

Hut's era comes to close at Fetzer

BY JOHN SWEENEY
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Ever since its inception in 1979, North Carolina's women's soccer program has been housed in the Hut, a tiny, somewhat decrepit, gray stone building that sits inconspicuously near the corner of Fetzer Field.

The structure, built in 1936, is not exactly what you would expect for a team that has won 12 NCAA tournament championships and seven ACC tournament championships, produced more than 30 All-America selections and seven national players of the year — four of whom won the award two times each. But UNC coach Anson Dorrance

wouldn't have it any other way.

"If you look at the hut, it's not the most impressive building," Dorrance said Saturday after the Tar Heels beat Florida 9-0 to advance to the final four for the 15th consecutive year. "But if you look at the evolution of our program and of women's soccer, we sort of came from nowhere as well."



UNC coach ANSON DORRANCE said his program "sort of came from nowhere."

but women's soccer — and UNC — has arrived in the United States. Just take a look at the crowds for this year's Olympic games in Atlanta, where women's soccer was one of the biggest draws and the U.S. team that featured seven current and former UNC players won the gold. Or look at the crowd at Saturday's game: 1,023 fans braved near-freezing temperatures and rain to see the Tar Heels play.

With that in mind, athletic department officials are investing in a new facility for the men's and women's soccer teams, meaning the Hut has to go. Consequently, Saturday's game marked the last time the team would meet for its pregame discussion in its old home.

"This was our final christening of the Hut, since it will be demolished after the season," Dorrance said. "There was a lot of nostalgia involved in this game, and it was important to me personally."

Many of the Tar Heel players felt the same way.

"It was our last day in the Hut, and I

know that's a special thing, since it's been around forever," senior midfielder Sarah Dacey said.

The Hut has housed many former collegiate stars, including Janet Rayfield, Kristine Lilly and Mia Hamm. These players have come and gone, but their legacy still fills the old building.

"I think (the Hut) also reflects the temperament of the players we have here," Dorrance said. "We've had some extraordinary players come through here. We have some extraordinary players now and, if you've talked to them, you know they're a very humble collection of women."

But if the Hut is symbolic of the program's past, then Dorrance's description of the new building should have opponents even more frightened about the future.

"(The new facility) will be the ultimate soccer building in the country," he said. "It'll rival a lot of football programs even in terms of its grandness."

Brown nabs ACC honor; Bly named to Camp team

STAFF REPORT

As football season nears its end, the awards keep piling in for 13th-ranked North Carolina.

First, a group of sports writers and broadcasters tabbed UNC coach Mack Brown the ACC Coach of the Year on Tuesday. Then on Saturday, Tar Heel freshman cornerback Dre' Bly was named a first-team All-American by the Walter Camp Football Foundation. Also, Bly is a finalist for the Jim Thorpe Award, given to the nation's top defensive back.

Other than Bly, no North Carolina freshman has ever nabbed first-team All-America honors. Only one other freshman in ACC history has been named as a first-team All-American.

Bly set a North Carolina and ACC record with 11 interceptions this season, including three picks in a 16-0 win over Georgia Tech on Sept. 21. In the Tar Heels' 20-17 loss at Virginia on Nov. 16, Bly snared a Tim Sherman pass and raced 51 yards for a touchdown.

Brown is the first Tar Heel skipper to garner the coaching award since Dick Crum accomplished the feat in 1980. Two other North Carolina coaches have captured the honor since 1953 — Bill Dooley in 1971 and Jim Hickey in 1963. Brown received 34 of a possible 88

votes, with Clemson coach Tommy West coming in second with 28 votes and Florida State coach Bobby Bowden finishing third with 25. The Atlantic Coast Sports Writers Association voted on the award.

Since 1980, each ACC school has had a coach win the award.

In addition to earning ACC plaudits, Brown was also named as one of 10 semifinalists for the Bear Bryant Award, given annually to the nation's top college football coach.

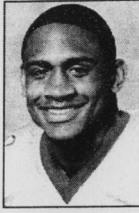
This season, the Tar Heels went 9-2 in the regular season and took second place in the conference with a 5-2 mark. Among North Carolina's nine wins are victories over Syracuse (27-10) and Clemson (45-0). The Tar Heels rose as high as sixth in the Associated Press Top 25 before losing to the Cavaliers.

And for the fifth straight season, the Tar Heels will play in a bowl game. This year, UNC will head to Jacksonville, Fla., to play in the Gator Bowl on New Year's Day.

Brown is in his ninth year at the Tar Heel helm, having compiled a 58-45-1 record at UNC. His overall mark stands at 75-73-1.

In other voting, Virginia tailback Tiki Barber edged Florida State defensive end Peter Boulware for ACC Player of the Year. North Carolina quarterback Chris Keldorf was third in balloting for Offensive Player of the Year.

Keldorf smashed the UNC record for touchdown passes in a season, totalling 23 before his season ended with a fractured and dislocated ankle at Duke on Nov. 23.



UNC defensive back DRE' BLY is the first Tar Heel freshman to garner first-team All-America honors.

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