

Sports

Guarnotta fast becoming a soccer force

By NATALIE SEKICKY
Staff Writer

Like most Northerners who venture to the South at one time or another in their lives, Julie Guarnotta, an emerging star on the UNC women's soccer team, agrees that the biggest disparity between the two regions is tempo.

For some reason, Northerners have a tendency to do many things — like talking — at an alarming rate of speed. This is most likely due to the North's arctic climate. Whereas something like running from your car to your house here in the South would be foolish, unless you like heat exhaustion, speeding things up in the North is a survival mechanism designed to prevent hypothermia.

Such habits are hard to change. "I still get ragged on for how fast I talk," says Guarnotta, a Massachusetts native.

But in the junior forward's case, these traits are part of what has made her one of the squad's leading scorers this season.

"She has excellent speed and she's powerful — those two factors make her very intimidating on the flank," UNC head coach Anson Dorrance says when asked about Guarnotta's strengths. "Generally flank players are a little smaller, and to have her out there in that area is a big advantage for us because there are very few teams that can match her strength and speed."

Guarnotta has come out of the blocks quickly this season, scoring a point (either a goal or an assist) in each of the Tar Heels' first four games, with goals in three of them. The biggest tally was a game winner against perennial power George Mason. Guarnotta had two goals in that contest.

This is big production for a player who had a total of seven goals and three assists in 1987, and who has been described as the less heralded returning forward for the Heels in 1988.

The difference, according to Guarnotta, is a combination of hard work

in the offseason and the confidence she has gained from starting this year.

"I trained really hard in the summer, and just being able to start the first game gave me my chance, so I tried to prove myself," she says. "By scoring in the first few games, I gained confidence, and it's helped me."

Dorrance agrees with that assessment.

"She had a great offseason," the Tar Heels' 12th-year coach says. "She really focused, and it's put her in a position where she knows our system better."

"Because of her effort in the offseason, and because she's really concentrating now and doing exactly what we want, it's put her in a position where she got the playing time she's had. And she's shown that she can do it."

Guarnotta is aggressive and confident, and she thrives on the pressure that comes with being a part of the team everyone wants to beat.

"I like it," she says of the tension inherent in being No. 1. "Every team we play is coming in thinking they have a chance to beat us; this could be their chance for glory. So we have to know every team we play is going to give 110 percent, and we try to prepare ourselves for that."

Guarnotta does not balk at playing before the home crowd, either. When UNC won the national championship last year in Amherst, Mass., Guarnotta scored against California-Berkeley in the semifinals. The extra pressure players sometimes feel when playing the big game in front of the home folks did not bother her at all.

"It was neat," she says. "A lot of my friends were there. There's definitely more pressure, but I was more excited. I like playing in front of people."

Soccer is definitely a family affair among the Guarnottas.

"My sister plays at (UNC) Greensboro this year," Guarnotta says. "She's a freshman. One of my brothers played in college for two years, and they all played in high school."



Julie Guarnotta's speed and strength are her biggest assets

Indeed, Guarnotta gained much of her early soccer experience by playing with her brothers at home in Winchester, Mass., a small town where high school soccer is an intense experience.

At Winchester High, Guarnotta led her team to the state soccer title as a sophomore. As a senior, she was named to the all-state team, the all-Eastern Massachusetts team and was

Johnson stripped of gold medal

From Associated Press reports

SEOUL, South Korea — Ben Johnson was stripped of the gold medal for his world record-setting 100-meter victory Tuesday after testing positive for steroids, blackening what had been a bright moment of the Seoul Olympics.

NBC said the medal would be awarded to American Carl Lewis, reviving his bid for an unprecedented second sweep of four gold medals: the 100- and 200-meter dashes, the long jump and the 400-meter relay. He won the long jump Monday. IOC spokeswoman Michele Verrier said the medal could be given to Lewis or first place left vacant.

Johnson, the third athlete to be stripped of a gold medal, was flying home to Toronto, leaving Olympic officials shaken and Canadian coaches stunned.

Johnson's manager, Larry Heidebrecht, said "Up to five days before the race, Ben was in perfect condition. Something happened in those days." "We do not know what happened and how it happened, but apparently somebody has sabotaged Ben and we will find out who it was and how it was done"

voted an all-star in the Division I coaches' poll.

She also was selected to the all-scholastic team. A versatile athlete, Guarnotta lettered in basketball, track and set the school record in the triple jump.

Soccer is her true love, though. "I love the game," she says. "I love our whole team and how everyone gets along. It's a lot of fun and it's definitely worth (the time)."

A psychology major, Guarnotta plans to continue her education through graduate studies. She may, however, continue her involvement with soccer from an off-the-field perspective.

"I'd love to coach," she says. If her performance on the field is any indication of future success, whatever Julie Guarnotta decides to do, she will probably do it well, and with that same old Yankee celerity.

Who's Jay Gruden? UNC knows now

Andrew Podolsky
Asst. Sports Editor

The North Carolina football team should have known. The Tar Heels should have been prepared for him. Some alarm should have gone off to warn them — but it didn't.

"Hey, there's nothing to worry about, this is Louisville, how good can they be?"

To be precise, UNC should have been prepared for Louisville quarterback Jay Gruden. Nobody in Chapel Hill really knew that much about him. They do now.

If the UNC defense had given Gruden the respect he deserves and devised a way to stop him, Saturday's results might have been a little different. But they didn't, and a woefully ignorant defense allowed Gruden to do what he does best.

All the senior quarterback did was rip the UNC secondary with 26 completions for 323 yards, flip two touchdown passes and run for another. But a successful day and a 38-34 win is not out of the ordinary for Gruden. People are beginning to notice him.

If they had done their homework, the Tar Heels would have realized that Jay Gruden is good — very good. This is a guy who has thrown 433 passes for 5,439 yards over the past 3½ years. He also owns about 14 Louisville offense records. He even has 32 career touchdown passes, including five so far this year.

Yes, the information was there to tell someone on this campus that Gruden is a force to be reckoned with. But judging by the way the Tar Heel defense approached the game, they blatantly missed all these obvious hints.

It seems they didn't know that the Tampa, Fla., native Gruden is a top-notch quarterback who turned down the glamour of football at Miami, FSU and Florida to turn the Louisville program into a winner.

On Saturday, most of Gruden's completions were to receivers who were open by at least 10 yards. Quite simply, all the Cardinals' receivers had to do was go out 10

yards, cut across the middle and enjoy a career day. That's exactly what they did.

All this was possible because the UNC secondary obliged the Cardinals receivers with a cushion of almost 15 yards. This opened up the field to a multitude of short passes.

Consider that 19 of the 26 Louisville completions went to tight ends and backs. Somebody was obviously not doing the job to stop the short passes. Passing under the coverage was an easy answer because the deep threat just wasn't there.

But don't think for an instant that the Cardinals were successful because the UNC defense was atrocious (although that's not an entirely wrong conclusion). No, Jay Gruden still had to be at his best.

It's actually scary to think what the score might have been if Gruden were surrounded by a competent offensive squad. But alas, he isn't. There were at least five perfect passes that Gruden threw, only to have them dropped by a stoned-handed receiver.

One particularly vivid mistake occurred in the second half when Cardinal receiver Anthony Cummings inexplicably dropped a perfect 30-yarder. No one was within 15 yards of Cummings, and he basically could have crawled into the endzone.

Gruden simply shook his head and sighed. Yet another example of perfect execution on his part, while ineptitude, reigns around him.

So my suggestion is that the defense be prepared for next week's game at Auburn: Here's a hint: Tiger quarterback Reggie Slack and wide-out Lawyer Tillman are extremely good and extremely fast. If you're not ready, the final score may be much worse than 38-34.

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Forget Seoul, UNC runs its own annual Olympics

John Bland
Opinion

Many of you may not know this, and I'm going to tell you anyway, but right here at UNC we have our own version of the Olympics going on all the time.

That's right. Now you're going to ask me, "John, now that I know we have our own Olympics here, how can I get rich off of this?" Sorry, but I'm not going to tell you that.

Let's look at some of the events, divided up into the same categories as in the real Olympics.

SWIMMING AND DIVING — This event takes place not in Koury Natatorium, but at Sugar Lake, the filled-in quarry between here and Pittsboro. Contestants jump from a 30-foot cliff into water that hasn't ever been cleaned.

The most popular dive here is the "Screaming Idiot." Afterwards, athletes tread water for about five minutes while they wait for their brains to coalesce. An added event here is rock climbing, which athletes must do if they ever want to see dry land again.

The only stipulation is that each competitor drink at least a 12-pack of really cheap beer before diving. Not only does this reduce the fear factor, it makes the rock climb a lot more interesting.

WEIGHTLIFTING — This is exclusively a women's sport because instead of steel bars and weights the only equipment is a bookbag filled

with the average female accessories (i.e., the mineral deposits of a small African country). Judges look for three criteria: poise, amount lifted and decibel level. Watch out for the smaller women; they can clean-and-jerk about twice their body weight with a good grunt.

TRACK AND FIELD — First, the field event. The Shower Scalding Broad Jump is most effective as a winter sport. An athlete stands under a lukewarm shower until someone on the first floor flushes a toilet. Then he jumps as far as he can before he gets his chestnuts roasted. Olde Campus dorms usually win this event.

The Nine-Thirty Sprint to Class is a timed event with varying distances, ranging from the Lenoir-to-Carroll to the Howell-to-Peabody. Points are deducted for every second of class missed, and excuses (such as "I'm sorry, but aliens that looked like Elvis kidnapped me and made me sing 'I Can't Help Falling In Love With You' in seven languages.") are not accepted.

The marathon is run by naked guys from all-male dorms. The only difference is that they are chased by hungry females who can keep who-

mever they catch as their love slave for one week. No one has ever finished this event.

And the final event in track and field is the Troll's Hurdles. This takes place after 2 a.m., and is fairly self-explanatory. No one has ever finished this event, either.

UPHILL SKIING — The second of two winter events, this is usually won by residents of Morrison dorm, who are proficient at getting up the hills outside Kenan Stadium. The only difference is that no skis are used, only Weejuns. In the past, downhill skiing on Chase Hall trays had been one of the more popular sports, until employees got wise and started frisking people when it snowed.

So there you have it, just a few sports in the UNC Olympic Games. If you can think of any others, I'll be glad to steal them as my own if you send them to me. Also, contributions to the UNC Olympic Committee are more than welcome, preferably in cash, but checks will be accepted along with six forms of ID and a note from your mother. Just make them out to me, John Bland, President of the UNCOC, and I'll make sure they are put to good use — feeding and clothing athletes or paying the rent on UNCOC headquarters, or straightening out my bar tabs.

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