### DTH SportSaturday

**Michael Bucy** 

Saturday, October 21, 2000

# **Bucy Volunteers Services Beyond UNC Soccer Field**

Midfielder Michael Bucy ranks third on the men's soccer team in points with five goals and seven assists.

#### BY IAN GORDON

STAFF WRITER

It seems Michael Bucy has been reliving his high school days for the last several years.

The North Carolina soccer player has brought the Dance Marathon – a service project that he and his buddies at Sanderson High in Raleigh invented – to the University. Bucy has continued the excellence

in the classroom for which he was granted a Morehead Scholarship; Bucy has been named an Academic All-American twice.

Oddly enough, even his collegiate soccer career has started to resemble that from his high school days when he played at Sanderson with current teammate Caleb Norkus.

"We came into our high school career and our coach, in 20 years, had lost like 20 games - 12 of them were our freshman year," Bucy said. "Gradually we got better, and by our senior year won the state championship

UNC, likewise, was 6-13 in Bucy's first year, the worst season in school history. In 1998, the Tar Heels were 11-6-2, and last year the squad recorded 12 victories en route to its first

NCAA tournament appearance since 1994

This season, Bucy's team is 13-2 tied for the best start in school histo-

ry - and No. 3 in the country. There's the gradual improvement. Now, all Bucy needs is a championship. The senior midfielder has been a key to the Tar Heels' success this season,

netting five goals and tallying seven assists, good for third on the team. But Bucy's exploits stray far from the soccer field, just as they did when he was in bird school. he was in high school. "He got great grades, was real

social,"

has

active in student "I think what he does is council and was real prioritize very well. He makes Norkus said. "Not sure he gets things accomplished much changed." and gets accomplished well." And that's a

#### ELMAR BOLOWICH UNC men's soccer coach

good thing for the North Carolina Children's Hospital in Chapel Hill. More than \$110,000 has been donated to the hospital by the Dance Marathon in the two years that it has been held at UNC, according to

the event's Web site. Bucy's involvement with the Dance Marathon started with volunteer work at the Children's Hospital. "When you go to the Children's

Hospital, you see the opportunity you have to make a difference, because you see the pain that they are hav-ing," Bucy said. "Not so much in the children, but in the parents.

"And you want to do something to relieve that pain, you want to lend out a hand and say, 'Hey, I'm going to help you out a little bit."

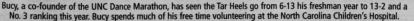
Bucy continues to reach out that helping hand despite his difficult workload. He credits his friends who are active in organizing campus activities ranging from the White Ribbon Campaign to UNC club squash - for keeping him relaxed and excited about the organizations in which he's involved.

"I think what he does is he priori-tizes very well," Tar Heel coach Elmar Bolowich said. "He makes sure that things get accomplished and get accomplished well. I don't think he's going to do something that he's not fully committed to."

Regardless of how UNC ends the season, Bucy will be remembered as much for what he brought to the university community as for what he did on Fetzer Field.

'They'll say, 'Hey, that was the guy who was the great soccer player and who ran the school at the same time," Norkus said.

Just like he did back in the day.







Tar Heel midfielder Michael Bucy has 18 goals and 22 assists for his career.

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