

The North Carolina men's soccer squad fell to Indiana 1-0 on Dec. 2 to complete its best year in its history. The loss marked the end of a 15-game winning streak. Forward Chris Carrieri was tapped ACC Player of the Year for the season.



University Dismisses Torbush

Dick Baddour said UNC's football program did not have an atmosphere for success under Carl Torbush.

By T. Nolan Hayes
Sports Editor

NOV. 21 — On Nov. 22, 1999, UNC Director of Athletics Dick Baddour sat in the Bowles Room at Koury Natatorium and announced his support for Carl Torbush as the school's head football coach.

On Monday, 364 days later, Baddour found himself in the same place. This time, however, he was there to announce that Torbush had been fired.

"I have completed a review of the football program, and the decision has been made not to retain Carl Torbush as the head football coach at the University of North Carolina," said Baddour, who sat beside Chancellor James Moeser at a press conference. "This decision is not based on a single game or solely a single season but rather on evaluation over a three-year period."

Moeser is the man ultimately responsible for the decision, but it was Baddour who recommended the change. Baddour made his recommendation after completing his annual evaluation of the football program Sunday. The Tar Heels improved from a 3-8 record last year to finish 6-5 this season and become eligible for a bowl game. But it wasn't enough to save Torbush, who compiled a 17-18 record in three seasons at the helm. UNC never got off to a good start under his leadership, something that disturbed Baddour and fans of the program. The Tar Heels started 0-3 in 1998 before bouncing back to finish 7-5, stood at 1-8 last year before winning their last two games and closed out this season with three victories after being 3-5.

"It seems that the current state of the program seems to rest on a game-by-game, year-by-year, season-by-season situation," Baddour said. "That is not an atmosphere for success or potential success."

The atmosphere of Kenan Stadium on Saturdays also hurt Torbush. The Tar Heels averaged 50,500 fans at home this season, too far below the stadium's capacity of 60,000 for Baddour's liking.

North Carolina went 3-3 at home this year but lost three consecutive ACC games at Kenan Stadium in the middle of the season. The Tar Heels were just 7-10 at home during Torbush's career.

Bunting Chosen to Head Football Program

By T. Nolan Hayes
Sports Editor

DEC. 11 — The search lasted 21 days, but Dick Baddour finally got his man.

Baddour, North Carolina's director of athletics, joined Chancellor James Moeser in introducing John Bunting as the school's new football coach Monday.

The announcement at a 5 p.m. press conference in the Bowles Room signified a homecoming for Bunting, who was a standout linebacker at UNC from 1969-71.

"I owe an awful lot to North Carolina," Bunting said. "It's been 30 years since I've been here. I am really glad to be back, and I want to give something back."

It was that attitude that helped Bunting, linebackers coach for the New Orleans Saints, land the job. Bunting actively pursued the UNC position, which became available when Carl Torbush was fired Nov. 20.

Bunting called Baddour shortly after the job became available to let him know he was interested. Baddour was trying to hire Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer at

the time, but he got in touch with Bunting after Beamer turned him down on Nov. 28.

Baddour did so after receiving calls on Bunting's behalf from Dick Vermeil, whom Bunting served under as an assistant with the St. Louis Rams, and Ron Jaworski, an ESPN analyst who played with Bunting on the Philadelphia Eagles.

When Baddour flew down to New Orleans to interview Bunting, he liked what he heard and set up another interview that Moeser would attend.

Baddour and Moeser were impressed with Bunting's passion for UNC and its football program.

"This is a man who truly loves this University," Moeser said. "This came through, and I can tell you that it was a strong factor in our decision. This is not

just a job for John Bunting."

Instead, it's the life Bunting has always wanted. He wants to be the man to turn around a program — his alma mater's program — that has gone 16-18 in the past three years. He wants to fill up Kenan Stadium, a task that has gone unfulfilled during that span.

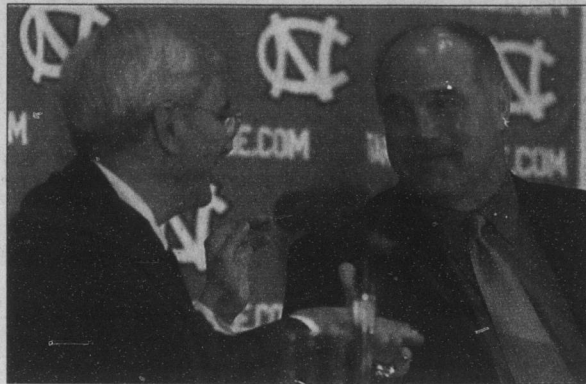
"I took a look through the window from the head coach's suite up there (in the Kenan Football Center), and my blood ran hot," Bunting said. "I got goosebumps. I feel that it is a privilege to run out and go play on that field."

Even though he might be willing to do it, Bunting won't coach at UNC for free. His contract is a five-year deal worth \$160,000 per year, Baddour said. Torbush made \$152,000 per season.

Bunting will have separate contracts with Nike and Learfield Communications in addition to his base salary. He will also benefit from two incentive clauses that will award him a month's salary if he fulfills them, Baddour said. One of the clauses kicks in if the Tar Heels qualify for a bowl game, and the other — yet to be finalized — will be based on how many of his



Chancellor James Moeser said John Bunting's love for UNC was an important factor in his hiring.



Dick Baddour shakes hands with John Bunting, UNC's new football coach. Bunting played linebacker for the Tar Heels from 1969-71.

players graduate.

Bunting's goal is to have balance and flexibility on both sides of the ball. The Tar Heels will resemble their new head coach, who has shown versatility of his own in moving from college football to

the NFL and back, if they can pull it off. And nothing would make Bunting happier.

"This is my dream job, and I want to do the very best that I possibly can," he said. "I will work toward that end."

Forte Leads UNC to Final 4 Berth



North Carolina forward Jason Capel celebrates with teammate Kris Lang following UNC's 59-55 victory against Tulsa. The Tar Heels lost to Florida in the semifinals.

Joseph Forte scored 28 points in UNC's 59-55 victory against Tulsa, earning the Tar Heels their third trip to the NCAA semifinals in four years.

By Brian Murphy
Senior Writer

AUSTIN, Texas, MARCH 28 — Joseph Forte hasn't been a typical freshman basketball player since he arrived on the North Carolina campus.

"I knew the tradition of freshmen, and I didn't want to be like a regular freshman," Forte said. "I wanted to stand out."

On Sunday, Forte stood out all right. He stood out by carrying the Tar Heels past Tulsa 59-55 and into the Final Four with a career-high 28 points. He stood out as the South Regional Most Outstanding Player. Maybe more remarkably, he stood out as a freshman.

The tradition is that UNC freshmen are seen but not heard, and certainly not on the court.

But as the most highly touted member of UNC's freshman class, Forte told his teammates in pickup games that he would average 12 points a game his first season.

"I was saying I'm going to be a factor, I'm going to average this amount of points, I'm going to be a key factor, a go-to guy, just ridiculous stuff," he said.

As for his teammates, they told the cocky new kid to shut up and then voted him to tote around the team's green bag, filled with medical supplies.

So when Forte led all scorers with 31 points in the Blue-White scrimmage and coach Bill Guthridge hardly mentioned him in the postgame press conference, Forte finally took the hint.

"I just got the feeling after that game that freshmen aren't supposed to get this much attention, so I'm going to talk about (point guard) Ed Cota and (center) Brendan Haywood," Forte said.

After Sunday, there is no denying Forte, who exceeded his bold scoring prediction.

With the Tar Heel game plan of pounding the ball down low stymied by Tulsa, which doubled

Haywood every time he touched the ball, it was up to Forte to bail out the offense.

Forte was 10-of-17 from the floor, and that included a 1-of-7 effort from 3-point range. He tied Haywood for the team lead with eight rebounds. He was 7-of-8 from the foul line, the final free throw clinching the game with 4.1 seconds left.

The win was the hardest part. The Golden Hurricane (32-5) did not make UNC's improbable run to its 15th Final Four easy.

The first half featured five ties and six lead changes as the two teams battled for every inch. The play on the post was particularly brutal with four players having at least two fouls.

For the first 10 minutes of the second half it got no easier, as the game stood tied at 41 with 9:01 to play. But UNC (22-13) found a way late in the game.

The Tar Heels reeled off 10 consecutive points, putting Tulsa in its largest hole of the season. After a Haywood dunk with 2:15 left, the lead stood at nine.

Game over, right? Somebody forgot to tell Tulsa, a team making its first-ever Elite Eight appearance. A jumper by Marcus Hill closed the lead to seven.

Forte knocked in two free throws with 26.5 seconds, but Tulsa guard Dante Swanson drained a trey to again close it two.

But Cota knocked in a free throw, and then after a missed Tulsa 3-pointer, it was Forte who came to the line with a chance to end it. Forte, who had been 6-of-6 from the line, missed the first.

"I knew I just needed to hit one," Forte said. He drained the second.

It might have been the biggest shot by a UNC freshman since a skinny kid named Mike Jordan drilled a 17-foot jumper to win the 1982 national title.

Forte said he memorized Jordan's freshman year averages — 13.5 points, 4.4 rebounds — when comparisons between the two became commonplace.

But even though Forte topped Jordan's production as a freshman and still has a chance to match his Final Four heroics, Forte won't make any ridiculous claims when it comes to Mr. Jordan, as he calls him.

"I'm no fool," he said. "I'm not Michael Jordan." For one day at least, Forte played like him.

Tar Heels Capture 16th NCAA Title

By James Giza
Assistant SportSaturday Editor

SAN JOSE, Calif., DEC. 4 — At some level, even if it happens to be buried somewhere deep in his subconscious, the national titles have to start blending together for North Carolina women's soccer coach Anson Dorrance.

Was it 1987, when we went undefeated and won the NCAA championship? No, wait, that was every season from 1986 to 1989. And again from 1991 to 1993. Oh, plus, 1984 and 1997. I always forget those two.

But after the road his team traveled this season, Sunday's 2-1 victory against sixth-seeded UCLA in front of 9,566 at Spartan Stadium should stand out in his mind for years to come.

Playing without an injured Susan Bush, playing with Laurie Schwob available only for spot duty, playing with leading-assist woman Jena Kluegel fighting a right ankle injury and playing with three losses for the first time in 20 years, the fifth-seeded Tar Heels captured their 16th NCAA title in the tournament's 19-year history.

"Every year it becomes more special so that eventually I will have a heart attack up here," Dorrance said. "This was a special win for a lot of different reasons. When there is adversity, you appreciate winning a lot more."

Call them the Cardiac Kids. Call them the Heart-Attack Heroes. Any such moniker for this year's Tar Heels (21-3) would be fitting after

they posted a comeback victory for the third time in four tournament games.

After erasing a one-goal halftime deficit to defeat top-ranked Notre Dame 2-1 in the semifinals on Friday, the Tar Heels came from behind again on Sunday to take the title.

They fell behind 1-0 in the 54th minute after a collision between UNC freshman defender Catherine Reddick and goalkeeper Jenni Branam when they went for a Bruin cross at the top of the 6-yard box. Both players fell to the turf. With the net wide open, Bruin freshman Lindsay Greco collected the loose ball and punched it in.

"I felt bad that I did knock over Branam and kind of hurt her," Reddick said. "I just wanted for us to come back and win."

As the minutes ticked off the clock, shots sailed wide and corner kicks were cleared away by the Bruin defense, the Tar Heels looked likely to repeat their 1-0 loss to Florida in 1998's title match.

Meredith Florance, the tournament's offensive MVP, changed all that.



Freshman defender Catherine Reddick was named defensive MVP for her play in the semifinals of the Women's College Cup.

The senior forward broke free from the top of the Bruins' penalty area, received a pass from Alyssa Ramsey and booted a goal into the top of the net from 10 yards.

"I think everyone on our team takes it upon themselves at some point to beat your defender and to take a physical risk to get into the box," Florance said.

UNC's game-winner came on an own-goal in the 83rd minute. Reddick won possession of the ball from a Bruin defender on the right wing, then served a cross from the upper-right corner of the penalty area into the 6-yard box.

Sandwiched between UNC's Kalli Kamholz and Leslie Gaston was Bruin defender Krista Boling. The ball struck her calf and deflected into the net past scrambling goalkeeper CiCi Peterson.

"(Boling) has carried us the entire year," UCLA coach Jillian Ellis said. "She's our captain, she's a leader. That's just the luck of the draw."

The game was reminiscent of UNC's win Friday against the Fighting Irish. The Tar Heels overcame a first half that Dorrance called "the worst half of soccer we played all year" with second-half goals from Kim Patrick and Jordan Walker to get to their 18th title game.

And there, the Tar Heels ensured that the end of their dynasty wouldn't come on their time.

Said Dorrance, "They never give up and are always confident that they can and will come back to beat any team."

Doherty Returns to UNC For 'Best Job' in Basketball

By Mike Ogle
Summer Sports Editor

JULY 13 — Matt Doherty has two reasons to thank Roy Williams.

First, he said he was grateful for the opportunity Williams gave him as his assistant coach at Kansas for seven years.

Now, he can be thankful that last week Williams turned down what is now Doherty's new job: North Carolina's men's basketball coach.

Doherty, a 38-year-old with one year of head-coaching experience at Notre Dame and 10 as a collegiate assistant, was named the replacement for the retired Bill Guthridge on Tuesday after 12 days of uncertainty and speculation.

"It's a numbing experience," Doherty said. "Kind of surreal. You dream it and wonder if you're going to wake up."

The dream became a reality for Doherty early Tuesday morning when he made up his mind that UNC was the place for him following a telephone conversation with Michael Jordan, his teammate on the 1982 national championship team.

"Michael said, 'you have to do what is best for your family,'" Doherty said.

"Then at the end of the conversation, he said, 'Who knows, if it doesn't work out with you, maybe

they will have to go outside (the North Carolina) family.' Right then, I made my mind up. I wanted to be the head basketball coach at the University of North Carolina."

Doherty, who went 22-15 and finished second in the NIT last season in his lone year at Notre Dame, met with UNC Director of Athletics Dick Baddour and former head coach Dean Smith on Saturday at the Smith Center to discuss the opening. Baddour offered Doherty the job early Tuesday afternoon.

They agreed on a six-year contract that is awaiting final approval from the Board of Trustees. The deal would pay Doherty \$350,000 a season — \$145,000 in base salary, \$180,000 for radio and television and \$25,000 for expenses. No buyout was made for the remaining four years of his contract with Notre Dame.

"This is the best job in all of basketball," Doherty said. "I hope that I can carry on the tradition not only of winning but of the excellence off the court, the tying in of the Carolina family."



Former Tar Heel Matt Doherty led Notre Dame to a 22-15 season before leaving to coach at his alma mater.