

Men's Soccer Has to Beat Injuries, Top Teams to Hold No. 4 Ranking

BY SETH BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina men's soccer team has more problems than your average team ranked fourth in the country.

Problem No. 1: Captain Gregg Berhalter, a senior All-American left UNC two weeks ago to join a Dutch professional team.

"Berhalter leaving prior to graduation has affected (the team) in a way that I could not recruit his position," UNC's head coach Elmar Bolowich said. "In essence then, some of our guys currently on the team or even freshman need to raise their level of play quickly to fill the hole."

Problem No. 2: Sophomore Hector Suarez injured his knee in the preseason and will be lost for the first month of the season.

"Taking (the loss of Berhalter and Hector Suarez) into consideration, I don't think we will be No. 4 in the country, because we don't have our full team together," Bolowich said. "However at the end of the year, I think we can well make it back."

The other major challenge the Tar Heels face is the extreme difficulty of its schedule. In UNC's opening tournament, it plays No. 15 St. Louis and No. 2 Indiana in the MetLife/adidas Classic in Indianapolis. The Tar Heels then open the ACC with No. 6 Clemson Sept. 11 and later play No. 1 Virginia.

"We're going to have to be a team that plays hard all the time," senior captain

Eddie Pope said.

As Florida State's football team proved last year, a tough schedule is not always a bad thing and can allow for some probable losses.

"I think it is one of the toughest schedules in the country," Bolowich said. "But if we want to be eventually No. 1, we have to beat those teams."

UNC will have one advantage it has not had in past years. During the summer, the Tar Heels went to Germany to practice and scrimmage.

"The trip to Germany was a learning experience," junior midfielder Kerry Zavagnin said. "In the first two games of every season, ever since I've been here, we haven't had much success in the early tournament and I think that was due to preparation. Hopefully the Germany trip will help prepare us well for the first two games of the season, because (Germany) was pretty tough."

Last year, the Tar Heels lost to UCLA and Cal State-Fullerton in the opening tournament. They fell to James Madison and Davidson two years ago.

Sophomore Temoc Suarez and senior Ben DiMeo will lead the Tar Heel offense and could provide the goals to break the opening-tournament cycle. Suarez was last year's Rookie of the Year and is an All-American pick this year. He also holds the UNC record for goals scored by a freshman after booting in 16 last year.

"He's certainly an offensive threat," Bolowich said. "However the others will

know about him, and they will mark him very carefully, but he is the caliber player who can handle any type of situation."

Senior Ben DiMeo, a Chapel Hill native, will also provide leadership in the front.

"(DiMeo) seems to be well prepared for his senior year," Bolowich said.

In the midfield, look for the Kerrys (or Carys) and the Suarezes—Zavagnin, freshman Cary Talley, Victor Suarez and, upon recovery, Hector Suarez.

"Kerry should anchor the midfield and be the link between the defense and the offense," Pope said.

Talley joins his homophone from the Under-20 National team and will be primarily a defensive midfielder.

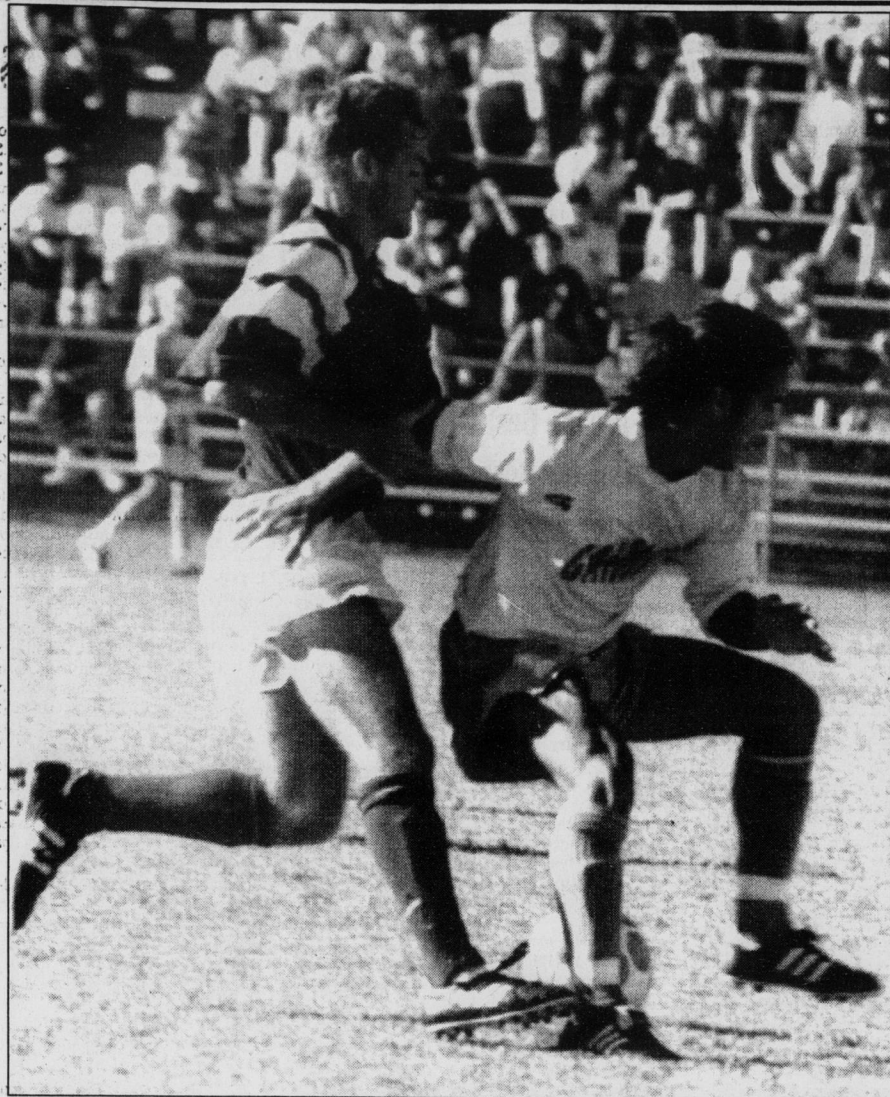
"(Victor and Hector) are two very mobile, knowledgeable midfielders," Bolowich said.

The backfield will be anchored by Pope, who will play sweeper, and fellow senior John Armstrong, who will play marking back.

"We're looking for a leader (in Pope), not so much verbally but leading by example on the field," Zavagnin said. "He's not a loud person, he usually leads by example — ever since his freshman year. This year should be no different."

If Pope sets a good example, he and his teammates could give UNC fans something to shout about.

"When we run at full strength, we will be one of the better teams (in UNC history) playing-wise," Bolowich said.



DTH FILE PHOTO

Much of North Carolina's soccer fate in 1994 will depend on Hector Suarez (above) and his brothers, Temoc and Victor. Hector will miss the first month of the season with a knee injury.

Calvin and Hobbes

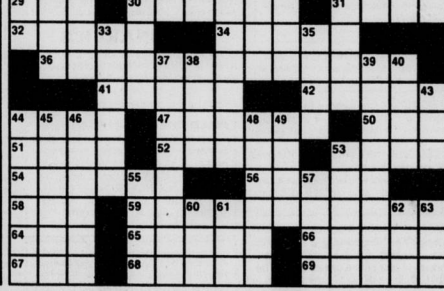


THE Daily Crossword by James Barrick

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- ACROSS
- 1 White House name
- 6 Liquor container
- 11 Certain gift
- 14 From the beginning
- 15 Frenchman's income
- 16 Pother
- 17 Progress somewhat
- 19 UN arm
- 20 Root used in perfume
- 21 Picture case
- 23 Colorless
- 25 Angle type
- 28 — and now
- 29 One of fifty: abbr.
- 30 Broccoli part
- 31 Son of Zeus
- 32 Man in a cage
- 34 One of the Bows
- 36 Use wisely
- 41 Wharton character
- 42 Implied
- 44 — Domini
- 47 Certain artist's forte
- 50 Word in a palindrome
- 51 Stead
- 52 Design

- 33 Get with trouble
- 35 Bone: pref.
- 37 Jason's birthplace
- 38 Old form of "have"
- 39 Large quantity
- 40 Company
- 43 Mark in curling
- 44 Wool-bearer
- 45 Pellagra cure
- 46 Embedded
- 48 Winged
- 49 Foot: pref.
- 53 "— Jacques"
- 55 Servant
- 57 Sharif
- 60 Untanned hide
- 61 Palindromic name
- 62 Sash
- 63 Paper



DOWN

- 1 Show-off
- 2 Att.'s org.
- 3 Honshu seaport
- 4 Without exception
- 5 Fly
- 6 Certain painting
- 7 Dawson of football
- 8 Kelep
- 9 Dirk's kin
- 10 Game of chance
- 11 Staring one
- 12 Cling
- 13 Arcturus' constellation
- 18 Panel item
- 22 Magna —
- 23 Rearward
- 24 Knock
- 26 Importance
- 27 Sports group
- 30 Guitar part

Once a Bastion of Football Powers, The SWC Will Soon Break Into Pieces

BY CHAD AUSTIN
ASSISTANT SPORTSATURDAY EDITOR

When the 1996 college football season rolls around, go ahead and pencil in the Houston Cougars to win the Southwest Conference championship.

That's right. Houston, which shared its last conference title with SMU in 1984, will undoubtedly wear the league crown in '96... unless it competes as an independent.

The Cougars' league, the Southwest Conference, is dying. Actually it's dead.

In 1996, league members Rice, SMU and TCU will merge with the Western Athletic Conference to form a league with 16 members. Baylor, Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech will add four schools to the Big Eight, making it the Big 12.

That leaves Houston as the only SWC school to uphold the league's proud tradition, which spans 80 years.

In the late '30s, SMU, TCU and Texas A&M were all national champions. The Texas Longhorns won national crowns in 1963 and 1969. In 1970 they shared the title with Nebraska.

The SWC, sporting its Texas brand of smash-mouth football, also has produced legendary players such as Earl Campbell and Mike Singletary.

"I think it's tragic," said Fred Jacoby, who served as conference commissioner for 11 years before retiring last year. "We've been together 80 years, and on June 30, 1996, the league will end after 82 years. That's a long time."

We know where the league is going — to the Big Eight and the WAC. But why? "It came about because of our good friend television," said Frank Windeger,

athletic director at TCU.

In 1981, the University of Georgia and the University of Oklahoma filed an anti-trust suit against the NCAA. At the time, the NCAA owned the rights to all of its member schools' television contracts.

The Supreme Court ruled for Georgia and Oklahoma with a 7-2 decision in 1984. The NCAA then had to void about \$140 million in television contracts with ABC and CBS, leaving schools and conferences free to work out their own deals.

Conferences around the country looked at expanding their memberships to bring better schools — and more TV dollars — into their leagues.

The Big Ten added powerhouse Penn State. The Southeastern Conference added two teams, divided into two divisions and brought in roughly \$8 million on a single championship game. Even the ACC, where football was once just something to do before basketball, beefed up its football and its wallet by bringing in Florida State.

Then there's Notre Dame, an independent, which inked its own five-year, \$35 million television contract with NBC. The Fighting Irish have since joined the Big East, but only under the condition that football remain independent.

"It's purely a financial matter in my judgement," Jacoby said. "It used to be what was best for conferences. Now it seems to be 'what is the best for me' without regard for fellow institutions."

While other leagues jockeyed for teams, the Southwest Conference did nothing to expand itself. It looks like that was costly.

When the four SWC teams moved to the Big Eight, ABC Sports and Liberty Sports, Inc., reached an agreement believed to worth about \$100 million over five years.

The deal is expected to be the most lucrative in the history of college football.

The tube also hurt the SWC in recruiting. With over 1,000 high schools playing football in Texas, Texans have long boasted of having the nation's best prep players.

But with the Floridas, Notre Dames and Penn States appearing almost weekly on television, many of the state's top stars went elsewhere to play their college ball.

"I think the jet airplane and television have caused more national recruiting," Jacoby said. "Before that recruiting was more regional."

Even without television's influence, SWC teams found it difficult to keep talent in-state. With eight schools in the same state and the same league vying for the same players, problems arose.

Recruiting scandals rocked the league in the 1980s. The violations were so severe at SMU that the school received the death penalty in the 1987 and 1988 seasons.

And to make matters worse, Arkansas left the conference to join the SEC in 1990. That left the colleges in Texas competing with pro markets Dallas and Houston.

"The pro influence is devastating," Jacoby said. "People have only two things — time and money. The question is where are they going to spend it?"

"People don't have enough time to go to a college event on Saturday and a pro event on Sunday."

So on that fateful Saturday in the fall of 1995 when the last SWC league game is played, the first obituary for a major college conference will read:

The Southwest Conference, 82, died Saturday on a football field in Texas. Surviving are the University of Houston Cougars.

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Mon. Sept. 5 - Evening service - 7:15 pm
Tues. Sept. 6 - Morning service - 9 am
Shofar blowing - 12 pm

Yom Kippur
Wed. Sept. 14 - Kol Nidre - 6:45 pm
Thurs. Sept. 15 - Morning service - 9 am

Liberal Services at Carolina Union, Rooms 205-206

Rosh Hashanah (Rosenau School of Public Health Aud.)
Mon. Sept. 5 - Evening service - 7:15 pm
Tues. Sept. 6 - Morning & Torah service - 10 am
Shofar Blowing - 11:30 am

Yom Kippur
Wed. Sept. 14 - Kol Nidre - 6:45 pm
Thurs. Sept. 15 - Morning & Torah service - 9 am
Break-the-Fast Social - 7:45 pm

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