

SPORTS

Bruised and battered, soccer to face Cavs in tourney

Heels hoping to avenge regular-season loss

By A. J. BROWN
Staff Writer

Yesterday may have been Halloween, but today may be just as frightening for the men's soccer team as it travels to Durham to take on eighth-ranked Virginia at 6 p.m. tonight in the first round of the ACC Tournament.

Hampered by injuries to key players and inconsistent play, the Tar Heels (12-5, 2-4) will have their hands full with the third-seeded Cavaliers (9-4-5, 3-2-1).

UNC, which leads the series with Virginia 26-15-6, has only beaten the Wahoos once in the last 10 seasons. That single victory didn't come this season, as the Tar Heels fell to the Cavs 2-0 in a Sept. 30 match at Finley Field. In five of the seven games that followed, UNC was unable to show any semblance of steady play.

Senior forward Dave Merola attributed some of the inconsistency to the injuries that have plagued the team this season, but he said the slide wasn't unusual.

"I think inconsistency is a trademark of our team," Merola said. "We always go through a slump period during the season."

But the slump may have ended. The Tar Heels carry a three-game winning streak into the tournament, including a

2-0 win over then-No. 10 N.C. State, and are confident that they can play with Virginia.

"Virginia is a pretty beatable team," Merola said. "We're coming off two big wins, so we've got momentum going into Thursday's game."

They've also got senior forward Derek Missimo, who returned to the lineup for the Oct. 27 contest against Davidson. Missimo, the team's second-leading scorer this season, missed five games because of an inflamed left knee but offers a much-needed offensive threat for the wounded Tar Heels.

In his first game back, UNC's all-time leading scorer took the field at the beginning of the second half and scored the tying goal 2:30 into the half. He also assisted on two goals that followed, helping the Tar Heels to a 4-1 victory.

"We're pretty excited to have Derek back," Merola said. "He's a big part of our offense, and we'll need him during in the tournament."

Missimo's absence, coupled with injuries to five other players, forced head coach Elmar Bolowich to press several freshman into action, and it showed. The Tar Heels suffered ACC losses to both Duke (1-0) and Maryland (2-1) before rebounding against the Wolfpack.

"I think at one time we had five or six

starters out," backup goalie Jimmy Wright said. "We had to play a lot of freshmen in some big ACC games, and I think they were physically ready but not mentally ready."

UNC must be ready on both accounts for the Cavaliers, who embarrassed the Tar Heels when they visited Chapel Hill early in the season. Led by sophomore forward Ben Crawley's five goals and seven assists, the Cavs enter the tournament on the heels (no pun intended) of last week's 1-1 tie with No. 1 Clemson. Seniors Jeff Agoos (defender, midfielder) and Kris Kelderman (midfielder) figure prominently in Virginia's offense and defense. Kelderman scored the second goal in the Cavs' upset of the Tar Heels, and the tough defensive play of Agoos got the attention of UNC's frontline.

"Agoos is like a brick wall back there," forward Hassan Pinto said. "If you beat the first defender, it's hard to get past him."

If the Tar Heels start off well and score early, they may be able to get past Virginia and advance to Friday's semifinal matchup with the winner of the Duke-Wake Forest contest. Clemson, the tournament's top seed, will face the winner of Thursday's N.C. State-Maryland matchup in Friday's other semifinal.



DTH/Grant Halverson

Freshman back Todd Haskins (right) and the UNC men's soccer team battle Virginia tonight in the ACC tourney

UNC field hockey nets 4 all-conference picks

From staff reports

Four Tar Heels have been named to the 1990 All-ACC field hockey team, as voted on by the league's head coaches. Duke and UNC headed the 11-member squad with four players apiece.

UNC seniors Peggy Anthon and Laurel Hershey were selected, along with juniors Jennifer Clark and Nancy Lang.

Anthon, the ACC scoring leader with 34 points, was chosen for the second consecutive year. The forward from St. Louis has 26 assists on the season and owns the ACC single-season assist mark. Anthon also tied the ACC single-game assist record with five assists against Radford.

Hershey, the Tar Heel captain and a two-time honorable mention All-America, was also named to the team for the second year. Hershey has scored five of UNC's seven goals against ACC opponents this season.

Clark, a back from Lebanon, Pa., is the Tar Heels' leading goal scorer this season with 17.

Lang has 24 assists in 1990 and is second only to Anthon in the ACC. The midfielder from Killingworth, Conn.,

1990 All-ACC Field Hockey Team		
Player, School	Pos.	Cl.
Peggy Anthon, UNC	F	Sr.
Andy Begel, Va.	M	Sr.
Ritika Bowry, Duke	G	Jr.
Lisa Buente, Md.	F	Sr.
Jennifer Clark, UNC	B	Jr.
Tricia Gaudette, Duke	F	Jr.
Laurel Hershey, UNC	M	Sr.
Nancy Lang, UNC	M	Jr.
Allison Miazga, Duke	M	Sr.
Lisa Rowe, Md.	M	So.
Patti Stein, Duke	B	So.

also has five goals on the year. In addition to the eight players named from Duke and UNC, Maryland placed two players on the squad and Virginia had one. The team is made up of five seniors, four juniors, and two sophomores.

UNC travels to College Park, Md., this weekend as the top seed in the ACC Tournament. The Tar Heels begin play Saturday at noon against Maryland.

Kicking the habit

Senior Merola welcomes end to fruitful UNC soccer career

By JASON BATES
Staff Writer

Every person who has played an organized sport knows the feeling.

It's that feeling of dread you get in the pit of your stomach when you finally realize that the end of your athletic career is nearing—the feeling that every game you play could be your last.

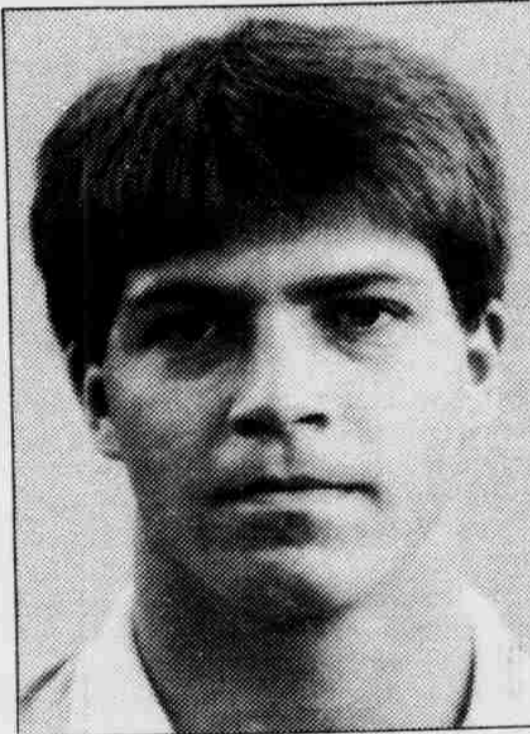
For most, it occurs during the senior year of high school, but a select few are talented enough to prolong their careers for four more years.

But, inevitably, the end will come. Senior David Merola, a forward on the UNC men's soccer team, is facing that situation now. As the team heads into ACC Tournament play today, every game he plays from now on may be the last of his career.

"To be honest with you, I'm looking forward to getting it over with," he said. "Believe it or not, I'm burned out. I really am. I've been playing since I was 7 years old."

"Obviously, when we play I want to win. You want the big ring. But when it's over, it's over, and I think I can live with that."

But don't take his attitude the wrong way. Merola is not about to give up yet, and like any athlete, he doesn't like to lose.



David Merola

"To put it plain, losing sucks," he said. "I'll do anything possible to win. If I have to go play keeper, I'll do it. Anything the coach wants, that's what I'll give him."

Merola likes to win, but unexpected obstacles have hampered this year's team to the tune of a 2-4 conference record.

"The team this year started out great," he said. "Then a few players started

going down and we hit a rocky road there for a while, and I think it was due to a lot of injuries."

One major injury was to Merola's roommate, Derek Missimo, UNC's all-time leading scorer. Merola and Missimo are the only seniors on the squad, and when Missimo went out, it was Merola who stepped in to take up the leadership role.

"There were times when the games were on the line that he stepped forward and said a word on how we should play or talked to individual players on the field, as to what they should do," head coach Elmar Bolowich said. "That's the kind of leadership you would expect or should expect from a senior."

He also picked up the obvious scoring void that was present without Missimo. In the last 10 games of the season, Merola led UNC with 10 goals, including a hat trick against Wingate, and even managed to pass up his roommate for the season goal-scoring lead.

"It wasn't a conscious thing like 'Derek's out, I'm ready to go ahead and step forward,'" he said. "It was just that I was playing up front, and the chances came, and I stuck a few goals. That's my job. I took it on myself a little bit, saying 'If I step up, maybe all the players will step up and do a little bit more.'"

"But you can't cover (Derek's) void. It's a fact. I figure that just through my

play and what I expect out of myself, hopefully the rest of the team was going to step up, too—and they pretty much did."

Now, with his final collegiate game in sight, Merola can look back on a long and productive soccer career. At St. Charles Prep in Westerville, Ohio, he won two state championships and was named Parade All-America and Gatorade Circle of Champions Ohio Soccer Player-of-the-Year his senior year. Credentials like that bring a lot of colleges to your door.

"I was able to write my own ticket," he said. "I talked to a lot of coaches and got a lot of offers. I weighed all my options and took North Carolina. Indiana is where I wanted to go my whole life, pretty much. I was signed, sealed and delivered there. Then I took a recruiting trip here, and I said, 'maybe not.'"

"It's beautiful here. It wasn't the soccer that actually sold me. It was the place—the school itself. Back then I guess the program was around Top 20, but we weren't actually up there yet, and Indiana was national champs." Merola came in with a class that included Tommy Boykin, Wendell Muldrow, Herb Sherry and Missimo. And Merola, who had been a scorer in

See MEROLA, page 7

Hemphill hired to head recruiting

From staff reports

Bruce Hemphill, assistant recruiting coordinator at the University of South Carolina, has been named director of recruiting at UNC. He replaces Joe Robinson, who has resigned to be married and enter private business.

UNC athletic director John Swofford made the announcement Wednesday.

Robinson's resignation comes after four years on the UNC staff. UNC's last two football recruiting classes have been ranked among the top 15 in the country. He is marrying Linda Parker of Wilmington and moving to her home on the coast.

"It's been a life-long dream of mine

to work at the University," said Robinson, a 1964 UNC graduate and former football letterman. "I've enjoyed my time here and I'm leaving happy, knowing where our program is now and where it's going."

"Mack Brown has done a great job, and our fans have been so understanding in this rebuilding process. I wouldn't leave here for any reason but this one."

Hemphill, a native of Lake Charles, La., is in his 14th year as a college coach or administrator. He is a 1977 graduate of LSU, where he lettered three years in football and won All-Academic Southeastern Conference honors. He served as a graduate and part-time assistant coach with the Tigers before becoming supervisor for Health and Physical Education for the Louisiana State Department of Education in 1984.

After a year there, he worked as an assistant football coach at Louisiana

Tech for three seasons. He was recruiting coordinator at N.C. State from 1987 until taking the position at South Carolina in Aug., 1989.

In his job with the Tar Heels, Hemphill will organize recruiting activities for the Athletic Department with a major focus on football.

Tomlinson promoted to assistant athletic director

In addition to Hemphill joining the staff, Swofford also announced Wednesday that Howard "Monk" Tomlinson has been promoted from administrative assistant to assistant athletic director.

Tomlinson's major responsibilities are management of the football office operations and its budget, football travel, supervision of the strength and conditioning program and organization of UNC's high school football coaching clinic.

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