

Lady Tornadoes gunning for the top

by Tina Wiegerink
Clarion Reporter
and BC News Bureau reports

With a best-ever record of 14-1, the Lady Tornadoes head into the Region X Tournament at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, N.C., later this week.

Coach Joe Bartlinski's women take on Spartanburg Methodist at 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2; and if they win they advance to the finals at noon Saturday, Nov. 4.

They could meet arch rivals Lees-McRae again there, but the Bobcats have to beat Anderson in their first round, so there's no telling, Coach Bart says.

"The season all boils down to this tournament," says the coach. "The team that plays with the most grit and determination of the four teams will have the honor of representing Region X in the National Tournament. We have the skill... let's hope we want it bad enough."

The BC ladies were ranked fourth in the nation before losing 2-1 to the number five team from Banner Elk on Oct. 16. Earlier in the season they had whipped L-M, the first time the Lady Bobcats had lost to a regional rival in four years. In the second go-around, L-M had the home court advantage.

Bartlinski said his team did not prepare

themselves mentally prior to their match. Down by two goals only 10 minutes into the game, the Lady Tornadoes "showed no signs of the desire which led them to national prominence. Instead of scrapping for every ball, we were getting knocked over during every physical confrontation."

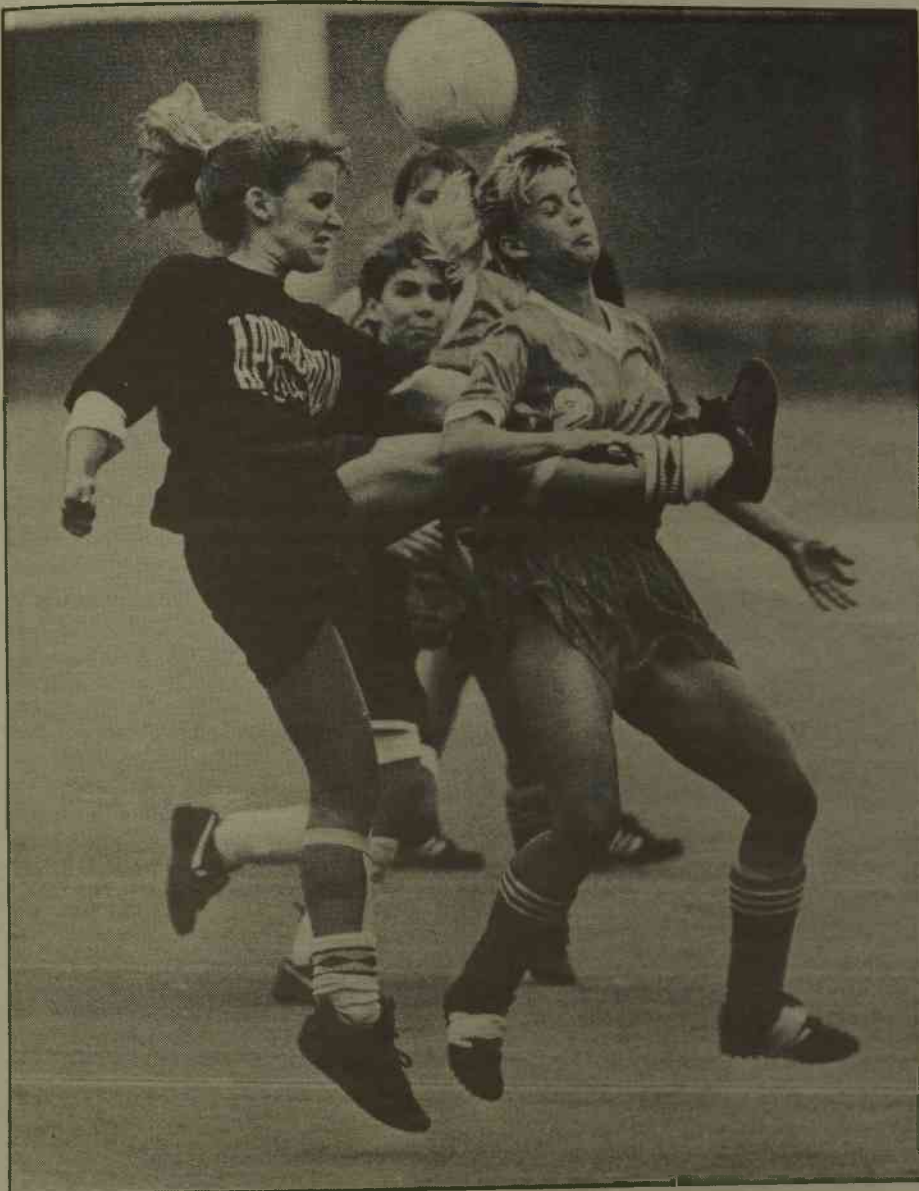
Despite the loss, BC won the Carolina's Junior College Conference over Lees-McRae and Anderson.

To finish the week, BC beat the Lady Mountaineers at Appalachian State, 2-0, on Thursday, Oct. 17. Played in a cold drizzle on the treacherous Astro turf, the game wasn't pretty, but it was a BC victory.

In earlier October action, the women squeaked past Anderson on Oct. 4 in overtime, 4-3. Although Coach Bartlinski wasn't pleased with the overall performance, he said they did show character by coming back after being down a goal.

The BC women then cruised to three fairly easy matches, beating Truett-McConnell 12-1, Furman 5-0 and Spartanburg Methodist 3-0.

Despite the margins of victory, Coach Bart commented, "We didn't play with the heart and tenacity we showed earlier this season."



BC's Colleen Runion gets this header against ASU, but pays for it. (Clarion photo by Jock Lauterer)

Coach Bart's the head of the family

by John Wellenhofer

Clarion Reporter

Joe Bartlinski, or "Coach Bart," as he is known, has a very simple formula for success for his team: work hard and stick together like family.

Under the genial leadership of the new first-time coach, Brevard's women's soccer team has risen to a fourth place national ranking and a season that could only be called spectacular.

No stranger to BC, Bartlinski came to Brevard from Orlando, Fla., where he was an All-State high school player. Recruited by BC Coach Don Scarborough, Bart played for the Tornadoes in '81 and '82.

He moved on to Elon College where he continued his soccer. Returning to BC last year, he joined Coach Dave Taylor as assistant to both men's and women's teams. He assumed the helm of the women's team this year.

After a solid year of recruiting, Bartlinski settled in and made a team out of the mostly frosh squad.

Responding to a reporter asking how important soccer was to him, Coach Bart said evenly, "Soccer is important to us, but it's only a game."

So Coach Bart's formula of hard work and teamwork is tempered with the human touch. "We're more than just a soccer

team," he says. "We're a family — and sure, we have our problems — but we all look out for each other."

The affable Lady Tornado mentor shares the credit for the team's success. "It's the personal touch as well as the approach of the school that brought them all together," he says.



The Tornado women's soccer team includes: left to right, front row: Dawn Towle, Colleen Runion, Beth Richter, Cathy Reinhardt, Linda Hunt and Wendy Washburn; second row: Lisa Macauley, Samantha Griffiths, Laura Clark, Nikki Thompson and Coach Joe Bartlinski; back row: Jennifer Keltner, Tracy Venuso, Lenny McClellan, Heidi Kaiser, Shannon Purchis and Jennifer McMaster. (Clarion photo)



Coach, trainer, mentor — Joe Bartlinski does double-duty at a recent game.