

Women's Soccer Learns, Regroups

BY GAVIN OFF
Staff Writer

Henry Ford once said, "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."

If that's the case, then North Carolina women's soccer team hasn't stopped staring at its goal of another national championship since the first practice of the season.

Heading into this weekend's Carolina Nike Classic, the nation's No. 1 team has remained optimistic.

■ Some of the team entered the season out of shape, but at least everyone's healthy.

■ They lost a exhibition game to Nebraska, but it served as an early wake-up call.

■ Two star players could miss five games, but others will get valuable experience.

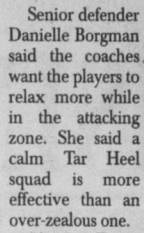
"There's a silver lining in all the clouds," UNC coach Anson Dorrance said.

North Carolina could have been shaken by any of those bumps in the road. Instead, they took what they were given and moved on without hesitation.

Since the rainout of the Texas A&M game Sunday, UNC went back to the basics.

"They're working on their conditioning, with some players participating in the "Breakfast Club," a 7 a.m. Monday through Thursday training routine run by assistant coach Bill Palladino.

The team also spent the last week refining its finishing techniques.



Senior defender Danielle Borgman said the coaches want the players to relax more while in the attacking zone. She said a calm Tar Heel squad is more effective than an over-zealous one.

"Against Texas, we had 21 shots on goal and only one goal," Borgman said. "So that's an obvious concern."

But perhaps a bigger concern is the possibility of losing midfielder and captain Jena Kluegel and defensive star Catherine Reddick for the next 12 days.

Both players are training with the U.S. national team and could be chosen to play with the team, forcing UNC to play its next five games without them.

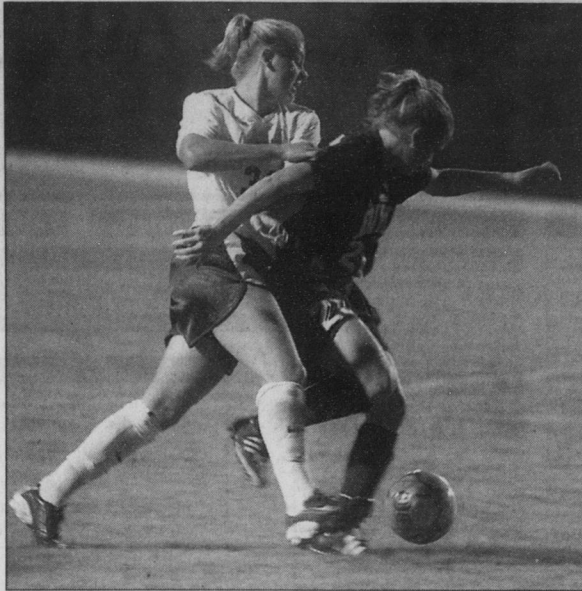
Dorrance said this is an unusual situation for any college team. Ordinarily, the U.S. coaches don't select college players because of the large pool of talent already at their disposal.

"But it's going to help us mature faster," Dorrance said. "We going to have more players getting playing time, which is going to help us later."

Freshman Sara Randolph will take Kluegel's position on the left side while several players, including Susan Bush, Anne Morrell and Alyssa Ramsey, will have to step up the offensive attack.

But Sunday's game against the No. 8

UNC midfielder Jena Kluegel could miss up to 12 days while she trains with the national team.



UNC sophomore forward Alyssa Ramsey (left) is one of the players who will have to make up for the absence of midfielder Jena Kluegel.

Penn State presents a challenge for the UNC defense, too.

The Tar Heels will have to stop All-American Christie Welsh, whom Dorrance said almost beat UNC single-handedly during the last match-up.

"I have to increase my leadership

role without Jena being there," Borgman said. "Penn State beat us on our home field. That's just something we're trying to avenge."

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

Former UNC Tennis Star Selected for Davis Cup

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Former North Carolina men's tennis player Don Johnson was chosen Thursday for the U.S. Davis Cup team, which will play India on Sept. 21-23 in Winston-Salem.

Captain Patrick McEnroe selected doubles specialists Johnson and Jared Palmer, teen-age sensation Andy Roddick and former Harvard All-American James Blake.

Veteran Todd Martin and 18-year-old Robby Ginepri round out the team, and Jim Courier will assist McEnroe as coach.

Johnson and Palmer won the men's doubles title at Wimbledon and have made it to the finals in the U.S. Open in Queens, N.Y. Johnson, a volunteer coach at North Carolina, also captured a Wimbledon mixed doubles title last year.

Roddick and Blake are expected to play singles - their first meaningful Davis Cup matches as the U.S. team makes a transition to a younger roster.

The match will determine whether the Americans stay with the 16-team world group or are relegated to zonal play, which would make them ineligible for the 2002 title.

Sampras Victory Sets TV Record

Pete Sampras' four-set victory against Andre Agassi in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open attracted the largest tennis audience ever for a cable network.

USA Network's coverage of the

Wednesday night match earned a rating of 4.1 with 3,422,000 homes tuned into the telecast. That translates to 4.6 million viewers.

"Certainly a memory I'll never forget," Sampras said. "Quite a powerful evening in many respects."

In the end Sampras' serve was just too good and his composure too cool. When Agassi hit a forehand into the net on match point at 12:14 a.m., Sampras raised his arms in well-earned celebration.

"It always comes down to a couple of points against Andre," Sampras said. "He's an unbelievable player."

Sampras isn't bad, despite recent reports to the contrary. He entered the Open amid questions about retirement with the No. 10 seeding, his lowest since winning the first of his record 13 Grand Slam championships in 1990.

The women's final four Friday sports a stellar cast. The two best players this year, Jennifer Capriati and defending champion Venus Williams, will meet in one semifinal. The other will pair two former champions, 10th-seeded Serena Williams and No. 1 Martina Hingis.



Former UNC netter Don Johnson won the 2001 men's doubles title at Wimbledon with Jared Palmer.

Volleyball Changes Scoring

Collegiate volleyball scoring has changed, as teams can now score points when their opponents are serving.

Staff Report

With its matches often running up to three hours and its rules too confusing for casual fans, collegiate women's volleyball has been given a major facelift.

The most noticeable of the new rule changes brought on by the NCAA and the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports is the switch from side-out volleyball to a rally scoring format.

Matches used to be played best-of-five. The first four games were played to 15, and a team could score only on serve.

Now, the first four games will be played to 30 points, and a point can be won by either team regardless of which team is serving. The fifth and deciding game will remain first to 15, and the victor must win by two points.

UNC assistant coach Kiran Mistry said researchers decided the rules changes would shorten a match to less than two hours, fitting it into a two-hour television slot. He said he hopes the changes will increase the level of competition.

"It's a better game now, because there's more on the line," Mistry said. "You've got to be good, and it really shows who's good and who's inconsistent."

Johnson Sprints Into Australian Sunset

Michael Johnson holds world records in the 200 meters and the 400 dash and runs his last race Friday.

The Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia - Before a race, Michael Johnson thinks of his opponents only briefly.

"Most of the time, I am simply planning, going over some technical checklist," he said. "React, don't wait for the gun. Stay low. Get up around the corner.

I imagine myself becoming leaner and more efficient. For that one moment, I am a machine, perfectly designed and programmed for the task ahead of me. Hard, cold steel."

The image fades after Friday night. That's when the man of steel will run the final race of his illustrious career, anchoring a U.S. 1,600-meter relay team at the Goodwill Games, and then head off to retirement.

Johnson is entering the race with mixed emotions.

"I understand that I will miss the sport because it's been so much a part of my life," he said. "I've been so fortunate

There's no way I could have any regrets. I knew when I made the decision to retire there would be nothing to do as exciting or as challenging in my life. But as an athlete, you have to understand you can't do it forever. Life is bigger than track.

"It's sad not so much because it's going to end, but that the year is going to end because I've had such a great time."

The Goodwill Games are a fitting climax for Johnson.

"The Goodwill Games were my first international competition in Seattle in 1990," he said. "I tried to prove something there and I did."

"This time, it's a farewell. This time,

it's not such a big competition, it's more an emotional thing."

Johnson plans to run his farewell race with the same intensity he has displayed over more than a decade of tough, highly successful international competition.

"I'll be very focused because I'll be wearing a USA uniform for the last time," he said. "That's a big responsibility. When I wear the uniform, I want to represent my country well."

He has represented his country perfectly.

He has won five Olympic medals - all golds. He has won nine World Championships medals - all golds.

In addition, he has set world records in the 200 and 400 meters. He was the first man to win the 200 and 400 at the same Olympics. He is the only man to repeat as Olympic 400 champion.

During his career, Johnson intimidated opponents with his unyielding determination.

"A lot of my opponents are afraid of me because my attitude on the track is that I'm out here to win races, period," he said. "Off the track we have a completely different relationship. But from the time I get onto the track until I cross the finish line, I'm very focused on what I'm doing."

Replacement Officials to Start NFL's First Week

The NFL referees' union remains locked out after rejecting the league's offer of a 60 percent wage raise.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - The NFL referees' union rejected the league's latest contract offer on Thursday, and replacement officials will work at least the opening weekend of the regular season.

The league said Tom Condon, head of the NFL Referees' Association, left a telephone message saying the union's board unanimously rejected the offer presented the previous day.

Condon also informed Jeff Pash, the league's lead negotiator, of the vote in a

letter.

"We are disappointed but we are ready to go with our new officials," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Aiello said the league would publicly address issues involved in the dispute later in the day, including how long the replacements might be on the job. They have been guaranteed four games at \$2,000 per week, which including last week's exhibitions would take them through the third week of the regular season.

But the decision by the four-member

union board means the NFL will start its season Sunday with the first on-field labor dispute in the 12-year tenure of commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

The league upped its offer to the locked-out officials Wednesday, from a 40 percent raise in the first year of its contract to a 60 percent raise, and gave them 24 hours to respond.

Condon, the negotiator for the officials, conducted a conference call with the board - Ed Hochuli, Bill Carroll, Jeff Bergman and Ben Montgomery.

Condon was unavailable for com-

ment. He did not immediately return telephone messages left by The Associated Press.

Aside from the 60 percent increase, the rest of the package remains the same, with officials' salaries doubled by 2003.

Even the new offer was far below what the union has demanded - the two sides are 50 to 75 percent apart in the salary package.

The officials, who are part-timers, are seeking close to the annual salary made by officials in the other three major team sports. The NFL counters that it pays more per game than any of the three - its 16 game season is far shorter than the 80 to 162 games in the others.

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W. Michigan vs. Va. Tech
Illinois vs. Northern Illinois
Ohio State vs. Akron
Iowa vs. Miami (O)

1:30 Pittsburgh vs. So. Florida
2:30 Alabama vs. Vanderbilt
3:30 Michigan vs. Washington
Ole Miss vs. Auburn

5:30 Florida State vs. UAB
6:00 USC vs. Kansas State
7:00 Marshall vs. UMass
7:45 Georgia vs. South Carolina
8:00 Notre Dame vs. Nebraska
8:30 UCLA vs. Kansas
9:00 Tennessee vs. Arkansas
10:00 Boston College vs. Stanford

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