



Freshmen help Bulldogs breeze past Tornadoes 3-0

By Natalie Pearson

STAFF WRITER
NGPEARSON@UNCA.EDU

UNC Asheville dominated the Brevard Tornadoes with a 3-0 victory for their first win of the regular season, redeeming themselves after suffering a forgettable 5-0 loss at UNC Chapel Hill.

Leading off with some frantic and haphazard soccer, neither team could keep the ball on the field, even though sophomore forward Bryan George created several chances and shots on goal in the first 30 minutes.

The Bulldogs' nerves weren't settled until the first score of the game.

"We gave them a little bit too much time and space in the first half but settled our nerves after the first goal," said Steve Cornish, UNCA's men's soccer head coach. "Goals change games."

The first goal came in the 39th minute when freshman forward Zachary Odum took a quick pass at the top of the box and dropped it to Alex Koslick.

Koslick wheeled around and pushed a hard through-ball across the box to Branden Lassen, who drove the shot to the far post for the game's first score.

After breaking the deadlock, the goals kept coming for UNCA with the second occurring less than a minute into the second half off an exciting free kick.

From the 20 yard line, sophomore midfielder Connor Holzinger scored his first goal of his season, and college career, placing it straight in the upper 90 with a sharp spin.

"Connor gave us a lot of mobility up front," Cornish said. "So did Zach and Alex."

Despite scoring his first collegiate career goal and helping push the Bulldogs up to a comfortable 2-0 lead in the 45th minute, Holzinger said he wasn't overly happy with how the team played as a whole.

"I don't think we played that well," the Charlotte native said. "We played



Susan Terry - Photography Editor

Above, Brevard goalkeeper Jack Shaw dives to block Zachary Odum's shot in the second half. Right, Bryan Bartels charges past the Brevard defense for one of his two shots on goal during Friday's game.



good in spurts, but we should have been better than we were."

One of these spurts culminated into the Bulldogs third goal during the 72nd minute by Odum.

Off another assist by sophomore Koslick, the freshman struck a hit from 15 yards out, settling the final score at 3-0.

With two goals in his first three games for the Bulldogs, Odum claims it's the team that's encouraging his good form.

"It's a lot of everything," he said. "I play well. That's why I'm here. But the team is great. They embrace all the freshmen, but they're definitely making me better."

Showing some team spirit, soccer alumnus Alex Morrow came to the game to support his twin brothers Eli and J.J. Morrow, both sophomores who play midfield and defense, respectively.

"I think they both still have a lot of work to do, but J.J. had a strong game and Eli was one of the best in midfield

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*—Zachary Odum,
freshman forward*

today," he said.

A recent UNCA graduate, Alex has now joined the Marines and leaves in 24 days to go to Quantico, Va., for flight school.

"I wish I could be out there with them," he said. "It's hard to keep from yelling at them."

This is the first game that UNCA

has scheduled against Brevard, but according to Juan Mascaro, the head coach for the Tornadoes, it won't be the last.

"For us it's a great game," he said.

Another first was the appropriately named Pop's Dog House, a downtown Asheville food stand that provided hot dogs and freshly squeezed lemonade for the game, outshining last year's selections: soda bottles and bags of chips.

"The lemonade was delicious," said junior Natalie Little. "I don't normally go to the games to be honest. But the concessions are good incentive to come again."

The Bulldogs' next challenge comes this weekend traveling to Davidson for the Davidson Invitational this weekend and, according to Cornish, they still have work to do.

"We need to tighten up defensively," he said. "We also need to be more competent in our midfield, and our final ball needs to have more quality. I'm still very happy we won though."