

# The neutral corner

By Keith Flynn

If you casually mention Monday night to even the most newly initiated sports fan, visions of football and Steel Curtains and Howard Cosell's nasal droning instantly come to mind. UNCA students know Monday night means cold Budweiser and the NFL.

Football on the professional level, whether it be the Monday night or Sunday edition will not be played for a while. Maybe not for a month. The National Football League Player's Association is on strike.

When you hear strike, you think of Sylvester Stallone on a platform above hundreds of screaming truckers ranting, "FIST, FIST, FIST!" This is not that kind of strike, but the players are just as emotional. They have a right to be. Of the three major U.S. sports, the NFL draws the most money from the fans crowding through stadium gates week after week.

Major League baseball is second and still not even close. The National Basketball Association is way in the background. But, on player's average wages, the standings are exactly reversed.

NBA salaries and Major League wages are comparable with the hoopsters enjoying the advantage. NFL players, however, take a back seat to both their baseball and basketball counterparts. Even though it is uniformly agreed that football is our most popular sport and certainly our most entertaining.

A case in point: Moses Malone and Dave Winfield each eagerly await their paychecks. Both have contracts with their respective teams making more than one million dollars per season. Neither player participated in their league's championship series.

By comparison, Dwight Clark of the San Francisco 49ers has a seasonal income of less than 100,000 per 16 games for his performance. Clark made "the catch" in last year's playoffs to propel the 49ers into the Super Bowl. He is also only the third player in NFL history to catch over 80 passes in two consecutive seasons.

NBA and major league owners shovel millions of dollars toward salaries even though they complain that their revenues cannot allow them to. NFL owners admit they can afford increased wages but refuse to dish them out. This opinion is shared by Washington Redskin Chairman Jack Kent Cooke who offered, "in my opinion, the players deserve more money than they're presently getting."

There is enough money to keep both the union and the owners content, especially in the face of the league's new five-year, \$2.1 billion television contract.



Ulrich Dietrich pushes the ball upfield against Presbyterian. Photo by David Pickett

The prospect of free agency is another of the player's complaints. Major league baseball allows players at the end of their team contractual obligations to come to terms with another club. The restrictions placed upon the NFL player's bargaining freedom make the term "free agency" almost laughable.

Much of the reason that the Player's Association has not been taken seriously by the owners has been because of the player's lack of unity or leadership. The newer tactics of NFLPA Executive Director Ed Garvey and President Gene Upshaw, a former All-Pro of the Oakland Raiders has caused concern among the administrative ranks and gives the players the confidence to speak out, to ask for what they deserve.

Certainly it can be argued that NBA seasons last for 82 games and the major league for intervals of 162 contests while the NFL plays only 16 games. But certainly in the span from July to December, an NFL player takes more punishment than in either of the other two major sports, especially baseball. The average NFL career is a minute 4.2 years.

It has always been echoed by top-flight athletes in all professional ranks, "Get what you can get while you can still get it." Injuries are a commonplace affair to everyone, but a serious injury to a professional athlete can mean the end of his career. Sure, that is the risk athletes take. But the NFL owners need to remember to keep the money worth the risk. The best way for the players to open the owner's eyes is to hit 'em where it hurts most, in the pocketbook.

## Senators fall to Dogs

By Tim Riddle

UNCA's soccer team came up with a win and a hard fought tie, Sept. 16 and 18, to gain a share of the district lead.

The Bulldogs took on the Lander Senators at UNCA, and recorded a 3-1 victory. District 26 scoring leader Aytakin Yildiz scored a goal in each half to pace the Bulldogs to their second win against two losses. Hasan Inan scored on a header from a John Muroch cross with five minutes to go in the first half to give UNCA a 2-1 edge. UNCA outshot the Senators 24-19.

The Bulldogs then traveled to Greensboro to meet Guilford, last year's regular season champs. The

Quakers jumped on UNCA quickly, scoring just 18 seconds into the game. The Bulldogs didn't lose heart, however, and fought back to tie the score before the half on a Gregg Sadelson shot from an assist by Matt Lis.

The second half was similar as Guilford scored early, and UNCA's scrappy offense came back to tie on a goal by Aytakin Yildiz. The Bulldogs were tough in both overtimes, outshooting the Quakers 6-2, but unable to put the ball past the keeper. The final score was 2-2.

"We fought back twice; that's tough on the road," said head coach Hank Komodowski. "We just couldn't put it away."

## Dogs down Wingate

By Tim Riddle

UNCA's soccer team has set three new school records only eight games into the season. With their 5-0 win over Wingate Tuesday, they scored their third win in a row, and Aytakin Yildiz set a single season scoring record.

The Bulldogs now stand at 5-2-1, and are tied for the district lead with a surprising Pfeiffer team.

Yildiz scored twice against Wingate giving him nine goals for the year. The previous record was eight goals.

Goalkeeper Sean Kelly shut out Wingate for his third scoreless effort. He was named District 26 player of the week for his outstanding play last week. He leads the district with 0.75 goals against average.

Both offense and defense are playing solidly as evident in their play against Wingate. Matt Lis, Gregg Sadelson, John Murdoch, and Aytakin Yildiz all scored in a display of balanced offense.

Yildiz scored first, early in the game, on a penalty kick. Matt Lis scored midway in the first half to make the score 2-0. The defense kept Wingate out of UNCA's territory the entire game.

"The defense is now playing solid," said Coach Hank Komodowski. "We are up for any game like this," said Komodowski, referring to Wingate's poor season [0-7].

The Bulldogs scored a 2-0 victory at King College, Friday, with Neal Rhoades and Hasan Inan each scoring. UNCA outshot King 40-8.