

Sports

Fox, Madden: UNC's dynamic duo

I really like this basketball team. I mean I really like this basketball team.

I'm talking about the 1989-90 Tar Heels, Dean Smith's boys in blue.

Yes, it's still early — much too early to get excited, as Smith says — but I just can't help it.

Sorry, coach, it's too late. It may be a rash judgment, an irrational inspiration, but I'm excited.

I'm excited because I see Kevin Madden and Rick Fox as two players who want the ball with the game on the line.

If you watch those guys, talk to those guys, you get one impression: They really don't think they can be stopped, and that's a great sign for the Tar Heels this early in the year.

Both players have the confidence/cockiness to think they can score inside and outside with regularity — against anybody. Both can pass the



Dave Glenn
Sports Editor

ball, and both are alert enough to know when to pass it and when not to. Both can also play tough, in-your-face defense out to the perimeter.

Can you think of any former UNC "stars" who couldn't/wouldn't/didn't pay much attention to the hoops "extras" listed in the paragraph above? I can.

The key is unpredictability. In the latter stages of a close game, an element of doubt in defenders' minds can

often mean the difference between a win and a loss — especially at tournament time. Last year, it was either J.R. Reid inside or Steve Bucknall outside — a relatively predictable combination on a team that surprised many observers by going as far as it did.

But against the Tar Heels this year, teams will have questions galore when it comes to crunch time. If Fox has the ball, will he shoot the jumper, take it to the hoop or pass it off? Same thing if Madden has the ball. Will he dump it inside to Scott Williams, a strong inside scorer? Will he post up for a 12-foot baseline jumper? Or will he kick it outside to Hubert Davis for a three-pointer?

Who knows? Do you know? I don't know, and neither do Duke, N.C. State, Wake Forest, Clemson and Georgia Tech.

Add in center/forward Pete Chilcutt, point guard King Rice and impressive

newcomer George Lynch and you have a lethal combination that could prove to be more and more difficult to stop as the season develops. Pretty scary, isn't it?

The UNC football team's 27-20 loss to South Carolina proved two things.

1) The Tar Heels are a bad football team that is getting better. Holding a 6-3-1 team to 11 offensive points is an impressive feat. The offense also moved the ball well under the direction of sophomore quarterback Todd Burnett before he was knocked out of the game in the second quarter.

2) A team with less talent than its opponents cannot afford to make mental mistakes. Two blocked punts Saturday, and numerous boneheaded plays this season, make this priority number one for the UNC coaching staff in the offseason.

Young receivers catch on quickly

By BETHANY LITTON

The UNC wide receivers pulled a vanishing act of sorts on Saturday against South Carolina. Their youth and inexperience seemed to disappear and give way to a solid performance, which resulted in 16 pass completions for 201 yards in the air.

Although the Gamecocks won the 27-20 match-up, the UNC receivers did more than their share, scoring two of their team's three touchdowns.

The top Tar Heel receiver was freshman Randall Felton, who caught a 10-yard Chuckie Burnette pass for UNC's third and final touchdown in the fourth quarter. Felton connected for a total of six passes totaling 86 yards. Freshman Joey Jauch also made an important

contribution, catching a 30-yard touchdown pass with 35 seconds left in the first half to give the Tar Heels a 13-12 lead over USC.

All three Tar Heel receivers — Felton, Jauch and Bucky Brooks — are freshmen, and each has seen considerable playing time because of injuries to fellow freshmen Julius Reese and Corey Holliday (UNC has applied for a medical red-shirt for Holliday).

UNC wide receiver coach Jim Cavanaugh said the young receivers are improving with every game, especially in their knowledge of their routes and the opposing team's secondary.

"They're very young freshmen who are forced to play sometimes before they're ready," Cavanaugh said. "They need to keep getting better and better, and I think they're doing that."

Communication between the receivers and their quarterbacks is also getting better as they work together more, Brooks said.

"It's finally coming around where the quarterbacks are beginning to look for us," he said. "They are getting comfortable, so they feel confident that they can go to us."

The receivers had to make an adjustment in the second quarter, when sophomore quarterback Todd Burnett suffered liver and kidney injuries which will put him out for the remainder of the season. Burnette, a freshman, came in for the rest of the game, throwing both of the Tar Heel touchdown passes.

The change in quarterback did not really affect the passing game after the initial adjustment was made, the receivers said.

"It was tough at first with Chuckie having to come in, but we adjusted," Jauch said. "He made the plays for us when we needed them and got the coverage."

Burnette also said the communication on the field is improving, resulting in a more solid Tar Heel offense.

"I think the receivers are now starting to come to the ball rather than go away from the ball if I'm in trouble," Burnette said. "They're doing a much better job running their patterns, and their confidence is a lot better than it was at the beginning of the season."

The offense has become more comfortable with their routes every game, junior fullback Michael Benefield said, and the freshman receivers have gained from the weekly experience.

"They're not freshmen anymore," Benefield said. "They're growing as young men, and they're going to be really good football players in a couple of years."

Brooks said they are becoming more aggressive, although they need to make improvements in blocking and coming through with big plays.

"We're finally making the transition from high school football to college football," he said.

Crew's dedication leads to season of success

By LAURIE DHUE

Quick hands. Slow slide. Good rhythm.

Sound interesting? It's the motto for the up-and-coming UNC crew team, which finished its fall season last weekend.

The crew team has two divisions, club (which is comprised of experienced rowers) and novice (the newcomers). Both work and compete together, though the boats are separate in actual races. Most regattas primarily involve women's and men's four and eight-person boats.

The squad is led by coach Michael

Nicholls and club presidents Sam Wheeler and Sue Bartoldus. Standouts include Stacey Yates, Liz Pierie, David Leete and Jim Bridges. For the women novices, senior Robin Pinckert has proved her leadership consistently throughout the season, with motivation in and out of the water as the women's novice captain.

North Carolina demonstrated its prowess at the Nov. 3 Head of the Chattahoochee regatta in Atlanta, the third largest in the nation, with an exceptionally strong showing by the novice squad.

Out of a pack of 21 boats, the women's novice four, led by Pinckert,

captured first place, whipping by five boats en route to the finish. Men's novice four took second place, losing by a mere .14 seconds. Other finishes included fifth- and sixth-place by women's and men's novice eights, respectively, in a field of 20 boats. Men's club four also fared well, placing ninth in a field of 20.

Other regattas in which UNC participated were in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Knoxville, Tenn., and Boston for the granddaddy of all races, Head of the Charles.

The women's club team made its first appearance in the prestigious Charles race this year. They viewed this experience as a positive basis for fur-

ther program development because they were able to see how they stacked up against the nation's best teams.

The progress that the entire crew team has made since its inception in the mid-'70s can be attributed to unfaltering dedication to the sport accompanied by excellent novice training.

"This year our novice team is really strong because their enthusiasm and commitment are incredible," said Bartoldus, a New York native. "I see tremendous potential for the team in the future. It's great to see how far we've come in the last few years."

"The team is really on the upswing. We had a great season, challenging but

also fun," agreed Yates, a freshman from Seattle. "By next year, we'll be amazing since the novices will be incorporated into the varsity program."

Rowing is a precision-oriented sport which requires much hard work, determination and mental toughness.

"It isn't hard to learn, but it's extremely difficult to perfect," Wheeler said. "It looks easy because the movements are so fluid, but really, all gears must work precisely together in order for the boat to run smoothly."

Training for the fall season began Aug. 28 and continued throughout September and October. The team practiced six days a week both on water (University and Jordan Lakes) and on land. Their regimen included long-distance running, calisthenics and hour-long rows.

Not bad for a squad which isn't even acknowledged as a varsity team. This amateur status isn't unusual for crew teams, however.

In fact, crew is not a varsity sport at Yale, Harvard or Oxford, three universities renowned for their rowing programs. Because of long-standing tradition, these teams have remained rowing clubs only. Crew is recognized as a prestigious and elitist sport.

Being involved in this esteemed sport is not always easy, however, due to lack of funding (boats cost up to \$15,000), which has prevented UNC from becoming a stable force in national competition.

It's also no picnic getting up at 6 a.m. to row in the frosty air until muscles scream for mercy, but team members said that rowing is still the ultimate team sport which instills pride in every participant.

"Though rowing is a tough sport, it definitely has its payoffs," Wheeler said. "The friendships made and personal growth achieved is incredible. Everything we do as a team is for the love of the sport."

Sounds like quite an elite crew.

Laid-back Spee blocks shots confidently

By NEIL AMATO

UNC field hockey goalie Evelien Spee is so easygoing, many people mistake those traits for nonchalance and laziness.

Not true. Actually, Spee is just confident and a bit laid-back.

No matter what others think, Spee has statistics that speak for themselves. So far this season, she has a 0.47 goals against average, a .910 save percentage and has recorded 91 saves to help the No. 2 Tar Heels challenge once again for the national title. UNC will play against Iowa in the NCAA Final Four on Nov. 18.

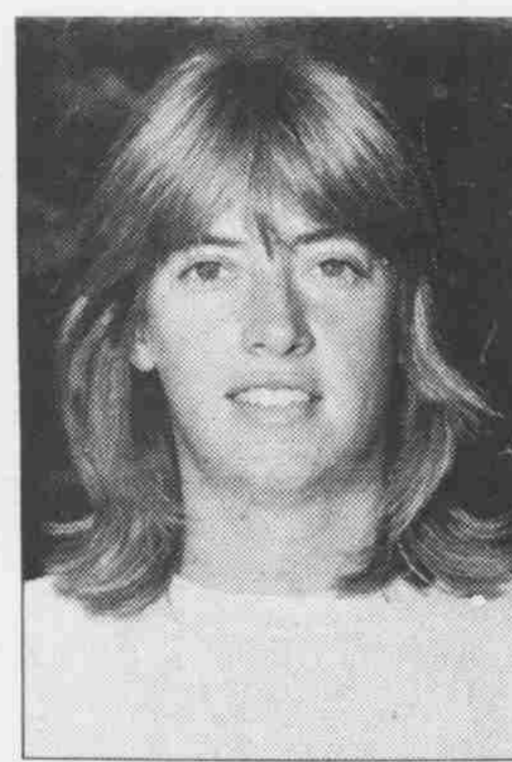
"I'm just a laid-back person in general — in every sport I play," Spee said. "In tennis people say, 'Why don't you move?' But if you get the points, it doesn't matter."

Spee came from a field hockey family. Of course, the only place that can happen is in The Netherlands, her native country.

"I've been playing field hockey since I was 10," Spee said. "My parents played and my sister and my brother played, so I was always on the hockey field. I just grew up there."

Spee said she had no real reason for deciding to tend the net. "I started off as a goalie. I don't know why. I just liked it."

She played several years on a first-division Dutch team, Hockeyclub Rotterdam. Spee got to North Carolina by way of Judith Jonckheer, the first Dutch



Evelien Spee

Tar Heel, who played in 1984 and '85. Spee knew Jonckheer because the two were teammates on the under-18 national team in The Netherlands.

Spee wanted to come over and play some hockey. When she arrived, she found out something else.

"I knew UNC had a good hockey team, but I didn't know it was such a good school," Spee said.

The 5-foot-9 junior will be 24 in December, which makes her too old to compete next year under NCAA rules. She's going to remain in Chapel Hill and graduate and also be an assistant

coach. Although she's older than most collegiate athletes, the role as elder statesman has never crossed her mind.

"I was usually the youngest one on my team in Holland," Spee said. "I was really young playing on the first team in Holland. I don't even think about it, being the oldest now."

Another thing Spee didn't think about was the pressure the critics thought she would be under this season. In last year's 18-2 campaign, Spee had four seniors in front of her. This year, four neophytes make up a defense that has actually given up fewer goals than any UNC team since 1978.

"Everybody was so scared at the first of the season, but I wasn't really scared," Spee said. "They (the defenders) have improved a lot and I think we've been doing great."

Yes, they have. In 20 contests, the North Carolina defense has given up a mere 11 goals on its way to 11 shutouts. Since Spee was the lone returner in the back line, her role as a leader increased. But with Spee's outlook on life, you could never tell.

"I talk a lot more than I did last year," Spee said. "I don't know if I'm a big leader or anything like that."

Spee said her counterparts have responded well to this year's challenge, especially when they play in relative anonymity. According to Spee, defense never gets enough recognition because, unless there's a save of a possible goal, there's no way to measure success. "Sometimes, an offensive player will

play poorly and score two goals," Spee said. "That's what they're there to do, and the defense is there to stop it. We don't get a lot of recognition and that's too bad."

Spee recently garnered some recognition, though. She was named to the ACC all-tournament team two weeks ago.

After next season, Spee hopes she can play again in The Netherlands for her club team. With a higher level of play than NCAA competition, the league would be a big step for Spee. But, of course, she's confident about it.

"It will be great to play there again," Spee said. "I hope to see how that challenge will go."

Last weekend in the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals, Spee rose to the occasion when it counted. Although one controversial goal was given up, Spee recorded 15 saves, including 12 in the second half.

"If I have a bad practice, I won't worry about my play," Spee said. "I don't think people have to worry about how I'll play."

Phelps, Reese commit to UNC hoops

From staff reports

High school basketball stars Derrick Phelps and Brian Reese gave oral commitments to the UNC basketball program on Monday. Both players are ranked among the top 25 prep seniors in the nation.

Phelps, a 6-3 guard from Middle Village, N.Y., was the most valuable

player of a 28-1 team during his junior season. Phelps is widely regarded as the number-two point guard coming out of high school this year.

Reese, a 6-6 forward from Bronx, N.Y., was the co-MVP of the prestigious Nike/ABCD camp last summer. He has been described as a slashing leaper who excels on the fast break and

has great speed. In his junior year, Reese averaged 25 points and nine rebounds for Tolentine High School.

Reese and Phelps joined 6-10 forward Clifford Rozier of Bradenton, Fla. — another top 25 prospect — in the Tar Heels' recruiting class of 1990.

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