able actors as Matt Dillon, Diane Lane, and Bruce Dern to make up for its intellectual lackings. The film fulfills its purpose effectively, captivating its viewers for two hours.

This is the type of movie that entertains but does not necessarily send out a strong moral message. Or if the message is there, it is shuffled amidst the action of the story.

"The Big Town" borders on being corny with its predictable plot and character developments. However, it's still exciting to watch.

The story centers around smalltown dice shooter J.C. Cullen (Dillon) and his disappointing encounters in the seedy world of professional gambling in Chicago. Predictably, his glitzy image of professional gambling crumbles under the realities of life in a big city, but he re-establishes his priorities by the end of the movie.

Dillon makes the movie entertaining with his enthusiastic acting. He energetically leads viewers through all of his ordeals, leaving them rigid in the theater seats several times during the movie. In this film, Dillon definitely upholds his reputation as a charismatic actor.

Lane plays an unscrupulous

**Alston Russell** 

Cinema

though the movie does not reveal her evil tendencies until the end, the viewer can tell that she spells deceit as soon as she litters the movie screen. Lane plays a despicable character, and she does it incredibly well.

Dern plays the kingpin of the whole shady gambling scene with everyone somehow connecting back to his office at the back of Madigan's Bar. He and his right-hand man, Tommy Lee Jones, work hard to portray the slimy hoodlums involved in city gambling during the 1950s.

Though overall the acting is commendable, there are some awkward scenes that seem to slacken the pace of the movie. The most memorable of such clumsy scenes is when Dillon comes back to tell his boss, Dern's wife, that her friend "Hooker" has died of a stroke. Hooker had been Dillon's mentor in the gambling scene in his hometown of Rockport, Ind.

Dillon brings his boss a picture of her and Hooker hugging. She looks at it and tells him to take it away. Dillon asks how she can wipe him stripper who capitalizes on the out of her memory "just like that," innocence of J.C. Cullen. Even pauses for a second, and then says,

percent of my earnings that you were giving to Hooker."

She tells him they will evenly split the difference, and he agrees. As he walks to the door, she says, "You know, you're the best shooting arm I have." Dillon nods in agreement as

he leaves the room. The action and dialogue of this scene are so clumsy that the whole situation seems uncomfortable. At the same time the viewer is not convinced that the awkwardness of this scene is intentional.

On its own merits, the soundtrack, containing works by such great artists as Johnny Cash, Ronnie Self, Bo Diddley and Chuck Willis, makes "The Big Town" worth the ticket

The movie's setting in the Windy City during the '50s is also impressive and entertaining with its display of patent-leather wingtips, bouffant hairdos, and bolo ties. The viewer is taken back to the era of cafeteriastyle restaurants and the diners with a personal jukebox at each booth.

"The Big Town" is a yet another addition to the overflowing pile of movies that leave viewers satisfied emotionally but deprived intellectually. The movie is highly entertaining, and in this case the emotional appeal is sufficient to make it worthwhile.

#### **Sports**

By DAVID HALL

Much as Louis XIV was the "Sun King" in 17th-century France, David Smyth is similarly the man around which everything revolves when the UNC men's soccer team plays. Virtually all of the offensive thrusts emanate from his downfield sets. In essence, he is a soccer demi-god.

"They give him the ball every time," said a somewhat distraught John Rennie, after his Duke squad, the defending NCAA champs, lost to UNC in the season opener. "But I can understand why. He is a terrific player, a hell of a player."

"David is probably the most complete player that we have," Tar Heel coach Anson Dorrance said. "He has shown why he not only is an All-American candidate but also one of the top candidates for the Herrmann trophy." The Herrmann is given annually to the top collegiate player in men's soccer.

Undoubtedly this attention would have been unlikely without the strong start that UNC has had thus far. The team has shot to an 8-1 record while decimating opponents such as Duke, Clemson and George Mason by a collective scoring margin of 29-7. The play of the team has led to a No. 3 ranking in the latest national polls.

"It's all built up within the team during the year," reflected Smyth

success. "This year we're winning a lot of close games, games that we would not have won last year. I think that a lot of this has to do with solid play and senior leadership."

Smyth, dubbed "Captain Dave" by the legions of adoring fans, is "the man" both on the field and in the locker room. In addition to his role as team captain, Smyth also commands respect as head of the Tar Heel defense, one of the most feared and respected in the country and also the focal point of the UNC system.

"As the sweeper, I have to play strong and intelligently," Smyth said. "But none of our success thus far would not have been possible without the other 17 guys playing hard. I think a lot of credit has to go to Steve Dragisics, Chad Ashton and Donald Cogsville. We've worked really hard and we play really well together as

The path to greatness is never easy. Many, whether they be Julius Erving or Dwight Gooden, have attested to the fact that their achievements have been made possible only by an obsession with their sport, an obsession which caused them to work the hardest to achieve their goals. Smyth embarked on this path when he started playing as a five-year-old in his hometown of Hicksville, N.Y.

Club soccer afforded him an opportunity to pursue his passion about the team's almost overnight year-round in addition to playing to the truth.

lacrosse and basketball. The hard work payed off as Smyth was a consensus All-American and a member of the U.S. Junior National Team. Though afforded the opportunity to play at any school in the land, Smyth chose UNC because of its soccer program. "It gave me a chance to play in the toughest conference in the nation," Smyth said. "I have not regretted a minute of it."

The path, however, has not always been easy. Throughout his career at UNC, Smyth has been afflicted by various injuries including a stretched groin, numerous ankle sprains, and most recently a broken foot suffered during the off-season.

"The injuries definitely have hindered me," grimaced the All-American. "But I learned not to give up. Each time that I was hurt, I fought

Such statements are indicative of his resolve, but it has been Smyth's performance that has set him apart from the rest. On the field, Smyth is always in the match, constantly hustling and communicating with his teammates. He never makes a mistake. Undoubtedly this is the reason for the respect that he has garnered. Without a touch of conceit he declared, "Coaches like the way I play." He could not have been closer

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From Associated Press reports

Heading into the final week of the season, St. Louis manager Whitey Herzog has a lot of concerns. Not being able to finish off New York or Montreal in the National League East home — four against the Expos and

NL East race tightens in the last week

magic number of five and play their final seven games of the season at

On July 23, the Cardinals led the

Expos by 91/2 games and the Mets by 10½ despite being without ace lefthander John Tudor, who was out with a broken leg.

Tudor is back and has won six straight, but slugger Jack Clark has been out of the lineup for most of September with a sprained ankle.

'I'm concerned because we don't have Jack Clark," Herzog said. "I'm concerned because we're not hitting. But there's not a lot I can do about it. Just put them out there and play."

The second-place Mets started a three-game series in Philadelphia sive chance. Monday night, trailing the Cards by 21/2 games. The Cardinals have a record of 35-

34 since the All-Star break and are

12-13 for the month of September. "I thought they really played over their heads in the first half," Mets manager Davey Johnson said after New York's victory over Pittsburgh

on Sunday. The Expos have won 10 of 14 games with the Cardinals this season and all they wanted to do was arrive at Busch Stadium for Tuesday's doubleheader with a chance.

The Cardinals gave the third-place Expos that opportunity Sunday by dropping a 7-3 decision to Chicago while Montreal beat Philadelphia 5-3 to move within three games.

"Ideally, I would like to have been two down going into St. Louis," Montreal manager Buck Rodgers said. "But the bottom line is that we've got to win. The brass ring is out there. We got to grab it."

PLAZA 3

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### Cocking working for rewards

By CHRIS SPENCER

The skinny player sprints across the field, catches up with an unsuspecting midfielder and deftly takes the ball from him, creating an offensive opportunity in a seemingly no-chance

Later, he runs over to help out a teammate stop an opposing forward. Just as the player sees him, he slides in and pushes the ball to his teammate, giving his team another offen-

Anyone who has seen the UNC men's soccer team play this year should recognize John Cocking, the number "2" stenciled across his back, often muddied. Or perhaps they recognize his scrappy play, jumping, diving and sliding, oblivious to anything but victory.

"I don't like to lose, and my attitude is to do anything I can to win," Cocking said recently after practice. "I don't want to leave the field thinking that there was something else I could have done to help the

The sophomore from Roswell, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta, was a three-time high school All-American at The Lovett School. He was named the Georgia Most Valuable Soccer Player twice. And he played on the under-161/2 National Youth Team in China with Tar Heel freshman Derrick

Missimo. Highly recruited and performing well in college, Cocking might very well be full of himself. But while his individual awards are certainly impressive, Cocking only wants to talk about the team.

"The turnaround of the team this year starts at the top with the

RECYCLE

This Newspaper

coaching staff," he said. "Then the seniors and juniors provide good leadership. The sophomores help out too, and the freshmen have come in and done a good job."

nia, that turnaround had resulted in we did so in waves." a No. 3 ranking and a remarkable 8-0 record for the Tar Heels, as good a start as any in UNC history. And even the disappointing 2-0 loss to the Cavs has not dimmed the greatness of the squad. One of the keys for the Tar Heels is the veteran nature of the

"I think we have a lot of experience on the field this year," Cocking said. "We have one or two freshmen starting, and the sophomores got some good minutes last year. This year it all comes together. We have lots of experience playing together, and now we are proving we can play."

Unsurprisingly, the national attention the team has garnered leaves little impression on the quiet sophomore. "It's nice to be ranked No. 3, but

it's not what we play for," Cocking said. "We play for pride." When he was in high school, Cocking had four schools in mind,

and UNC was fourth before his visit to Chapel Hill. "After I left, I got on the plane with a friend of mine and I said, 'This is the place for me,' " he said. "Some-

times, you go to a place that's comfortable to you, and that's the way it was here for me." While the sudden success of the

team raises eyebrows practically everywhere (UNC went from unranked to sixth in the nation in the space of one week), it doesn't faze Cocking.

"We have to keep a positive attitude, and everybody has to keep playing well," he said. "If things go bad, then we have to keep our minds

on our goals." The Tar Heels play a two-forward front, but attack as a team, and that could be a major reason for their early-season success. They have

whopping 29-7 margin.

"Last year, the forwards got stranded somewhat up front," Cocking said. "But the George Mason coach said the other day after we Before Sunday's game with Virgi- played them that when we attacked,

> The waves have been the result of a squad working together, a squad playing as one instead of as 11 individuals.

> "Also last year we had to chase the fullbacks all over the field," he said. "But this year, we try and force them one way to put pressure on them, and it causes us to win balls in the midfield and fullback areas. I think we are working more as a team this year. There is more of a team concept and team chemistry."

The hustling play of Cocking, as well as his counterpart Chad Ashton, pleases UNC coach Anson Dorrance, as do most things concerning the

men's soccer team these days. "John shows lots of enthusiasm on the field," Dorrance said of his hardworking forward. "He creates chan-

ces, and it's hard to mark him." Dorrance is also more than pleased with Cocking's defense, a quality not

often found in offensive stars. "I think another big quality is his

defensive work," the coach said. "Often it's hard to find the forwards who will do the scut work. Basically, they're prima donnas. But that's not so with John. He'll do anything to win. He's a very team-oriented person and that's a great quality in a forward."

But curiously, Cocking is not happy with himself right now. He had stayed after practice to work on his shot, concerned over the team's difficulty scoring.

"We've had a lot of problems finishing off our shots," he said with the frustration of a player on an 0-7 team, instead of the complacency of a star on one of the country's best squads. "We should be scoring three or four goals a game."

When you're John Cocking, being

## outscored their opponents by a on top means never letting up.

## The Baily Tar Heel

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