

Goalie's talent sparks Lady Bishops' success

By BRAD BARNES

Jennifer Gardner is a-knockin' at the door, and she is bringing the whole Lady Bishops soccer team with her.

It does not take much to understand why Gardner is considered one of the best goalkeepers the Lady Bishops soccer program has ever produced. The 5'10" junior has been the Bishops' keeper since her freshman year. She has been playing soccer since she was five years old.

While in grade school, Gardner had always wanted to play as a forward because she wanted to score. But no one else wanted to play goalie. Gardner eventually found herself playing keeper, spoiling her hopes of being a scorer.

How did this reversal of fortune happen? Something called her to it — her parents. Richard and Sue Gardner spent weekends and free time kicking, throwing balls at their daughter, anything to teach her to play the position.

Sooner or later, the hard work began paying off when her old high school, Robinson Secondary, played its rival, Lake Braddock. The Braddock team had a player named Mia Hamm, now considered to be one of the best female soccer players in the land. After going on to play on the U.S. national team, Hamm is now a member of the University of North Carolina women's soccer team. Hamm had three one-on-one confrontations with Gardner in the game, and Gardner stopped her every time. The crowd appreciated Gardner's efforts so much that they gave her a standing ovation.

Several colleges were interested in Gardner — American University, George Mason, and Maryland, just to name a few. Out of a blue sky with gold trimmings came North Carolina Wesleyan College Lady Soccer Coach Patrick Baker with a soccer ball in one hand and a list of values in the other. After talking with Baker, Gardner and her family knew that Wesleyan was the place for her.

"We've never regretted it," her mother, Sue, said.

With patience and hard work, Gardner's transition from high school to college was smooth. In her first year playing between the sticks for the battling Bishops, she collected two shut-outs and started 16 of 19 games — on her

way to being named to the All-Dixie Conference first team.

In her sophomore year, Gardner set a single season record for shut-outs with nine. In the following year, 1992, she broke that by collecting 11 shut-outs. When teammates were asked to comment on Gardner's ability in the net, their consensus was: she's simply wonderful, plus.

"Awesome. She's the best I have played with in my five years at NCWC," said Kate Mangrum.

"Great. She never gives up in a game," said Kari Zoekler.

To whom does Gardner attribute the honor of her success in front of the net? Her teammates. "I'm proud that my teammates have confidence in me as a goalkeeper," she said. "Their confidence helps me to trust in myself and my abilities.

"We all care about each other," she said. "My accomplishments on the field should be attributed equally to everyone on our team."

Off the field, for someone who has such skill at the goal, she is very accident prone. It is said that sometimes Gardner has the clumsiness of Mr. Magoo — never intentionally careless but always having accidents. At age 10, she went from 5'4" to 5'8" which might have accounted for her earlier clumsiness.

"I felt sorry for her," her mother laughed. "I hope Jennifer does not find out I said this."

Last year, just two days before the conference championship game and a week before the NCAA soccer tournament, Gardner broke a bone in her foot. How? She just stepped off a curb.

Gardner has dedicated this season to winning the conference championship — not only going to the NCAA but also reaching the final four of the tournament.

Part of Gardner's goal has come true. The Lady Bishops have won their conference, and they have kicked their way into the NCAA tourney with the number one ranking in the region, sporting a 11-2-3 record overall with 2-0-1 in the conference. Gardner is on her way to winning her first All-American award.

Bobby Betts, goal keeper for the NCWC men's soccer team, had this advice for Mr. Magoo's twin prior to the tournament.

"Please stay in your room," he said. "Don't leave for anything. We will pass your food to you under the door."



LADY BISHOPS' SOCCER TEAM IS NOW RANKED FIFTH IN NATION, FIRST IN REGION.

Lady Bishops win two more

By GWEN PACHARIS

The women's soccer team added two wins to their record this past weekend, bringing their record to 11-2-2 and giving them a number one ranking in the region and a ranking of fifth nationally.

The Lady Bishops' first game

last weekend was a 4-1 win over Marymount University. Senior midfielder Kate Mangrum scored 25 minutes into the game on an assist by junior midfielder Julie Duerler. This was the only goal by the Bishops in the first half.

In the second half, sophomore forward Chris Webb had a hat trick, and sophomore midfielder

Heather Kobrist tallied all three assists.

"We played with a lot of emotion and determination," said head coach Patrick Baker. "Kathleen DeFreitas played exceptionally well at stopper and the combination of Webb/Zobrist produced some nice goals."

On Sunday, the Lady Bishops' defense recorded its 11th shutout of 1992 with a 9-0 win over High Point College. Chris Webb, Kate Mangrum, Jenny Meagher, Julie Duerler, Kerri Makar, Christina McShain, Amy Tolley, and Nene Danieu all had goals against High Point and senior midfielder Debbie Wade was the only player to score twice.

"I was glad to see everyone get involved in the scoring," said coach Baker. "We scored seven quality goals which will help our confidence in being able to finish in the offensive third."

The team later played Methodist College to win the Dixie Conference championship and received a bid to the NCAA tournament only to lose Wednesday, 1-0, in the opening round.

Men's team loses two in tough play

The men's soccer team had a busy week as they played three games in five days, losing two.

N.C. Wesleyan started off by hosting Dixie Conference foe Ferrum College, losing a heartbreaker, 1-0, in overtime. The team then traveled to Atlanta, Ga., to play in the Oglethorpe Union Jack Tournament and came away with a win and a loss.

Behind a three-goal performance by sophomore forward Chad Garbrandt and single goal by freshman defender Eric Minetti, the Bishops handed Savannah College a 4-1 loss. Freshman midfielder Jake Harper collected three assists and junior midfielder Pat Crouch had one assist in the game.

The Bishops then played Oglethorpe and lost 4-3. Garbrandt scored three more goals, Harper recorded two assists, and senior defender Jeff Walker had one assist in the losing cause.

"It was an extremely disappointing week," said head coach Spencer Smith. "We lost two tough games. The team played well enough to win, but we just couldn't get the break we

needed."

The men played Duke University on Wednesday last week and then closed the season at home on Saturday against Shenandoah.

"Playing Duke will be a great test and thrill for our team," coach Smith said before the game. "We are looking forward to the trip to Durham."

The week left the men's team with a record of 0-5-0 in the Dixie Conference and 5-10-1 overall this season.

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Don't forget the next SNCAE meeting on Nov. 9, at 10:30

a.m. in room 240.

Ken — Babbling about Jonathan, sweet babboo? Lovely sunset.

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Stew, patch the hole in your pants.

Go see "Nun Sense" in the Coltrane Theatre.