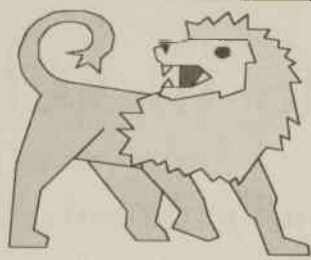


## Monarch Highlights



### Upcoming sporting events:

#### Volleyball

Oct. 1 at Greensboro College  
Oct. 2 at home vs. Averett 7 p.m.  
Oct. 7 at Chowan  
Oct. 9 at Peace

#### Men's Tennis

Oct. 8 at home vs. High Point 2:30 p.m.

#### Cross Country

Oct. 5 at Aggie Classic in Greensboro

#### Football

Oct. 12 at Bridgewater

#### Women's Soccer

Oct. 1 at home vs. Limestone  
Oct. 5 at Mary Washington  
Oct. 8 at Averett  
Oct. 11 at home vs. Nazareth

#### Women's Golf

Oct. 5-6 at James Madison University

#### Men's Golf

Oct. 14-15 Aubrey Apple Collegiate Tournament at Greensboro

#### Women's Tennis

Oct. 4-6 at Ruth Hopkins Memorial Tournament at Meredith & Peace  
Oct. 8 at home vs. High Point 2:30

#### Men's Soccer

Oct. 5 at Averett  
Oct. 6 at Maryville  
Oct. 10 at home vs. Chowan

**Support the Monarchs!**

## Soccer provides bridge between cultures for Irish senior midfielder

By Mike McDermott  
Editor

Alvy Styles came to the United States in the fall of 1992 from her home in Dublin, Ireland, in order to get an education and play soccer while doing so. Not knowing what to expect when she got on the plane, she had a bit of anxiety about making the trip. Having been here almost four years, she has not regretted her decision.

"Leaving my family back home was the most difficult part about coming over," she stated. "My entire family lives within a few blocks of each other. I've two brothers and two sisters with ten nieces and nephews who are all around me every day.



"I also miss the beauty of Ireland," she said. "My family lives just off the beach in a rural area outside of Dublin. That is where I would like to be if I ever decide to settle down and raise a family."

Styles' biggest surprise upon reaching the U.S. was the immense size of the country. "You could fit my country into North Carolina eight times. I still can't believe how big this place is," she said. "I can drive coast to coast in my country in two hours."

She was happy to find that the people of the U.S. were not the unintelligent masses that she had once believed them to be. "My image of the American was an un-clever person. We see Oprah on TV and think that everyone is like that over here. My initial view has changed. I have met many genuine people and made some dear friends." She smiled, adding, "I'll not convince my family of this, though.

"My biggest cultural shock was the racism that I have seen in the United States," she said. "I knew what the word meant, but I had never experienced it before. I'll never understand



Midfielder Alvy Styles has reaped many honors competing for the Lady Monarchs. During the 1995-96 season, she was a second team All-DIAC and an All-Final-Four selection as the team captured the national runner-up title. (File photo)

though, I guess. I just don't get it," she said.

"I haven't found an American yet that understands my country either," she continued. "There is a great misconception here that all of Ireland is fighting. All you ever see are the fire bombs. It isn't like that. Don't get me started on politics though—we'll be here all night," she laughed.

One of her greatest thrills was representing her country on the Irish National Soccer team. For each game a player participates in, they get a cap. Styles earned 18 caps for her country. "There is no feeling in the world like wearing your country's jersey and taking the field for your country. Traveling all over Europe was a great benefit, but doing it for Ireland made it that much better," she said.

"I can't really compare playing for the national team and playing for Methodist," she said. "I love my country, so that was really special. I do love playing here, because soccer is soccer wherever you play it, and I love the game and my friends who enjoy it with me."

Her most memorable Methodist experience was the game against Trenton State in the regional finals her freshman year. "It was so intense. We lost one to nil with less than two minutes to go in overtime. I realized that three of my best friends would never play soccer again. The effort that all the girls put forth was unbelievable. In Ireland, we can play for club teams at any age. Here, when your final

college game is over, so is your career." She added, "We all cried on the way home. I'm not looking forward to my last game here. When it is over, it will be my final game. I'll leave it to the younger bunch. I will miss it, though."

Not only is Styles a foreign student, but she is also a non-traditional student. She is reluctant to accept this title, though, as she explains, "I live on campus and play soccer with the traditional students. I try not to be a non-traditional student, because many of them look down on the younger students, calling them irresponsible. My best friends are traditional students. They don't do anything wrong. Sometimes they get wild, but we all do. I like to think that I still have a little wildness left in me. I can hang with the best of them. It's when I no longer can that I will get worried!"

"Making the adjustment from worker to student was less strenuous than simply being a foreign student," she said. "Dealing with the homesickness was hard in the beginning. Everything reminded me of home. We would look out of the window traveling home from soccer games and see the trees out in the country. My friend Kay started crying, and then Fiona, and then I started. We all missed Ireland." She continued, "The next thing you know, the American girls are crying, because they are sad for us. This made us cry even more! The funny thing is that we had won our game that day 13 to nil."

Her life's ambition is to "find my peace of mind," she laughed. She actually wishes to spend her life working with the game that has given her so much enjoyment. She concluded, "I want to be a soccer coach and teach college. I love the game, but I can't play forever."

## Sports Overview

### Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team is currently ranked second in NCAA-III with a record of 5-0.

Methodist captured the Domino's Classic at Roanoke College Sept. 15 with wins over Cortland State and Richard Stockton. Freshman Mike Walters and juniors Bjorgvin Fridriksson, Kemal Kansu, and Erik Lawton were named to the All-Tournament Team. Walters was also named the tournament MVP.

Despite a number of injuries, Methodist survived a scare at Hampden-Sydney on Sept. 21 for a 1-0 victory behind junior Kemal Kansu's first-half goal.

Methodist went on to defeat Elon Sept. 25. They overcame a scoreless first half to win 2-0. Senior midfielder Karl McKenna broke open the scoreless deadlock with a goal with 22:17 remaining. Sophomore forward Paul Smith assisted McKenna. Senior midfielder Jason Wolfe scored the contest's final goal with 16:17 left off an assist by junior forward Kemal Kansu.

### Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team is currently ranked #21 in NCAA-III with a record of 3-0.

Methodist won its season opener against Greensboro by a score of 4-1. Junior Casey Nuckols scored two goals, and was named a Dixie Athletic Conference Athlete of the Week for the week of Sept. 16.

The Lady Monarchs went 2-0 in the Methodist Classic tournament Sept. 21-22, but finished second to North Carolina Wesleyan due to the tournament's point system tie-breaking criteria. Both Methodist and N.C. Wesleyan swept St. Andrews and Widener, but did not face each

other to tie in the win-loss column. NC Wesleyan outscored tournament opponents 8-1, while Methodist outdid their competition 8-3. Freshman Trisha Clinton was named a Dixie Conference Athlete of the Week for the week of Sept. 23, scoring three goals and one assist in the tournament.

### Football

The football team won its season opener against Chowan 21-18 and its home opener against Guilford College 21-12 before being defeated by Salisbury State on Sept. 21 28-21.

In the home opener against Guilford, sophomore quarterback Brian Turner had a career day, completing 14 of 23 passes (.609) for 240 yards and all three Methodist touchdowns. MC freshman wide receiver Jermaine Flythe caught three passes for 114 yards, including two for touchdowns.

Methodist lost at home for only the second time in nine contests against Salisbury State on Sept. 21. One production leader for the game was junior defensive end Sigmund Platt who had 15 tackles, three tackles for -17 yards, two sacks for a loss of 15 yards, one forced fumble, and two quarterback pressure.

The other production leader was sophomore tailback DeCarlos West who had six carries for 23 yards and three kickoff returns for 144 yards, including one for a school-record 99-yard touchdown return.

### Women's Golf

Defending NCAA-II/III national champion Methodist opened its 1996-97 season by winning the two-day, 11-team Lady Monarch Invitational Sept. 15.

Methodist finished ahead of eight NCAA-I competitors, led by second-place James Madison.

Senior Jennifer Cieslak, last year's Lady Monarch Invitational champion, paced Methodist with a third-place finish in the 62-golfer field.

The Lady Monarchs placed three golfers in the top six as senior Diane Gladstone and sophomore Tracey Gage finished fifth and sixth.

### Volleyball

The volleyball team is struggling for its first victory and is currently 0-5.

The Lady Monarchs were defeated by Meredith College 3-2 in their home opener Sept. 12. Junior Georgette Singleton had 13 kills and six blocks.

The team lost to Greensboro College on Sept. 17, and then dropped three road games against Shenandoah, Mt. Olive, and Christopher Newport.

Methodist senior Stephanie Greene leads the Dixie Conference in digs per game, with an average of 3.33 per game.

### Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team is currently 1-0. They defeated St. Andrews 7-0 on Sept. 24.

### Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team is 1-1. They were defeated at Meredith 5-4 on Sept. 12. They won their home opener 6-3 against St. Andrews on Sept. 24.

(Information courtesy of Sports Information Director Matt Eviston)

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