

North Carolina Faces Battle With No. 1 Santa Clara

By WILL KIMMEY
Assistant Sports Editor

Finesse versus power. It's the ultimate battle of polar opposites.

As played out on the soccer field, round one went to the power when Penn State out-muscled and out-hustled the North Carolina women's team in a 3-2 Nittany Lion victory Sept. 12.

Today, the bell sounds to start round two as UNC (6-1) squares off against top-ranked Santa Clara at the Duke adidas Invitational at 5:30 p.m. in Durham.

The Broncos most likely will attempt to reprise the role of the intimidator, after PSU and Florida have played so well in handing No. 3 UNC its last two defeats.

"You can lose but you can't be defeated, and that's what we were against Penn State," UNC's All-American midfielder Lorrie Fair said. "We literally said, 'Oh, you look big, take the ball and run me over.'"

"A bigger team isn't going to intimidate us. We need to be the intimidator."

Intimidating Santa Clara might prove to be a difficult task. The Broncos have posted an 8-0 record while allowing only three goals. Opponents are averaging less than five shots per game against the stingy defense.

Junior goalkeeper Crystal Gordon, who led the nation with a 0.16 goals against average a year ago, anchors the back line is sired up by All-American Danielle Slaton and Kylie Bivens.

"The Santa Clara defense is outstanding," UNC coach Anson Dorrance said.

"They've got one of the best back lines in the college game. But we also have a good front line. It's going to be a great war between their back line and our front line."

UNC's front line will have to step up to combat the loss of talented freshman Susan Bush. She will not play after injuring her knee in practice Thursday.

This might give Santa Clara, which boasts a high scoring forward tandem of All-American Mandy Clemens and Jacqui Little, an offensive edge. In three years of playing together, Clemens and Little have combined for 85 goals and 71 assists.



Tar Heel senior Lorrie Fair has never lost to the Broncos during her previous three seasons at UNC.

"We know (Clemens and Little) are good players, we've played against them for years," said Dorrance. "We have a huge respect for their talent. Hopefully, it will cause our players to focus and concentrate on playing their best."

Aside from playing tight defense and making precision passes, expect the Tar Heels to play with a lot of emotion.

"I think we just need to go into the game with a lot of heart," UNC All-American defender Lindsay Stoecker said. "We really need to get pumped up for the game and have a lot of passion for playing."

Dorrance and almost every UNC player agreed the reason for the loss to Penn State had more to do with the Tar Heels not being mentally prepared than getting out-muscled.

Fair said the Tar Heels would be excited and ready to play against Santa Clara. She cited UNC's overtime win against Notre Dame as an example.

"It's going to be exciting end-to-end," the senior said. "It's going to be a 100 mile-per-hour game, the same thing as with Notre Dame game."

"You can bet that it's going to be a great game. I'm excited to play."

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Broncos' Success Creates Rivalry With UNC

By BRET STRELOW
Assistant Sports Editor

With the dominance of the North Carolina women's soccer program, the team has not had a true rival to trade wins and losses with.

Hence, UNC had to look for other qualifications for a rival, such as a team that simply plays them close.

No. 1 Santa Clara is the closest thing to that description.

"If you look at all the games, none of them are 6-0," Tar Heel senior Lorrie Fair said. "It's games like 3-2."

It's worth noting that UNC is 13-0 all-time against the Broncos.

So much for a level playing field.

"The one constant for the last 20 years is we are the national rival for whatever great team is out there," UNC coach Anson Dorrance said. "Whoever happens to be at the peak of their performance during that block, we adopt as a rival."

The Tar Heels have won 15 out of the last 18 national championships, while Santa Clara has finished in the top 10 each of the last 10 seasons.

Dorrance said the success of the two schools alone pitted them as rivals.

"Even though we've done really well against Santa Clara, I consider them a rival," Dorrance said.

When you consider that many of the top high school players each year come out of California, it is natural that Dorrance and the Broncos' coach Jerry Smith have crossed recruiting paths a few times.

Four players on Dorrance's roster this season hail from the Golden State, including Jenni Branam, Fair, Nancy Hackett and Kim Patrick.

"Every California player we've gotten we've banged heads with Santa Clara," Dorrance said. "The most recent one, Kim Patrick, was under a lot of pressure to attend Santa Clara."

Getting recruits such as Patrick has been integral to UNC's success.

That success has served as inspiration for the Broncos.

"People use us as a measuring stick," Dorrance said. "In the Santa Clara brochure they basically talk about us



UNC freshman Kim Patrick was heavily recruited by both North Carolina and Santa Clara.

being their four-minute mile barrier."

Up to this point, Santa Clara hasn't beaten the stopwatch. Three out of the last four years, UNC has knocked the Broncos out of the NCAA Tournament.

Nonetheless, North Carolina midfielder Rebekah McDowell said Santa Clara won't be hanging their heads when the two teams meet Friday.

"They'll probably be pretty confident," McDowell said. "I'm not saying overconfident, but they'll probably be pretty confident with their seeding."

If Santa Clara does prevail, Dorrance can look no farther than his own shadow as to why the Broncos have finally gotten over the hump.

The phenomenal history of his program has forced other programs such as Santa Clara to raise their level of play, which Dorrance said they had done.

"I think we have set a standard for the American game that's very high, and we keep elevating it," Dorrance said. "We've been a part of Santa Clara's improvement, like we have for the whole college game."

With college teams rapidly improving across the country, maybe the Tar Heels will finally have a genuine rival in years to come.

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Tar Heels Beat Spartans; Cavaliers Provide Next Test

Staff Report

The North Carolina men's soccer team will enter Saturday's game against Virginia riding the high of a five-game winning streak.

UNC's most recent win came Wednesday night against UNC-Greensboro. The Tar Heels handed UNC-G a 3-0 loss, marking the first time the Spartans (4-4) have been shut out in 43 games.

Tar Heel midfielder C.J. Steffen opened the scoring at 12:52 with a bullet into the upper right corner from 18 yards out.

Teammate Chris Carrieri gave North Carolina a 2-0 lead three and one-half minutes later. He took a pass from Michael Bucy and beat UNC-G keeper Nathan Kipp to the short side.

Defender Daniel Jackson finished off the scoring for the Tar Heels at 88:08 with a goal from 25 yards out.

UNC outshot the Spartans 9-3 for the game. The win gave the Tar Heels their best start since opening the 1995 season with the same 6-1 mark, including a 1-0 ACC record, good enough for a No. 12 ranking by the NSCAA.

Virginia (4-2-1, 0-1-1 in the ACC), ranked No. 16, had its share of success recently against North Carolina.

The Cavaliers have won 20 out of the last 23 games played between the two teams.

Last season, Virginia beat UNC 2-0 at Fetzer Field. The game was scoreless at halftime, but the Cavaliers scored two goals in the first 14 minutes of the second half to win.

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