

Men's Soccer Battles Unknown for Cup Bid

By IAN GORDON
Assistant Sports Editor

Maybe it wasn't that much of a surprise, after all.

After his team's 2000 Northeast Conference title and first-round NCAA Tournament loss, Fairleigh Dickinson men's soccer coach Seth Roland sat down with his team and laid out his objectives for the coming season.

He highlighted two possibilities: Not only could his team repeat as NEC champs, but Roland thought FDU could win a couple of games in the NAAs.

Nearly a year later, Roland's comments seem prophetic.

The Knights (17-6) ride into Chapel Hill on Saturday on a 10-game winning streak to play seventh-seeded North Carolina in an NCAA quarterfinal at 1 p.m. at Fetzer Field. The winner advances to the final four of collegiate soccer, the 2001 NCAA Men's College Cup.

"It's been very exciting," Roland said. "From other people's perspectives, it's been surprising. (I'm) pleasantly surprised, but not shocked."

Since FDU's loss to William & Mary on Oct. 13, the Knights have cruised. They topped Long Island in a four-overtime game to grab their second straight NEC crown. FDU then started its series of NCAA Tournament upsets, beating Boston College and Princeton before edging Seton Hall.

Now the team from Teaneck, N.J., is just a step away from a trip to Columbus, Ohio, site of the College Cup. But UNC, which came within a victory of the final four last year, will be FDU's toughest challenge yet.

"They are an overpowering, explosive, dangerous, extremely well-coached team," Roland said of UNC. "An elite

team with a blue-collar mentality."

For the Tar Heels (18-4) to advance past the Knights and into their first final four since 1987, they must play a smart game and make the most of their scoring opportunities.

In its 1-0 overtime win against American last Sunday, UNC

peppered Eagle goalkeeper Michael Behonick with 16 shots but didn't score until Mike Gell's goal in the 95th minute.

"Attack is an attitude," said UNC coach Elmar Bolowich. "We have to make a full chance out of a half chance and a half chance out of no chance."

And with defensive midfielder Grant Porter questionable with a nagging groin injury, the Tar Heels might have to alter their lineup Saturday.

Logan Pause could move back to fill Porter's spot, and Matt Crawford would then move to Pause's slot. Freshman Marcus Storey - who led the team in scoring for much of the season but hasn't taken a shot in three games - would come off the bench to play on the right flank.

UNC expects FDU to play a style similar to that of American: a counterattacking offense based around a packed-in defense.

"I need to be able to take some guys one-on-one, be able to help with some assists," Storey said. "Each of the forwards - each of us has our days."

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UNC freshman Marcus Storey has nine goals and eight assists this year but hasn't taken a shot since Nov. 15.

Peppers Tabbed as All-American

Julius Peppers, second on the UNC career sacks list, was named a first-team All-American on Wednesday.

From Staff Reports

North Carolina defensive end Julius Peppers has been named a first-team All-American by the America Football Coaches Association.

He also picked up the Chuck Bednarik Trophy for the nation's top defensive player at the Home Depot College Football Awards Show on Thursday night.

Peppers, who won the 2001 Rotary Lombardi Award as the nation's top lineman Wednesday evening in Houston, has now earned first-team All-American honors from Football News, the Football Writers and the AFCA.

A 6-foot-6, 285-pound junior, Peppers had 63 tackles this season, including 19 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks. He led all defensive linemen in the country with three interceptions, returning one for a touchdown at Oklahoma. Peppers is second at North Carolina with 53 career tackles for loss and 30.5 career sacks.

UNC Places 4 on Region 1st Team

The North Carolina women's soccer team had four players named Wednesday to the first team of the 2001 National Soccer Coaches Association of America South Region Soccer Team.

Named first team by the NSCAA were

senior defender Danielle Borgman, sophomore defender Catherine Reddick, sophomore forward Alyssa Ramsey and senior midfielder Jena Kluegel. Junior goalkeeper Jenni Branam was named to the third team.

Tar Heels Earn Honors

North Carolina junior Laura Greene and sophomore Nicole Reis have been named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-East Region Team.

The AVCA honor is Reis' second in as many years and the first for Greene. Reis finished third in the ACC with

4.55 kills per game and also was tied for 10th in the league in digs with 2.91 per game. Reis earned first-team All-ACC honors and was named to the All-ACC Tournament team.

Greene ended the season in second place in the ACC in digs with 3.57 a

contest.

Softball Signs 5

North Carolina softball coach Donna Papa has announced the signing of Crystal Cox, Michelle Hoffmann, Jaclyn Holden, Tiffany Stewart and Alison Yin.

All-ACC outside hitter Nicole Reis ranked third in the conference with 4.55 kills per game for the Tar Heels.



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1. Bureau of Labor Statistics
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