

SPORTS

Soccer team 'goes Hollywood'

By Betsy Phillips

The UNCA soccer team has played in district tournaments and faced the toughest competition the area has to offer, but Thursday they played in a truly "Royal Match."

The 25-member squad got a taste of life as Hollywood extras when they participated in the filming of a section of a TV movie called "Royal Match."

An MGM Studios film crew prepared an outdoor set on Christ School's soccer field for the team's debut in the TV movie pilot scheduled to air this fall.

But UNCA's Swan Nicholson said he is taking the fame in stride.

"I'm in a movie. I'm a star. I don't have to do anything else now," Nicholson said.

"Royal Match" is a comedy about a young geochemist who travels with a friend to a fictitious country in Europe and falls in love with the king.

"This movie has been in

the making for quite some time, several years in fact," said Lynn Lorring, head of production at MGM-TV. "We were gonna go to Europe to shoot, but then someone went out and found us a castle here."

Most of the movie is being filmed at Asheville's own "castle," the Biltmore House in West Asheville.

The minute-and-a-half long scene shot at Christ School centered around the two American visitors watching the King's royal soccer team practice.

As the camera's rolled next to the field, the actresses lounged in white wooden lawn chairs in front of an elegant buffet table.

Next to the buffet was the king's Rolls Royce, which brought the girls to the field. You could see prop men wince as several stray kicks narrowly missed the Rolls.

Film Director E.W. Swackhammer instructed the players to run back and forth in front of the ca-



MAKING MOVIES: The UNCA soccer team got an introductory course in the rigors of movie making during a one-scene appearance in the TV movie "Royal Match."

Staff photo by Betsy Phillips

meras until he got footage he felt was usable.

"Play with the ball a little more. OK now, take off," yelled Swackhammer to senior Steve Sloan during one scene. "Could we have a little quiet here? Does everybody want to do my job? Ok now, let's try it again boys."

After spending the en-

tire day in ferocious wind and hot sun, repeatedly kicking balls and watching the filming, the students received \$25 each.

But trouble began when the prop men tried to retrieve the new soccer uniforms used in the movie.

There was some talk of theft.

"This uniform is mine;

say bye-bye," said freshman Mike Balsimides. However actual proof of foul-play is not available.

Most of the players had no problems living with their new roles as movie stars. But for some, fame does apparently have its drawbacks.

"It's been tough handling success," said Chip Pensa.

Baseball team splits

By Dale McElrath

There was some good news and some bad news for the UNCA baseball team Wednesday afternoon.

The good news was a 10-7 victory over visiting Erskine in the first game of a doubleheader. The bad news came in the form of a 12-9 loss in the nightcap.

In the opener, the Bulldogs used the strength of 11 hits combined with six errors committed by the Flying Fleet to roll to the easy victory.

But Erskine had revenge on its mind in the second contest.

After spotting the Fleet to an 8-2 advantage in the top of the third, the Bulldogs finally found some offensive stick themselves in their half of the inning.

UNCA shortstop Greg Starbuck started out the Bulldogs' rally with a walk. Catcher Todd followed with his first homer

of the season to left to bring UNCA within 8-4.

But the Bulldogs weren't finished yet.

Junior Barry Roberts singled to left and left-fielder Lance Day followed with a single up the middle to give the Bulldogs men on first and second with just one out.

Second baseman Todd Winkler brought Roberts home with a single over the third-base bag.

It looked as if the Bulldogs might be ready to break the game open. But the Erskine pitching staff came alive to strike out the side. But UNCA had cut the Fleet's advantage to three, 8-5, going into the fourth.

The Bulldogs defense sent Erskine down in order in the top of the fourth, and UNCA took advantage of the opportunity its half of the fourth.

David Hampton started off the Bulldogs by loop-

ing a single to left, and advancing to third on an error by the Erskine pitcher. Starbuck followed with his fourth home run of the season to pull the 'Dogs within 8-7.

With one away in the same inning, third baseman Steve Hardister singled to center. Roberts followed with a single up the middle to give the Bulldogs men on first and third. Lance Day brought Hardister home with a sacrifice fly to right.

Neither team scored in the fifth, but Erskine came out gunning in the top of the sixth.

The Fleet collected four runs, capped by a three-run shot to left by Todd McCormick, to pull out to a 12-8 lead.

The Bulldogs got a solo homer from Todd Winkler in the bottom of the seventh, but it was too little, too late.

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