

Senior Wendy Gebauer is a driving force behind UNC's women's soccer dynasty

DTH file photo

# Going for seven

## Women's soccer returns 8 starters; Tar Heels should dominate again

By CHRIS SPENCER  
Assistant Sports Editor

Quick! Name the last sports dynasty that reigned in this state. Can't think of it? That's okay. What about in this region? Still drawing a blank, huh?

The truth is, there hasn't been one — ever. Except the one that has blossomed right here in Chapel Hill.

You see, the UNC women's soccer team is coming off its second straight NCAA national championship, and its seventh in eight seasons. Last year's squad finished 23-0-1 and set NCAA records for most shutouts in a season (22) and fewest goals allowed as a team (2). The Tar Heels are in the midst of a 49-game unbeaten streak and are eight games shy of their own NCAA record, set in 1983-85.

And this year's squad could be more dominating than some of those brutal teams of the past, according to Tar Heel coach Anson Dorrance, who has a career record of 164-7-4 in his nine-year stint as coach.

But the team could have problems, Dorrance insists. This summer, senior midfielder Tracey Bates, a two-time All-American, went down with a broken bone in her foot, and the 4-foot-11 sparkplug is gone for the season.

"We'll treat it as a graduation loss," Dorrance said. "So now we're looking to replace three starters, in addition to Carrie Serwentyk and Keath Castelleo."

But the key to this team, in addition to how it will react to losing Bates, is its freshmen class. Two of them could make an immediate impact — Lisa Owen, out of West Deptford, N.J., is challenging sophomore Laura Boone for the left fullback position, and Louellen Poore, from Tampa, FL, will replace Bates.

"Lisa was the New Jersey player of the year last season," Dorrance said, "and Louellen will be inexperienced, but she's got a lot of talent and seems very willing to learn."

Overall, though, the Tar Heels return some very experienced players. In the goal will be senior Anne Sherow, a steady performer who holds the NCAA record for shutouts. Sherow allowed only one goal in 1,712 minutes last season, a .05 goals against average.

Two first-team All-Americans return on defense, which should mean a few more shutouts this season. At sweeper, junior Carla Werden will provide a very strong last line of defense. All junior stopper Lori Henry did last year was nail down the ACC player-of-the-year honors. Both spent their summer playing for the U.S. national team.

"Carla is the top sweeper in the U.S.," Dorrance said, "and Lori is consistently known as the best defender in America. We should be pretty solid in the defense."

At the wing back positions, senior Andrea Zeman will fill the left position, while Boone and Owen contend for the other one. "With more improvement, Andrea can challenge for the U.S. national team," Dorrance said. "She's worked very hard to get in shape, and she should have a great fall."

The midfield is the heart of a soccer team, and the Tar Heels are in good shape with theirs. Juniors Ava Hyatt and Shannon Higgins, who scored goals in each of the three NCAA tournament games last fall, return to their respective right wing and center-midfield positions, and the two play beautifully together.

"Technically, Shannon and Wendy Gebauer are the best players in America, and Shannon is a great organizer for us," Dorrance said. "Ava is an excellent player whose strong qualities are her fighting power and individual flair."

Topping off the squad are the forwards, and once again experienced players return. Gebauer is a senior who led the ACC in scoring last season with 15 goals and 10 assists.

Women's Soccer Schedule	
SEPTEMBER	
1	— at Dayton
3	— at Cincinnati
6	— at Methodist
10	— at George Mason
17	— CAL-BERKELEY
20	— at N.C. State
23	— at Colorado College
24	— at Santa Clara
27	— ELON COLLEGE
OCTOBER	
1	— at William and Mary
2	— VIRGINIA
7	— at Barry University
9	— at Central Florida
12	— RADFORD
15	— MASSACHUSETTS
20	— UNC-GREENSBORO
23	— BERRY COLLEGE
28-30	— ACC Tournament, at N.C. State
NOVEMBER	
5-6	— NCAA First Round
12-13	— NCAA Quarter Finals
19-20	— NCAA Final Four

She also played for the U.S. squad and had a strong Italian tour, netting the game-winning goal in a 1-0 win over France for the bronze medal.

"Wendy really understands the game, she's a tactical wizard and she will be great for us up front," Dorrance said.

Junior Birthe Hegsted notched 12 goals and seven assists last season, but the Tar Heels will be without her services for the first couple of games, as she has obligations in her native Norway.

At the wings, sophomore Pam Kalinoski will anchor the left side with her lethal left foot, and Dorrance liked her strong improvement this spring. On the right side, junior Julie Guarnotta is a fast, powerful forward who scored seven goals last season.

Add to that a great schedule, which includes national powers Colorado College, William and Mary, N.C. State and Massachusetts, and the Tar Heels should be in for an exciting year.

At least, that's how Dorrance sees it, and he is satisfied with his team's outlook. He clowned around after a recent Tar Heel practice, deadpanning: "We could be a good team."

And if he's satisfied, the Tar Heels are in good shape.

### Stadium

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lot of other schools have done this and sometimes of a bigger nature."

Swofford said the project really got going in mid-August, when about 12 extra work crews were brought in from Texas. The crews have been working straight through nightfall to make up for lost time.

When the Sooners come to town Sept. 10, game which will be televised nationally by ESPN, fans will notice a wide range of improvements in the venerable arena. The old press box has been knocked out and replaced by 2,100 midfield seats, bringing Kenan's seating capacity to 52,000.

The new, state-of-the-art press facility sits atop the upper deck on the south side of the field. It will stretch for some 80 yards, from 10-yard-line to 10-yard-line.

In addition, the chancellor's box has been moved and enlarged, and lounges for ex-Tar Heel lettermen and the Educational Foundation have been built. All three areas are located on the south side.

But the most noticeable and significant change is the installation of permanent stadium lights. The system is similar to the one installed at

Wrigley Field, home of baseball's Chicago Cubs, and will enable UNC to finish its first two home games this season under the lights.

Prior to this season, UNC had played only two "night" games in Kenan Stadium — once in 1984 against Duke and last season against Clemson. Both games started at 4 p.m. and were made possible by the introduction of portable lights lifted by cranes above both sides of the stadium.

Another significant improvement is the installation of bleacher seating for about 400 high school coaches in the east end zone, a move designed to improve the program's previously sagging relationship with the area's prep mentors. Also, teams entering and exiting the locker rooms in Kenan Field House will do so through blue-and-white canopied walkways.

Both the visiting and home locker rooms have been refurbished as well.

Additionally, Kenan Stadium will also feature new scoreboards, complete with a message board, situated in much the same way the scoreboards are in the Smith Center.

## McGowan, Verinder to pace harriers

By BRENDAN MATHEWS  
Staff Writer

They often go unnoticed. There are no packed stadiums cheering them on, no fans smeared with Carolina blue paint chanting their names, and no one stands in line in the pouring rain for tickets to watch them.

But it is because of this relative obscurity that cross country runners have maintained a special dignity among athletes. Their sport, running outdoors, free of the confines of the arena, is perhaps the oldest and most elemental of all disciplines. The side-show quality of sports, manifested by garish uniforms and hot-dogging for the sake of the crowd, is thankfully absent.

The heirs to this tradition, the UNC cross country team, begin their season Sept. 10 at the Wake Forest Invitational in Winston-Salem. They leave behind them a turbulent 1987 during which injuries sidelined key runners, including senior co-captain Reggie Harris, and an unusually young team struggled as the season wore on.

But it wasn't all disappointment,

as the consistently strong performances of Mike McGowan, Chrissa Nicholas and Vicki Verinder kept the Tar Heels competitive. The biggest story of the season, though, was the emergence of freshman Eric Hichman. The Gastonia native surpassed all expectations by taking second at the ACC Championships in Atlanta en route to a men's team finish of third.

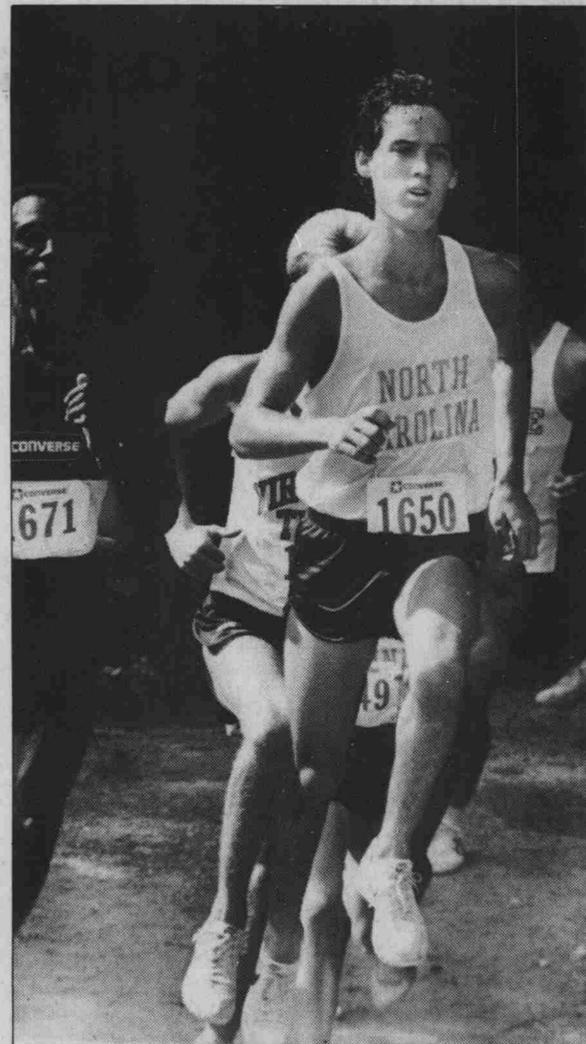
The year began well enough, with both the men and women capturing the overall titles at Old Dominion and later each finishing second at the Tar Heel Invitational. But after their early-season triumphs, the injuries began and the inconsistency of the young women's team left them farther back in the pack.

The men finished out the year with a disappointing 10th-place finish at the NCAA Region III Championships in Greenville, S.C. The women fared no better, finishing eighth in the ACC's and qualifying only Verinder and Nicholas for the NCAA regionals.

The Tar Heels have lost both Harris and Verinder to graduation, and inexperience will again be a major factor, especially for the women. Of the 10 names on the roster, there is only one junior (Chrissa Nicholas) and one senior (Monica Witterholt). Questions remain as to whether or not the four freshmen from last year's team (Michelle Faherty, Jamie Newnam, Jeanne Peterson and Karen Sahn) have matured enough to come into their own as legitimate forces in the upcoming invitationals.

The men will look to senior McGowan, a member of the 1985 North Carolina team that won the ACC championship and placed fifth in the NCAA's, as a source of leadership. Barring any serious injuries, he should continue to lead the way throughout the season, with a shot at the ACC individual title and a chance to improve on his finish in last year's NCAA regionals.

The pressure will be on Hichman to prove that his freshman-year accomplishments were no fluke.



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Senior Mike McGowan will lead the Tar Heel charges in 1988

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