

## Sports

## Men's soccer: it's do or die

By ERIC WAGNON

Staff Writer

There is only one path to the NCAA tournament for the slumping North Carolina men's soccer team: they simply must win the ACC tournament. With conference opponent, Virginia, atop the national polls, the Tar Heels' chances at a NCAA berth should be considered slim at best.

"We have to win it," first-year UNC head coach Elmar Bolowich said. "There is no other way that we could advance and our players know it."

North Carolina, at 9-8-1 overall and 1-4-1 in the ACC, is mired in its first three-game losing streak since 1985. The sixth-seeded Tar Heels must win today's 6 p.m. first-round match against No. 3 seed Maryland to prevent the third four-game skid in the 42-year history of the program.

Unlike this season, UNC has traditionally peaked at ACC tournament time. In each of the past two seasons, North Carolina went into the ACC tournament with a rather mediocre 3-3 conference record, but the Tar Heels won the title in 1987 and lost in the finals to Virginia in 1988. However, UNC went into the 1987 tournament riding a three-game winning streak and into the 1988 tournament having won seven of its last eight.

Bolowich said that North Carolina's recent troubles have been due to a defense that has given up 11 goals in its last three games. "Ninety percent of the goals that have been scored on us were defensive mistakes," Bolowich said. "It's not that the other team hurts us. It's that our team, our back formation, hurts us."

## On Tap

## Today

MEN'S SOCCER vs. Maryland at ACC Tournament, Durham, N.C., 6 p.m.

## Friday, Nov. 3

MEN'S SOCCER at ACC Tournament, Durham, N.C., TBA

VOLLEYBALL vs. Clemson, Carmichael Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

## Saturday, Nov. 4

FOOTBALL vs. Clemson, Kenan Stadium, 12 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL vs. Georgia Tech, Carmichael Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

## Sunday, Nov. 5

MEN'S SOCCER at ACC Tournament, Durham, N.C., TBA

VOLLEYBALL vs. Penn State, Carmichael Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, Nov. 7

VOLLEYBALL at N.C. State, Raleigh, N.C., 7:30 p.m.

## Thursday, Nov. 9

MEN'S TENNIS at ITCA/Rolux Tournament, Winston-Salem, N.C., All Day

## Friday, Nov. 10

MEN'S TENNIS at ITCA/Rolux Tournament, Winston-Salem, N.C., All Day

WOMEN'S TENNIS at ITCA Regional Tournament, Lexington, Ky., TBA

VOLLEYBALL vs. Florida, Carmichael Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

## Saturday, Nov. 11

CROSS COUNTRY at NCAA Region III Championship, Greenville, N.C., 10 a.m.

In Sunday's loss to UNC-Charlotte, Bolowich pulled goalkeeper Watson Jennison, who had started all but three of the Tar Heels' games this season. With reserve Herb Sherry out with a broken bone in his left hand, Bolowich inserted freshman Mike Capre, who was supposed to be red-shirted this year. Bolowich expects to start Capre against Maryland.

"I would like to give him that chance," Bolowich said. "He worked hard in practice and he proved that he can be a good keeper so why not? We are in a dire situation anyhow and I think mentally he's stable enough to prove that he is an outstanding keeper."

On the offensive side, North Carolina features ACC leading-scorer Derek Missimo and senior Chad Ashton, who must realize that from now on each

game could be the last of his UNC career.

Bolowich will look to the combination of Missimo and Ashton to compensate for the struggling defense. "The key thing is that we score one more goal than we get against us," Bolowich said. "So we probably will have to score six to win the game, because we most likely will get five scored against us."

Scoring even one goal against Maryland goalkeeper Carmine Isaaco may prove to be a difficult task. Isaaco, who has a goals-against-average of 0.70, leads the ACC in save percentage and shut-outs with eight on the year. On the offensive end, the Tarps' leading scorer is Dominic Feltham, who has eight goals this season.

Maryland, at 8-6-2 overall and 3-2-1 in the ACC, has allowed only two goals

in its last five games, going 3-1-1 in that span. One of those victories was a 2-0 decision over North Carolina.

The ACC tournament, held at Duke, opens at 3 p.m. today with the first-round match between No. 2 seed Wake Forest and No. 7 seed Clemson. The winner of that match will play the winner of the Maryland versus North Carolina match in the semi-finals. During the regular season, UNC tied the Deacons 1-1 and defeated Clemson 2-1.

The other half of the draw features the top-seeded Virginia Cavaliers who receive a first-round bye. Fifth-seeded N.C. State will try to avenge a 1-0 regular-season loss to No. 4 seed Duke in the 8 p.m. match and earn the chance to play Virginia. The Cavs tied Duke, 2-2, and crushed the Wolfpack 4-0 in the regular season.

## Ashton gives goals to teammates and headaches to opponents

By DAVID J. KUPSTAS

Staff Writer

In a sport where many players become known for their goal-scoring ability, senior Chad Ashton has managed to make a pretty good name for himself on the soccer field in another way — being charitable.

The 5-foot-9, 170-pound center midfielder has 19 career goals entering today's opening round of the ACC tournament. But even more impressive is his school record of 43 assists, which ties him with the fourth-highest total in ACC history. His four goals and 12 assists this year give him 81 career points — the sixth-best UNC mark.

Ashton entered the 1989 season just three assists shy of 1988 graduate Dino Megaloudis' North Carolina record of 34. He set a new standard four games into this season in a win over Clemson by assisting on two Marc Buffin goals.

Forward Derek Missimo broke the UNC scoring record a few games later, meaning that the school's all-time scoring and assist leaders would be on the field at the same time.

"I knew with Derek up front, I was bound to get the record some time," Ashton, a second team All-ACC pick the last two years, said. "Just being in my position at center midfield, you're going to get more touches on the ball. You're going to be in a position to set people up."

Ashton does have the ability to put a tally on the board every now and then, but he does not consider himself a goal-scorer. His role, instead, is basically being a general on the field. He organizes the offense and defense, distributes the ball from the midfield, and controls the pace of the game.

"He has the vision to see the open man and send the ball through to him," men's soccer head coach Elmar Bolowich said.

Physical play has become one of Ashton's trademarks. He does not use



Chad Ashton

dirty tactics, but rather uses aggressive, physical play for a specific purpose.

"Sometimes you use it to send the other team a message," Ashton said. "Sometimes you use it to send your own team a message. At (N.C.) State a couple of weeks ago, I hit a guy because we weren't playing aggressively. I was hoping to wake my team up."

Ashton excelled in many sports as a child. At Ranum High School in Denver, Colorado, he was a wrestler and a placekicker for the football team. But soccer seemed to be his sport from the time he began playing at age six. He was a two-time member of the U.S. Junior National Team and was named the 1985 Colorado Prep Player of the Year.

Playing other sports still occupies most of Ashton's leisure time now. He believes these other sports complement his soccer playing ability.

"You need to be a complete athlete to play soccer," said Ashton, who has

started all 88 of UNC's games in his four years. "Just raw speed or just raw jumping ability won't get you by."

When he first came to UNC, the Denver resident discovered that he had more stamina than the other players. While most pro sports teams hate visiting the Mile High City because players tire more easily in high altitudes, coming to North Carolina from Colorado had an opposite effect for Ashton.

"It's a lot different living here," said Ashton. "When I first came down here, I wasn't used to the humidity and warmth. Near summertime, you can't even walk around without sweating. That kind of drove me crazy."

Ashton, a physical education major, has several options open to him after college. He has had an offer to join a pro soccer team in Colorado, but he would like to work his way through the coaching ranks and ultimately become a head coach at a major university.

One of Ashton's greatest thrills in college was the 1987 ACC tournament, where he scored on a free kick in a 3-0 semifinal win over a tough Virginia squad. Then he got hurt in the second half of the championship game and had to watch from the bench as UNC rallied to win 4-3 in overtime.

"When the team went to huddle before overtime, they came over to where I was on the bench and had the huddle there," Ashton said. "It was kind of neat for me."

Ashton knows that his career at UNC will end after the Tar Heels' next loss. However, he would rather postpone the end of his career until after the team takes home an ACC tournament title.

"I'd really like the team, even though it was such a disaster season, to come together for the ACC tournament," Ashton said. "If we can get past the first game, anything can happen because it becomes an emotional tournament."

## Prep hoops star lists UNC in top 3

From staff and wire reports

INDIANAPOLIS — Lawrence North's Eric Montross, a 7-footer rated the top high school big man in the country, announced Tuesday he has narrowed his college list to Indiana, Michigan and North Carolina.

"I didn't know I would decide now; these just came to the top," Montross said.

The Tar Heels previously received an oral commitment from Clifford Rozier, a 6-10 forward out of Bradenton, Fla. Rozier is considered a Top 20 recruit in most scouting reports.

Montross made his decision after making an official visit to UNC last weekend. He previously had made official visits to Duke and Michigan.

"My sister and my parents and I were just talking when I got back from North Carolina and those three just emerged from the others," he said.

Eliminated from his original eight-school list were Duke, Kentucky, Notre Dame, Purdue and UCLA. Montross called those schools' coaches Monday night.

"It was anything but easy because they're all great schools and great programs," he said. "But the coaches were all good about it and didn't say anything negative."

Street and Smith magazine rates Montross as the top big man in the class of 1990. He averaged 21 points and 13 rebounds last season in leading Lawrence North to a 25-4 record and its first state championship.

Montross still plans to delay his final decision until April. Recruits may sign letters of intent Nov. 8-15 during the NCAA's early signing period.

"We're going to slow down the

pace now and let Eric enjoy his senior year as a player and a student," said his father, Scott Montross. "I can guess you can call it a gut decision, but it's an educated gut decision."

Both Eric's father and grandfather went to Michigan. His former Lawrence North teammate, Todd Leary, and several members of the AAU team on which Montross played this summer are freshmen at Indiana this year.

"It still will be in my mind," Eric said, "but I think it will be easier dealing with three schools instead of eight. I really feel comfortable going into the season now. With just three schools, it should be easier to look at each of them."

## Robinson wins A.L. honors

NEW YORK — Frank Robinson, who guided the Baltimore Orioles to one of the greatest turnarounds in baseball history, was selected American League Manager of the Year on Wednesday.

Robinson took the Orioles from last place in the AL East with a 54-107 record in 1988 to second place and an 87-75 mark this year, only two games behind Toronto in the third-best one-season turnaround ever.

He got 23 of 28 first-place votes and 125 points on a 5-3-1 basis from a panel chosen by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Cito Gaston, who managed the Blue Jays to first place in the AL East, finished second with three first-place votes and 62 points.

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