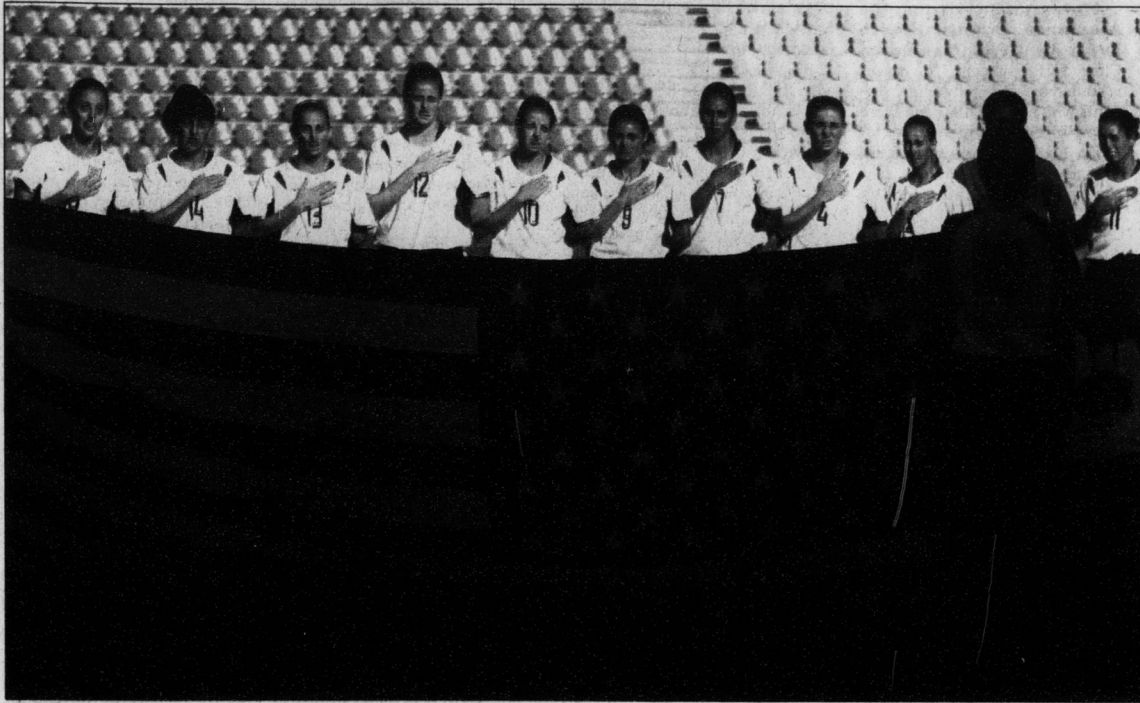


PHOTOS BY ASHLEY PITT

**M**embers of the U.S. Women's Soccer team stand for the American national anthem prior to the team's second Olympic match against Brazil in Thessaloniki, Greece (left). North Carolina alumni in the starting lineup included Kristine Lilly (13), Cindy Parlow (12), Mia Hamm (9) and Catherine Reddick (4). The Americans proved victorious, 2-0, with Hamm scoring the first goal of the game on a penalty shot. UNC junior Lindsay Tarpley came on as a substitute and assisted on the game's second goal. Right: Anne Reddick (right), mother of Catherine Reddick, cheers on the American team during its quarterfinal victory against Japan, also in Thessaloniki. The U.S. won the game 2-1 with goals scored by Lilly and Abby Wambach. Lilly has scored goals in each of the team's last three games, including the first goal in Monday's 2-1 victory against Germany in extra time. North Carolina sophomore Heather O'Reilly scored the game-winning goal in the extra period when she redirected a pass from Hamm for her first tally of the tournament.



# O'Reilly's OT goal catapults U.S. into final

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRAKLION, Greece — The only teenager on the U.S. women's soccer team gave the old vets a chance to leave with one last gold.

Minutes after missing a wide open net, North Carolina sophomore Heather O'Reilly scored in the ninth minute of overtime Monday to give the United States a 2-1 victory against World Cup champion Germany and a place in Thursday's gold-medal game.

UNC alumna Mia Hamm set up the goal with a short cross from the

right, pushing back the pass toward a cluster of three players about six yards from the net. The 19-year-old O'Reilly somehow got her foot on the ball before defender Ariane Hingst did, pushing a shot to left of goalkeeper Silke Rottenberg.

The win gives the Fab Five — long-standing U.S. stars Hamm, Julie Foudy, Joy Fawcett, Brandi Chastain and Kristine Lilly — a chance to go out as champions in their final tournament together.

The U.S. team will face either Brazil or Sweden, who played later

Monday in Patras, for the Olympic title Thursday in Athens.

The victory avenges a 3-0 loss to Germany in the World Cup semifinals 11 months ago in Portland, Ore. Germany went on to win the Cup and entered the Olympics ranked No. 1 in the world.

The Americans were unlucky that the game even went to overtime. They dominated Germany most of the match, and Germans' tying goal came on a shot from Isabell Bachor that deflected off Fawcett's hip two minutes into

second-half injury time.

Then, in overtime, O'Reilly had an open net in front of her after getting past Rottenberg at the top of the penalty box, but she rushed her shot and hit the near post. O'Reilly nearly scored again in the second overtime after a long run with a shot that forced a juggling save by Rottenberg.

Lilly, who also played for the Tar Heels, scored her 98th career goal in the 33rd minute — her third goal in as many games — and the U.S. defense didn't allow a shot on

goal until the 77th minute. Birgit Prinz, the reigning world player of the year, was essentially neutralized.

Bachor sent the game to overtime by setting up her shot with a move that twisted defender Christie Rampone to the ground. Bachor's 11-yard drive hit Fawcett in the hip, leaving goalkeeper Briana Scurry helpless as the ball landed inside the near post.

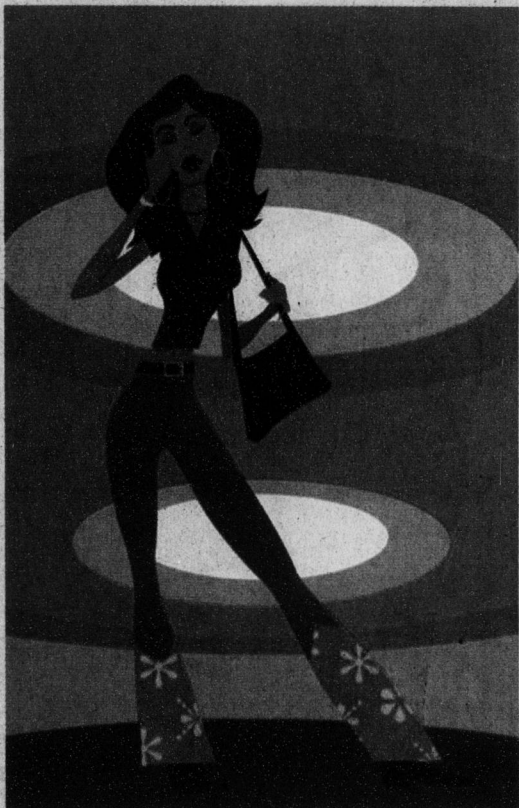
Lilly's first-half goal capped a strong 10-minute stretch for the Americans. Chastain dribbled a

cross from the left wing, and Abby Wambach used her strength to fight off Hingst and flick the ball ahead to Lilly. Lilly's shot hit the hand of the veteran Rottenberg before settling inside the far corner of the net.

Play was very physical in a game that included three yellow cards, including Germany's first of the tournament. Hamm, Wambach and Prinz especially were targeted with pushes, shoves and nudges that sent them tumbling to the turf.

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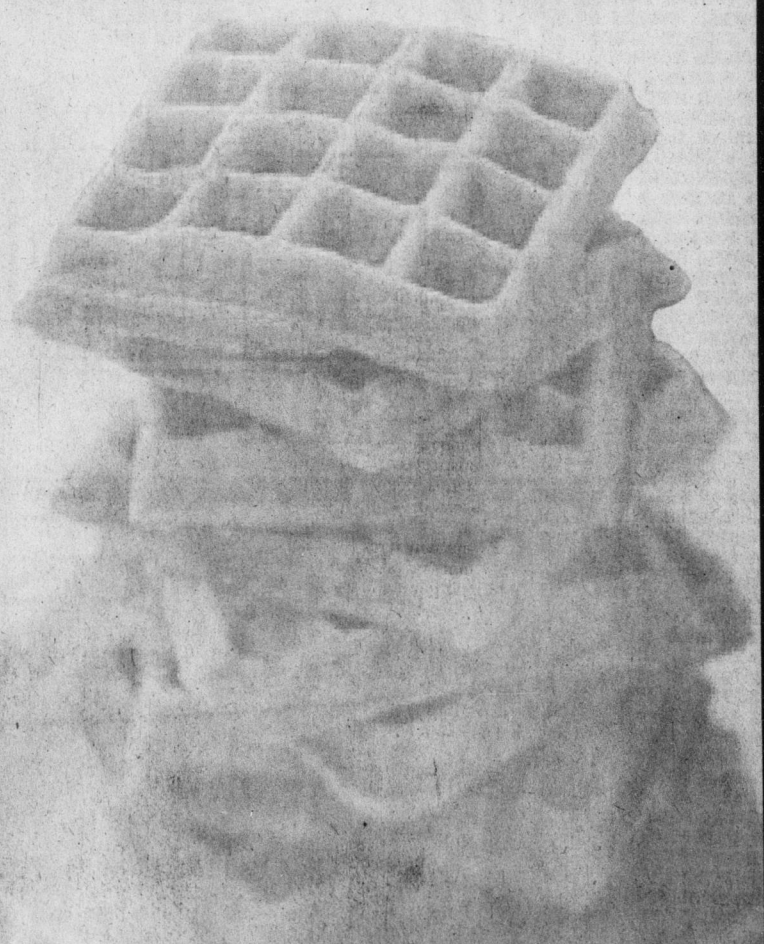
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