

# ATHLETICS: Interview With Hartman

by Celia Anderson  
and John Davies

The Athletic Department has come under a barrage of criticism and accusation lately from all sides concerning its alleged favoritism among sports and misappropriation of funds.

In an effort to clear up some of the misinformation floating around, the RIDGERUNNER requested an interview with Coach Hartman.

Coach Hartman was frank in admitting that practically all the money that the department receives for sports goes to basketball. Yet, he said later that basketball was self-sustaining and that the gate receipts and booster club money from basketball helps support the other sports, soccer, tennis and golf.

"The only money we get from the school is the \$15,000 athletic fee," Hartman said. The rest of the funds necessary for the department must be raised by donations and solicitations.

In answer to accusations that he has refused to buy equipment for the other sports, notable soccer, Hartman stated that he has helped his players out in many ways. "For example, if a boy gets a chipped tooth in soccer, I can get it fixed free." Many businesses that will not give donations or aid in some other way will often help out by offering free services to the players, and that he can get his players a good deal on a used car. Still, the fact remains that if the coach can do all these things, why not shoes for the soccer team?

Noting the obvious imbalance of their distribution, we asked Coach Hartman about athletic scholarships, work grants and

dorm scholarships. Hartman stated that he recommends nine players for basketball scholarships. There are many more players on work loans and dorm scholarships because the administration, when choosing recipients for aid feels that basketball players are helping the school more by putting something back into it. He added that dorm scholarship recipients must be good students and have made at least 1200 on College Boards.

There are no athletic scholarships given for soccer or tennis and there is only one offered in golf. When asked why so few were given for these sports, he said "they simply don't need them. Most of the boys who play soccer, golf and

tennis are pretty well off, so a \$300.00 scholarship isn't GOING TO MEAN THAT MUCH TO THEM"

Several men on the coaching staff have criticized the soccer team in particular with jabs like "How can they expect to have a decent team if they don't show up half the time?" and "Why give a scholarship to a boy who never makes it to practice?"

After speaking to some of the players, we found that many of them have to work after school to meet expenses. If these players are so well off financially, why do they have to work? It would seem reasonable that if financial aid were given, it would make it possible for more boys to come to practice, play and win.

The soccer team is the bone of contention at present.

The soccer team has only a

part-time coach and as a result, he can't make it to all the practices. When Hartman was asked why the team had only a part-time coach, he said "He is the best we can get." But many of the players ask, "How can you expect the players to be present all the time when the department won't take the time to hire a full-time coach?"

It was our information that many of the injuries sustained in soccer were the result of the condition of the playing field. It has been described as everytubg from a cornfield to a rock quarry. Hartman, however insists that "we have one of the better playing fields". He added that the field is "better than average". Hartman, when asked if he planned to do anything about the field, stated that he knew it needed top soil and reseeded but "that's the business of the maintenance department, not mine."

In all respect, since when is it not the coach's duty to see that his players have the best equipment and facilities available? Perhaps a little solicitation in that direction would be helpful.

The financial statement printed herein tells the story better than any other words. It would be best just to close saying that UNC-A in not a four-sport school. It is a one-sport school. How can one expect soccer, golf and tennis to be effective representatives of the school in interscholastic competition when internally, all the emphasis is placed on one sport.

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