



Seahawk Sports

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Women's soccer team overcomes Furman in preseason

BY BEN JONES
STAFF WRITER

UNC-Wilmington athletics kicked off the 2000-2001 season last Saturday as the Women's Soccer team played the Furman University Paladins at UNCW Soccer Stadium. Before a crowd of 250, the Seahawks ousted the Paladins 3 to 2.

The first half kept UNC-Wilmington on the defensive side of the field the majority of the time. Furman, which finished ranked 26th in the country last season, kept the Seahawks on their toes during the entire game.

Even with the defensive struggle, UNCW managed to strike early against the Paladins. Sophomore Danielle Mastrogiavanni scored unassisted six minutes into the match. As the half continued, the game opened up with more fast breaks, leading to back-to-back goals by Furman.

Before the first half ended, Michelle Doherty, a junior from Charlotte, N.C., scored with two



Sophomore Kara Schaffer takes a slide after kicking the ball in a UNCW victory over Furman in a recent exhibition game.

minutes left on the clock off a great pass from Mastrogiavanni. This capped a 2-2 tie heading into half-time.

Doherty was not finished for the night though. Five minutes into the second half, Doherty scored again, with an assist from Denise Schromm.

Confidence grew among the players as the Seahawks began to control the tone and set the pace for the remainder of the match. Still a defensive struggle, UNC-Wilmington took advantage of the lead, running out the clock to secure the victory.

Head Coach Paul Cairney said second half adjustments were key to

the win. "The first half Furman dominated. They came ready to play us. Furman [University, located in Greenville, S.C.] made it to the NCAA playoffs last year."

The Seahawks had some pre-season/pregame anxiety, but they obviously worked it all out. When asked about her feelings going into the game, Michelle Doherty admitted she had some apprehension. "I was nervous," said Doherty. "We started off a little slow, but we got into it during the second half. Tonight we had a good crowd that helped also." Great playing by Doherty and her teammates helped too.

Even though this match was only exhibition, it was a great early test of how the Seahawks should perform throughout the season. Last season the Seahawks finished with an overall record of 11-7-1, and a conference record of 5-5-0, fifth best in the Colonial Athletic Association. Last year's marks are the

SEE WOMENS, PAGE 23

Ann Hancock named women's basketball head coach

BY BEN JONES
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A new era in Women's Basketball begins this fall as Ann Hancock takes over the program at UNCW. Hancock was named the new coach of the Women's Basketball team on June 22, replacing Bernie Flax, whose contract was not renewed. The 29-year-old becomes the eighth head coach in the team's history.

For the past eight years, Hancock has been an Assistant Coach at UNC-Chapel Hill under Head Coach Sylvia Hatchell. Some of her highlights with the team include four Atlantic Coast Conference Championships and one NCAA national title.

"Ann is an excellent fit for our program and the Wilmington community," said UNCW Athletic Di-

rector Peg Bradley-Doppes. "She has been associated with one of the finest teams in the country, and will bring a high energy level to our department. Ann's ability to recruit and teach the game made her an outstanding candidate. She comes highly recommended in the women's basketball ranks."

Hancock, who is from Elizabethtown, N.C., was a four-time All-Conference basketball player at Wingate University. She helped the Bulldogs earn a combined 103-23 record and 4 trips to the NAIA tournament. Hancock served as team captain for three years and led the team in scoring her senior year. In 1998, she was inducted into the Wingate Athletic Hall of Fame.

From 1990 to 1992, Hancock coached the Greensboro Emeralds, a 12 and under AAU Basketball

team.

The Lady Seahawks fortunes have fluctuated in recent years. The 1998-1999 team finished with a record of 10-17, 7th in the CAA. The 1999-2000 team improved, ending with an 18-12 overall record and reaching the championship game in the CAA tournament.

"There's a lot of potential here at UNCW, and I'm very thankful to have this chance," Hancock said. "The eastern part of the state deserves a good women's basketball program."

Hancock will have her hands full aiming to enhance the team's previous performances. She will have one year to prove herself, signing a one-year contract worth \$57,000. She will have the help of team stars such as senior Krissy Riggs, a 5-10 guard from Jacksonville, N.C., and junior Jeri Lynn Coker, a 5-4 guard

from Goldsboro, N.C.

"Sitting in the head chair is going to be challenging. I'll do the best I can, and work with what little time I do have [to prepare for the upcoming season]."



Ann Hancock