

Sports

Men's soccer heads into ACC tourney, meets Tigers

By BRENDAN MATHEWS Staff Writer

You can tell Anson Dorrance is excited about this weekend's ACC Men's Soccer Tournament down in Clemson. Just listen to him.

"I don't think any team feels confident about the tournament," he said. "The league is a nightmare. It always has been."

This is not to say that the rest of the ACC is so scary that thoughts of playing Wake Forest and Virginia have crept into Dorrance's dreams. The nightmare is more a chaotic fantasy where anything can happen — preseason favorites drop to the conference cellar, clocks stop ticking to accommodate last-second scores and teams can pull themselves out of fatal posedives to salvage a winning season.

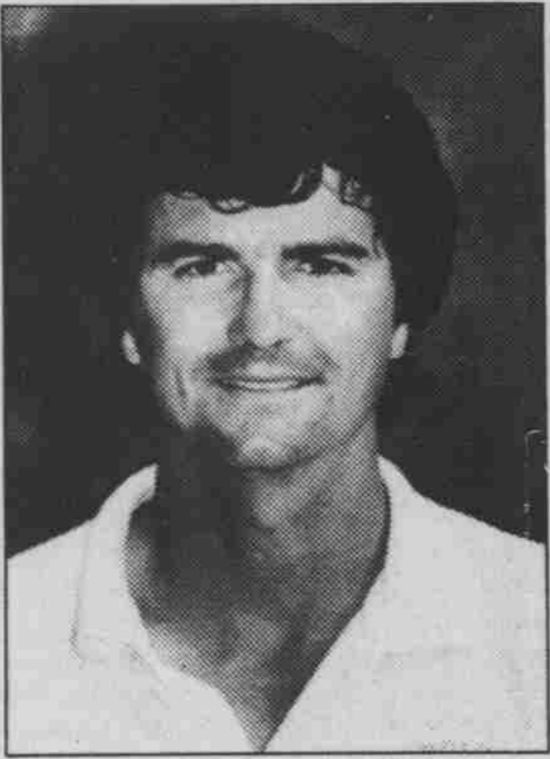
If all that isn't enough to make coaches tear their hair out, then there's the parity in the ACC to deal with. Too many teams are too good.

Over the last three years different teams have managed to claw their way to the top of the ACC pile and achieve national recognition. In 1986 it was Duke who rose above and won the NCAA title. A year later Clemson, the eventual champion, and UNC fought their way into the Final Four. This year, Virginia has been the team riding the top of the collegiate polls.

But no one is ready to give up and meekly pass the torch to UVa. While the Cavaliers have pieced together a conference record of 5-0-1, many of those wins have been in close games where the balance could have easily tipped to the other side.

The only blemish on Virginia's record came in a scoreless battle with this year's surprise team, Wake Forest. The Deacons finished in the second spot in the ACC at 3-1-2 and look to stake their claim in the conference with an impressive showing in the tournament.

N.C. State, Maryland, Clemson and Duke are all dangerous. The Wolfpack took fourth with a 2-3-1 record, while the others packed the bottom of the rankings, sharing identical 2-4 marks. All four finished with impressive overall records, proving they are good teams who would otherwise dominate if they



Anson Dorrance

weren't in the ACC. But where does all this leave the Tar Heels?

After a miserable 3-5 start, North Carolina finally got rolling and rounded out the season third in the ACC. UNC pulled a seven-game win streak out of its bag of tricks, knocking off Wake Forest, Maryland and State during the stretch drive to the tournament.

The momentum the team had hoped would carry them to an NCAA tournament berth came to a crashing halt, however, in last Sunday's 3-2 loss at UNC-Charlotte.

"Sunday's loss was a big one for two reasons," Dorrance said. "First, it takes us off a great win streak. Second, it means we have to win at least two games in the ACC Tournament for (the NCAA selection committee) to look at us."

The first hurdle for North Carolina may prove to be the toughest. UNC plays host Clemson Thursday in the first round in a rematch of last year's NCAA semifinal. Since beating Clemson twice last year, once in Chapel Hill and once in Durham in the tournament, the Tar Heels have lost twice to the Tigers. And both games were played on the Tigers' home turf.

"They play much better at home. They showed that last year," Dorrance said. "We beat them here and at Durham, and then down at Clem-

son they crushed us in the semis. "We just have to make sure our players aren't affected by the home crowd. We need to play the way we have played during the last 10 or 11 games."

The two teams met earlier this year in the midst of UNC's slide into the ACC cellar. Host Clemson scored early and hung on for a 2-1 win.

But the team that will play Clemson today will be much different from the one the Tigers beat in September. Lessons learned during a frustrating season have made the Tar Heels better. In September they still had the memory of last year, when nothing could go wrong, fresh in their minds. It may have made them too cocky or too lax, but whatever it did, it hurt their game.

But a lot has changed in two months. Early-season starters have had a chance to define their roles, while the addition of some new faces to the lineup has helped to tighten up the play of North Carolina.

"Chad Ashton and Derek Missimo are two of our personalities," Dorrance said. "They understand the responsibilities of their talent. Having Chad at midfield and Derek up front will be very important for us. The newcomer, Richard Wachsman, a freshman, has done a great job for us organizing the defense. These three are really the keys for us."

Another change for the Clemson game will be moving Herb Sherry into the goal in place of Darren Royer. The two have shared time in the net, with Sherry taking over for a four-game stretch in mid-season after UNC's loss to Catawba.

Royer had been the one in the goal during the streak, but after Sunday's loss Dorrance made the decision to go with Sherry.

"(Sherry) has done well all year," Dorrance said. "We have no trouble putting Herb in the goal when Darren's confidence is low. All season we've been able to go to either one when the other's play is off."

UNC will also count on strong performances from the standards who have helped bring them to this point, most notably Donald Cogsville, the team scoring leader. Since returning from a concussion suffered in a controversial loss at Duke, Cogsville has powered in goals at a furious pace. The senior picked up his first career hat trick at Lenoir-Rhyne and added two scores in last week's win over UNC-Greensboro. Cogsville's ability to run the break will be a key in today's game.

If UNC can defeat Clemson, they will face the winner of the Wake Forest-Duke game in the second round Friday. But before UNC can start thinking rematch with Duke or NCAA berth, they must first concentrate on Clemson.

The Tar Heels have shown that when they get intense they can top any team in the conference. They were able to redeem themselves for the season with an inspired stretch drive, but in the tournament there are no second chances. You either win, or you go home.

The Tar Heels know this. Now is their chance to wake up and end the nightmare.

Reid's injury leaves him, Tar Heels feeling antsy

Langston Wertz Staff Writer

Before UNC's curiously tight 109-100 battle with Marathon Oil Tuesday night, Tar Heels star forward J.R. Reid was the object of attention — from a pack of little girls.

The group of five youngsters stood in Row Y in the Smith Center and yelled in unison, "Hey, J.R.," trying desperately to get the attention of the 6-foot-9 junior. Reid, who didn't play Tuesday due to a stress fracture in his left foot, turned and waved to the girls after their fourth call.

The girls all blushed. Reid then sat and watched the game from a position he has rarely known — on his rump — as Pete Chilcutt scored 23 points in his place to lead the Tar Heels to the exhibition win.

And afterwards, the sportswriters asked Reid, who was decked out in a double-breasted grey suit and lavender shirt, if he was upset about not playing for the next two months due to his injury.

"I'm upset that I couldn't play tonight," he said with a slight grin on his 19-year-old baby face. "But hopefully I'll be back closer to the sixth week than the eighth week that the doctors say I'll be back in."

Being injured is as new to the Virginia Beach, Va., native as not being able to sink his Charmin-soft turnaround jumper.

"It was a shock at first," Reid said after Tuesday's game. "The doctors told me it wasn't a break and that it was a spot that could become a break. They said if I had

surgery now, I wouldn't have to worry about it for the rest of my basketball career.

"But it was a real shock. I've never had an injury before." With the Tar Heels' schedule including appearances in the Big Apple NIT Classic and the Tournament of Champions in Charlotte, the absence of Reid on the floor could be a real shock to the Tar Heels. But UNC coach Dean Smith says a Reid-less UNC is not a hopeless UNC.

"Last year, J.R. was the first option on offense," Smith said at the Atlantic Coast Conference's annual Operation Basketball. "This year, we hadn't planned the offensive attack to go directly to him, or we'd really be in trouble."

"There's no question that he's a big part of our offense, but we are trying to emphasize the running game. So, we won't have to change our plans drastically for the next seven to eight weeks."

But even with Smith's optimism, the Tar Heels will definitely miss Reid, who averaged 18.9 points and 8.9 rebounds for UNC last season.

After the Blue-White game, the players had expressed their shock over the injury to — as Sports Illustrated once put it, much to the chagrin of Smith — North Carolina's Main Man.

"I was just surprised and shocked," Scott Williams said. Added forward Steve Bucknall, "I couldn't believe it. I didn't know about it being that serious until I heard it on the news. He had been complaining about it, but he had been practicing, and practicing well.

"I don't think any of us knew he was really hurt, including him, because he's so big and so strong."

The big and the strong parts of Reid want him to come back quickly ("I'm upset that I couldn't play tonight"), but the thinking parts of the Wonder Tot are more realistic.

"In three or four weeks the cast will come off," Reid said. "And hopefully, I'll be able to play three to four weeks after that."

He also explained how the injury occurred: "It came from a lot of just playing basketball. It was just a bruise on my foot, and the doctor looked at it and thought it was a stress fracture. So the bone doctor looked at it and said it needed surgery."

And after the surgery, there was Reid, dressed in his suit, black loafer on his right foot and open-toed white-and-blue hospital boot on the other — sitting on the bench looking at a UNC basketball game.

After it was over, his group of young fans screamed, "Hey J.R.!" Reid turned and smiled that babyfaced, I-just-hit-the-game-winning-shot smile at them. Back came the blushes.

Weiss named AL's top rookie

Sports Briefs

NEW YORK — Shortstop Walt Weiss was selected American League Rookie of the Year Wednesday by the Baseball Writers Association of America, the third straight season a member of the Oakland Athletics has won the honor.

Weiss, an All-ACC player for UNC from 1983-85, received 103 points and 17 first-place votes from a panel of 28 writers, two from each AL city.

Right-hander Bryan Harvey of the California Angels was second with 49 points, one ahead of infielder Jody Reed of the Boston Red Sox. Reed, however, had six first-place votes to three for Harvey.

On Tuesday, Chris Sabo of Cincinnati was named National League Rookie of the Year.

Oakland's Jose Canseco was Rookie of the Year in 1986 and first baseman Mark McGwire won the award last year. While Canseco and McGwire brought the A's power, Weiss' slick fielding helped Oakland win the AL pennant.

Only one of Weiss' 15 errors came after July 8, and he handled 261 straight chances over 58 consecutive games without an error down the stretch.

Weiss hit .250 with three homers and 39 runs batted in. He also had 17 doubles and a grand slam at Detroit on July 10.

The 6-foot, 175-pound Weiss was the A's No. 1 pick in the June 1985 draft after attending UNC. He moved up to Class AA Huntsville in 1986 and last year hit .285 there, .263 in Class AAA Tacoma and .462 in 16 games with Oakland before getting off to a shaky start this season.

Ditka suffers heart attack LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Chicago

ECU looking for football coach GREENVILLE — East Carolina has formed a search committee to find a replacement for head coach Art Baker, and a number of potential candidates say they are interested in the position.

Baker resigned Monday effective at the end of the season. He has accepted a position within the school's athletic department as director of personal development, beginning his duties Feb. 1. It will be an advisory-counseling position designed to assist student-athletes.

ECU Chancellor Richard Eakin announced Wednesday the formation of an 11-member advisory committee to select a new head football coach.

Former ECU assistants Frank Orgel of South Carolina and Wayne Hall of Auburn are considered possibilities along with Oklahoma offensive coordinator Jim Donnan, Miami, Fla. offensive coordinator Gary Stevens and Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky.

New tennis tour planned LONDON — The future of men's professional tennis was thrown into disarray when the players' union broke away from the sport's governing body and announced it will start its own tour in 1990.

Organizers of the Grand Prix circuit, which has controlled men's tennis since 1970, pledged to continue their tour. They warned that the split with the players and the establishment of two competing circuits would cause "fragmentation and chaos."

The Association of Tennis Professionals, which includes almost all of the world's leading players, said 21 already had signed binding contracts to compete on the new tour.

The ATP said Ivan Lendl, ranked second in the world, has signed a letter of intent to play on the new tour.

Second NCSU employee resigns RALEIGH — A second N.C. State University department of athletics employee has resigned in the wake of a State Auditor's Office review which showed that university employees and equipment had been used for personal chores.

Bobby G. Stocks, plant maintenance supervisor for the department of athletics, submitted his resignation effective Monday, NCSU Athletic Director Jim Valvano said Tuesday.

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TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS FRIDAY & SATURDAY VOLLEYBALL Carolina Classic Friday - 7:30 pm UNC vs. Alabama-Birmingham Carmichael Auditorium Saturday - 7:30 pm UNC vs. South Florida Fetzer Gym Hardee's

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