



Eddie Stewart
... has won 18 straight matches

ranked 29th in the country. He has been a crucial ingredient in the team's comeback from last season.

Daugherty goes for nine as Tar Heels shell Duke

From staff report

Tuesday was a tough day for Duke pitcher Don Fowler, and he only pitched to two batters in the game against North Carolina at Jack Coombs field.

If he was a short reliever, that wouldn't have been so bad. But he was the starter in a game in which his Blue Devils were pummeled by the Tar Heels, 17-1.

Devy Bell led the UNC offensive attack, hitting two home runs in a 3-for-6 performance. He was helped out by Tom Nevin, who had a double and a home run in driving home three runs, and Howard Freiling, who also knocked in a trio of runs.

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