



Bronze medalists look to '91-92 season

When the Carolina Team Handball Club ventured to Oklahoma City, Okla., late last April for a berth in the U.S. Team Handball Federation National Championships, it needed one thing: momentum.

Carolina was coming off a poor showing in the February Carolina Cup, and head coach John Silva was looking for his team to regroup before it faced the toughest competition of the year.

Carolina passed the test. Not only did the club make it into the medal round, but Carolina defeated Ohio State 17-16 in the third-place game to claim the bronze medal. The finish constituted the highest ever in the national tournament for the club, which has been in existence for only three years.

Capturing the bronze medal was especially nice because of the roadblocks Carolina faced at the tournament, Silva said. "We took one team and no subs. We played the whole national tournament without substitutes."

"It was close to final exams, and academics take priority over participating, so some team members stayed behind to study," he said. "Also, one of our starters, Holger Mueller, hurt his knee and was unable to attend."

But Carolina played through the adversity. "The guys were more disciplined and polished than they had been all year," Silva said. "They had a professional attitude in their approach."

Silva noted the three aspects of Carolina's play that led to the third place finish. One asset was goalie Tim Ammer, who was new to the team. "He had never played a team handball game before Nationals, but he played so outstanding that I and several other coaches put his name on the ballot for most valuable goalie. He was excellent."

Silva said Ammer had the perfect goalie mentality. "Tim knows that team handball is a high-scoring game," Silva said. "When he's scored upon, it didn't affect him. Tim came up big."

The second big story of the tournament was the team defense. "We played excellent defense," Silva said. "It was the best we'd played all year. In particular, Paul Warzocha had a great nationals. He was great individually on defense. In the bronze medal game, he shut down Ohio State's star back court player (Dave Luck) with man-to-man defense."

Finally, a team cannot win without scoring, and Silva said Carolina's balanced scoring was the third key to the tournament. "It was the most balanced scoring we have ever had," he said. "At one point in the tournament, Alex Boyer, our circle runner, was our top scorer. That's pretty unusual because we have never depended on the circle runner to do much scoring before."

Silva now will be looking to harness the momentum Carolina gained from the National Tournament and improve on it for the 1991-92 season. Five of the club's top seven players return this fall, but Boyer and high scoring back court player Steve Penn graduate in December.

"That leaves (junior) Carlos Alvarez, (junior) Tim Ammer, and myself as the only players with any real experience for the spring," said Silva, who plays on the team as member of the UNC faculty. "It will be a total rebuilding year, so I've got to start working new guys in."

Silva won't only have to work new faces into the lineup; he'll have to teach the game of team handball as well. "Nationally, teams have players who have been playing three or four years," he said. "But we train guys from scratch and throw them into national competition. It's a credit to our kids that they pick the sport up quickly and have good training habits."

This is a good year for anyone interested in team handball to join the club. "It's a great opportunity to learn a sport and play at the national level," Silva said.

Carolina's first competition this season will be at a home tournament in October, the date not yet decided. Later in the semester, Carolina will travel to West Point for a fall tournament.

"This is going to be an interesting year," Silva said. "We have big roles to fill, but we also have the opportunity to do well nationally again."

Club Football Begins Season

The UNC Club Football team began its season last weekend by hosting Appalachian State. The remaining schedule for the Tar Heels follows: Sept. 21, at UNC-W; Sept. 29, at the Pack Club; Oct. 13, at Duke; Oct. 20, at the Pack Club; Oct. 27, home versus UNC-W; Nov. 10, at Appalachian State; and Nov. 17, home versus the Pack Club.

A first round playoff game is scheduled for Nov. 23 or 24.

— Rodney Cline

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FEATURES

Chapel Hill is Burning

Part one of a two part series on the homosexual subculture of drag balls and voguing as seen in the movie 'Paris is Burning' and around the Chapel Hill-Durham area. The movie premiered last Friday at the Varsity to a sold-out crowd.

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