

SPORTS

Women's soccer plays first BSC game

Jonathon Czarny
Sports Reporter

The UNCA women's soccer team lost its first conference game to Coastal Carolina University (CCU) 3-1 Sept. 26.

"I don't think they are a better quality team than us," said Head Coach Michele Cornish. "Shot count says it all. We just didn't capitalize on the chances we had during the game and they did."

A lack of scoring contributed to the loss. The Bulldogs outshot the CCU Chanticleers 15-12, but were scoreless for most of the game.

CCU tested the UNCA defense early and scored the first goal when a corner kick was played into the 6-yard box and the defense failed to clear the ball. The ball bounced around until Coastal Carolina's Simone Borucinski punched it in. The half ended with CCU leading by one.

The even play continued in the second half as both teams tried to take control of the match. CCU scored when Roberta Parson collected a rebound after UNCA goalkeeper Michelle Mattos misplayed a high free kick dropped in by Borucinski from about 40 yards out. The ball went off Mattos and hit the crossbar, landing right at the feet of Parson who finished it from six yards out.

Borucinski scored her second goal of the match just six minutes later, beating Mattos with a bending shot from a corner kick. The goal, often called a banana-kick, was placed in the upper corner just inside the back post.

"The banana-kick off the corner was one of the most amazing soccer plays I have ever seen, but I'm disappointed that it happened against us and not for us," said Charlie Goodrich, a UNCA stu-



KATIE AHRENS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Sara Pahl, a midfielder and defender for the women's soccer team, hails from Castle Rock, CO.

dent.

The Bulldogs' Hilary McKay scored on one of her seven shots in the game. Bailey Schultz, a senior psychology major, got credited with an assist after she sent a pass across the penalty box that found its way to McKay. McKay settled the ball and ripped a shot past Coastal's goalkeeper, Candice Doten, for UNCA's only score.

The final score was 3-1 and the loss snapped UNCA's five game win streak.

The loss puts the Bulldogs in last

place in the Big South after its first conference game.

"Coastal Carolina has had some impressive victories this season," said Cornish, according to the UNCA Athletics Web site. "They have the ability to score a lot of goals, so we're going to have to play well in the back to keep them from striking."

All three goals scored by Coastal Carolina came off set plays: two from corner kicks and one from a free kick.

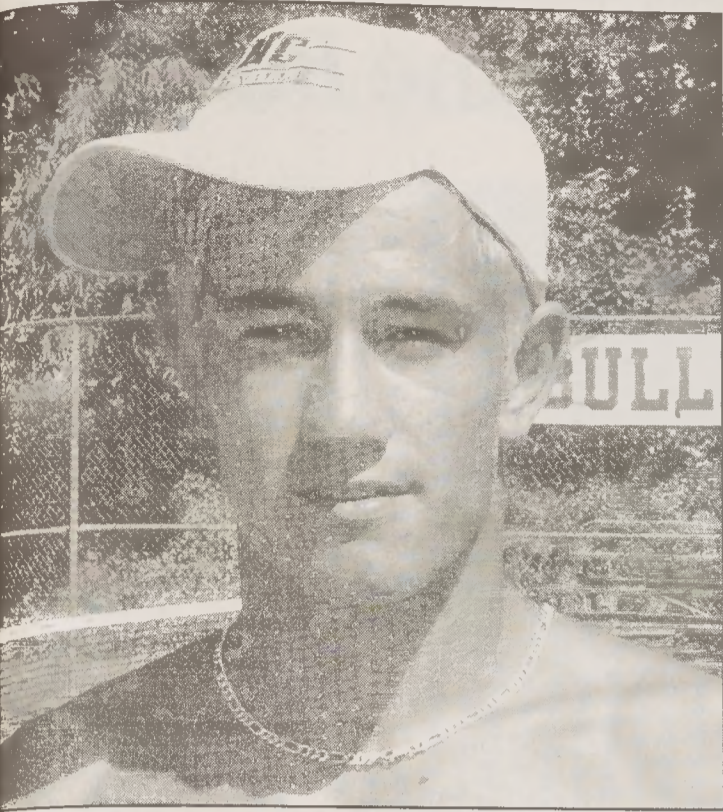
"Three stupid, stupid mistakes

cost us three goals, but that's the nature of soccer," said Cornish.

"I think our goalie could have played better," said John Swadley, an Asheville resident. "[When] the ball is sent into the box, she has to be aggressive and charge the ball, instead of standing on the goal line and trying to react."

UNCA freshmen Matt Kelley argued it was defense that failed to clear the ball.

"She has no chance when the defense lets the ball stay loose in front of the goal," Kelley said.



KATIE AHRENS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Damian Mulhane had a record of 15-2 in fifth position last season.

Player Profiles

A Sit-down interview with Damian Mulhane

Christy Acee
Sports Reporter

Damian Mulhane, a junior psychology major, has been a member of the UNCA men's tennis team for the last three years. Not only is Damian an active student, but he also came a long way to be here. Damian is an Australian native who spent most of his life in New Zealand.

"I have worked with Damian on his game for a year and a half now," said Head Coach Chase Hodges.

"He is an excellent athlete that would excel in a number of sports besides tennis."

Looking back at his tennis career, Damian started playing at a young age.

"I probably started around nine," said Damian. "Back when I was around four I used to go watch my mum play tennis."

Soon after this, Damian began stealing her racket. This eventually led to his own racket.

Not only does this competitor offer his skills to the men's tennis team, but he also finds time for many intramural sports and plays league soccer.

"I love soccer with a passion," said Damian.

The tennis team this year, on a whole, looks hopeful.

"We're awesome," said Damian. "I hope we beat Winthrop, they are our arch nemesis."

With eight international players on the team, it seems an international student might feel more at home. Those are things you don't even notice,

though, according to Damian.

"Regardless of race, gender, we're all the same," said Damian.

"I enjoy working with international student athletes. I feel that they bring a diversity to campus that is needed at UNCA," said Hodges. "I have players from New Zealand, France, Brazil and Ukraine. It is a pleasure to coach all of them and help them in their transition to college life."

Damian has seen his share of the world. He made the New Zealand World Cup Team, which traveled to Japan to play in the qualifying rounds. The team came in second, making them among the top 16

teams in the world.

"Damian's greatest accomplishment is receiving the Bulldog award at last year's athletics banquet," said Hodges. "This award recognizes a player that gives 110 percent and never quits. Damian is that type of player."

Youth and more energy than the average man can only get you so far. There is school to take care of, and sleep. Damian admitted to the stressful nature of his college life.

"It's killing me this semester," said Damian. "I think I'm doing too much."

This life can be demanding especially for someone involved in so much.

Damian is also a member of the International Student Association (ISA).

"It's tough and I'm finding it stressful at the moment because I have a lot of tests coming up," said Damian.

Damian was born in Sydney, Australia and raised in Auckland, New Zealand.

"I feel I've got the Aussie spirit, because we're kind of feisty," said Damian. "But I have the laid back New Zealand attitude, as well."

As an international student, moving to a new country can be difficult sometimes. The transition was rather painless for Damian, though.

"I lived a sheltered life so I like the freedom," said Damian. "I was actually kind of surprised because in Asheville everybody was so friendly and wanted to meet you and, well, they liked the accent."

This leads to the differences between a country on the other side of the world and the best thing about the U.S.

"The girls are the best thing about the U.S., they breed them pretty over here," said Damian. "[In New Zealand], we have a lot more sheep and a lot more golf courses. Well, see people give New Zealand [flack] about more sheep, but you really have to look at the facts that Australia has a ratio of six sheep to one person."

Damian also takes time-out from his harder classes to play video games with his teammates. This can keep him from doing homework, but won't keep him from good grades or more importantly, having fun.

"I like the school and I'm not leaving," said Damian.

Profile

"The girls are the best thing about the U.S., they breed them pretty over here."

Damian Mulhane

Sitting down at the coach's table

Rebecca DeRosa
Sports Reporter

The Blue Banner: When did you first start playing tennis?

Coach Chase Hodges: I started when I was eight years old and I'm 27 now, so I've been going strong for 19 years. I played a lot of sports growing up. I played high school football, basketball and tennis and just decided to focus in on tennis in high school and played it in college.

Blue Banner: Where did you attend college?

Hodges: My freshman and sophomore years I went to N.C. State University and played for them, but after my sophomore year I transferred and played my junior and senior years at UNC-Wilmington.

Blue Banner: What are your degrees in?

Hodges: A bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's in education. I got both of those from UNC-Wilmington. I got my master's while I was a graduate assistant coach for the team. It was nice because they were able to pay for it. It worked out well.

Blue Banner: How and when did you decide you wanted to be a coach?

Hodges: I pretty much decided I wanted to coach right when I was done with college. So I'm relatively young to be a head coach. I've been head coaching ever since I graduated [grad school]. I knew my whole senior year of college that's what I was going to do. As soon as my senior year ended I went right into the coaching ranks. I was an assistant coach while I got my master's. Then I moved on to a head-coaching job in Virginia at a university and now I'm here. I knew pretty much the whole way there that's



TARA BARONE/GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Head Coach Chase Hodges first coached at Longwood University.

what I wanted to do. My dad's a coach and I come from a coaching family so I knew that I was going to end up coaching but I didn't know what sport.

Blue Banner: So you followed [in your father's] example?

Hodges: Pretty much. It's one of those things where it doesn't matter what sport you coach. Coaching pretty much covers all different areas, but it's pretty much the same thing. The x's and

o's are a little bit different in each sport. I knew from growing up with him and seeing him do it that it was something that would be natural for me to jump into. So, it turned out all right.

Blue Banner: Where was your first head coach job?

Hodges: Longwood University. It has about 5,000 students in Farmville, Va. right outside of Richmond. I was there for only a year. It was a great experience and it worked

out great. I was the head men's and women's tennis coach and we were pretty successful. I did a pretty good job my first year there. I think that enabled me to be a strong candidate for this job. It worked out well.

Blue Banner: What brought you to UNCA?

Hodges: I'm from Hickory, N.C. It's about an hour and 15 minutes away so I wanted to get back to this part of the state. I've always thought that Asheville is a beautiful city. Really, I think there are two cities in N.C., Wilmington and Asheville, that are the top two places to live and quite honestly, in the south-east. It's just a great area.

Blue Banner: How long have you been at UNCA?

Hodges: A year and a half. I've enjoyed every minute of it. I really do like it here.

Blue Banner: How have you changed the tennis program here?

Hodges: The results speak for themselves. We turned it around as far as wins and losses. We were 14-5 last year on the men's side and 7-10 on the women's. The year before I got here they were 6-14 on the men's and 2-17 on the women's.

Blue Banner: What are your short term and long-term goals here?

Hodges: My short-term goal this year, on the men's and women's side, to break every record. That's the short-term goal for both teams.

The long-term goal is within five years to win a conference championship. I think that's very attainable. I'd like to win the Big South Championship and win an NCAA tournament.

Blue Banner: Who inspires you?

Hodges: Everybody says this, but I'd have to go with my dad. I learned a lot from him growing up.

He taught me all the things I needed to know to be a successful coach.

Profile