

DTH/LAURA GIOVANELLI

Freshman Jen Schirner reaches for the ball against East Tennessee State's Rachel Shifflet. Schirner had 43 of UNC's 44 assists against ETSU.

VOLLEYBALL
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communicating well, especially since we were playing at game speed."

There were times, however, that the Tar Heels reminded everyone that they were playing in their first tournament of the year.

UNC fell into sloppy and unfocused play on occasion, and it was only at these moments that opponents made headway on the Carmichael Auditorium scoreboard.

"We had some lapses," Sagula said. "We had some big-time miscommunication. But I am very proud of how our team responded and battled back."

The second game of the Pittsburgh match served as an example of the Tar Heels' inconsistency.

The Tar Heels jumped out to an early 9-1 advantage in that game and were seemingly in control of the under-matched Panthers. Pittsburgh, however, began to rally when UNC lost focus, slowly turning the game into a close one.

The Panthers eventually brought the tally to 14-14, but Reis and Underwood hammered home a kill apiece to clinch the victory. North Carolina swept Pittsburgh 3-0.

The Tar Heels followed a similar pattern in all of their Fall Preview games, setting the stage for tight matches in the other contests.

The outcome remained positive for the Tar Heels, nonetheless, as they disposed of Coastal Carolina 3-0 (15-3, 16-14, 15-6), East Tennessee State 3-0 (15-12, 15-4, 15-0) and Hofstra 3-1 (15-11, 15-13, 10-15, 15-13).

The Sports Editor can be reached at sports@unc.edu.

Offense Shows Great Potential

By JAMES GIZA
Assistant Sports Editor

After watching his team wrap up a 6-1 win against No. 12 Virginia on Friday, North Carolina women's soccer coach Anson Dorrance found room for improvement.

He talked about UNC's potential up top as well as the team's need to improve its defense in the middle of the midfield, a problem he hopes will be solved by shifting players around.

But even he couldn't help but notice the irony in his criticism.

"It's kind of interesting - here we are lamenting the performance of our team, and yet in three games we've scored 19 goals," Dorrance said. "I mean, this is like violins playing in the background. How could we be complaining?"

They really can't. And the thing is, it's only going to get harder to do so.

That's because - despite the fact that the Tar Heels have now scored 25 goals in four games after Sunday's 6-1 win against Tennessee - the offense could potentially get better.

"This may be the most dynamic offensive team in recent history," UNC assistant coach Bill Palladino said. "It's comparable to the '92 team of (Kristine

Lilly, (Mia) Hamm, (Rita) Tower and (Tisha) Venturini. With all the tools we have up top, I think we're just as dynamic, maybe even more so."

The offense was far from perfect this weekend. Open shots didn't find the back of the net in both games; three shots hit iron against Tennessee. But those imperfections are correctable.

Forwards Alyssa Ramsey (three goals, three assists on the weekend), Meredith Florence (two goals, two assists), Susan Bush (two goals, one assist) and midfielder Anne Remy (one goal, one assist) form an imposing starting unit.

And, as always, the Tar Heels boast strong depth. Sophomore Kim Patrick came off the bench in both games and scored three goals.

"I think that it's definitely good to know that whoever's in or on the bench, that when they come in, they can step it up," Patrick said. "I'm one of those peo-



UNC senior forward Meredith Florence scored two goals and tallied two assists in weekend wins against Virginia and Tennessee.

ple. I'm not starting right now. It's good to come in and have the other forwards help you. We all work well up top, and it's good to have that."

It would also be good for UNC to have All-American midfielder Laurie Schwoy back on the field. Schwoy is still suffering from a congenital hamstring injury that sidelined her all of last year.

Dorrance said before the season that he was hoping Schwoy, a fifth-year senior, would rejoin the team in September. While he has shied away from setting a definite timetable, UNC would definitely welcome her back with open arms at any point this season.

Her return to attacking midfield would allow the Tar Heels to move Jena Kluegel, who totaled five assists this weekend, back to the wing and make the offense even more formidable.

"We want her back, but we're not going to play her because she's got a great future in this game," Dorrance said. "When she's healthy, we'll throw her out there. Until then, we want her to keep healing."

Until then, the Tar Heel offense will keep rolling.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER
From Page 14

games by an average of five goals.

"It is a concern," UNC assistant coach Bill Palladino said. "The problem is twofold: It's early in the season, and we're also very inexperienced in a lot of positions. We're just struggling to find that leadership quality in a young team like this. It's just a matter of experience before we start to rectify some of those problems."

Palladino fielded questions because head coach Anson Dorrance, after coaching Sunday in his 500th career game, left for the airport to drop off a potential recruit.

Patrick's goal opened the floodgate for the Tar Heels, who have outscored their opponents 21-1 in the second half this season.

In the 78th minute, Kluegel crossed to freshman Alyssa Ramsey. Ramsey had time to settle the ball near the goal mouth, dance around a defender and side the ball past Dean.

Ramsey, the ACC player of the

week, scored her second goal of the game just a minute later, racing past the Tennessee defense and converting from a tight angle. The Tar Heels' third goal in two minutes came from Patrick, her second of the day.

In addition to UNC's pair of two-goal scorers, Kluegel finished with four assists. For the game, the Tar Heels outshot the Lady Vols 32-10 overall and 23-3 in the second half.

"In the second half, we just wear teams down. We are relentless," Palladino said. "You can almost watch teams beginning to wilt as we just keep pounding and pounding."

"In the first half, they can hang with us. In the second, they just can't stay. The physical strength and fitness of our team is overwhelming."

UNC used a similar five-goal second-half outburst to put No. 12 Virginia away 6-1 on Friday.

UNC's varied offense - 10 players have notched goals in the season's first four games - has taken the pressure off a young defense.

Friday's game marked the first time since 1997 that the Tar Heels had not

outshot their opponent. Branam was tested often, finishing the game with a career-high seven saves.

"We're just new; we haven't played together before," Borgman said. "This is our first season together, and each game's getting better and better."

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WOMEN'S SOCCER
UNC 6, Tennessee 1

| | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| Tennessee | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| UNC | 1 | 5 | 6 |

Goals: Tennessee - LaDumb 39:44 UNC - Patrick (Kluegel) 41:2; Bush (Kluegel, Florence) 48:56; Florence 53:28; Ramsey (Kluegel, Florence) 77:26; Ramsey 78:27; Patrick (Kluegel) 78:56
Shots: Tennessee - 10 UNC - 32. Saves: Tennessee - Dean 7 UNC - Branam 5. Corner kicks: Tennessee - 2 UNC - 9
Attendance: 2,720

WOMEN'S SOCCER
UNC 6, Virginia 1

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|
| Virginia | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| UNC | 1 | 5 | 6 |

Goals: Virginia - Lane 54:01 UNC - Gaston (Ramsey, Kamholz) 3:32; Remy (Bush, Kluegel) 48:26; Florence (Ramsey) 80:21; Bush (Ramsey) 78:54; Ramsey 80:29; Patrick (Remy) 87:05
Shots: Virginia - 16 UNC - 18. Saves: Virginia - Clugston 4. Corner kicks: Virginia - 1 UNC - 5 UNC - Branam 7
Attendance: 3,628

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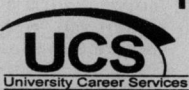


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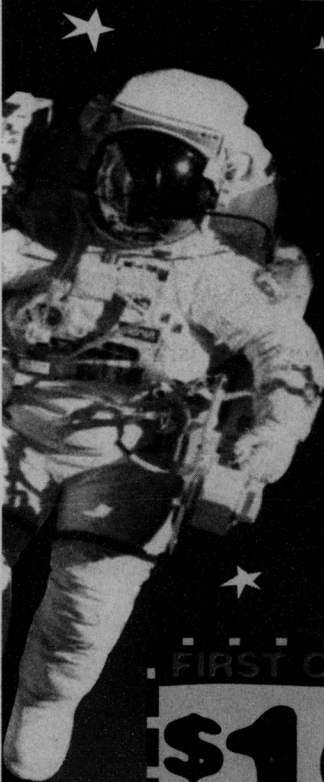
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