



Verga Gains In Popularity

BY AL THOMAS

When hot-shooting Bob Verga played basketball for a school situated approximately 12 miles from here, he wasn't a very popular person in Tar Heel strongholds. His bullet-like shooting caused mammoth problems for Blue Devil opponents, including the Tar Heels.

Now that Verga is using his talents to power the Carolina Cougars, his popularity is rapidly rising, even among Carolina fans. (Not including Charlie Scott, however, who got in a shoving match with Verga when the Virginia Squires played the Cougars a week ago in Charlotte).

Verga, a scant 6 footer from Sea Grit, N.J., made his first appearance in this state in 1963. Ever since then he has shown his explosive ability continuously, often reeling off 10 to 15 straight points before the opposition realizes what's happening.

Verga enjoyed regional as well as national honors and plaudits while at Duke. He finished his college career with 1,758 points and ranked fourth among Duke's all-time scorers.

Now a starter with the Cougars, Verga hasn't slowed down.

He poured in 2,258 points last year for a 27.6 scoring average, the second best in the American Basketball Association. He also led the Cougars in three point shots, an ABA phenomenon where a shot taken at least 22 feet from the basket counts as three points, as long as it goes in.

Unlike many basketball stars who are allowed to bask in the limelight during their college years, Verga enjoyed the change from college to professional basketball.

Enjoys The Game

"I really love playing professional basketball," Verga said, "I enjoy it much, much more than college ball.

"It's always nice to get paid for something," he continued, "especially when you enjoy doing it."

Verga said he did not find the transition from college to pro ball difficult. "The travelling and fatigue are the major problems," he said. "Another problem is that I am always guarded by a bigger man and in return have to guard a bigger man. I really don't feel that I've had an over-abundance of problems, though.

When asked why the Blue Devils seemed to always get up so much for their game with Carolina, Verga replied with a wide smile on his face. "Well, we really just didn't like the place (Chapel Hill)."

Verga said he thinks the merger of the ABA and the older, more established National Basketball Association has been "inevitable," and will benefit the ABA.

Merger Good Thing

"It's good for the league," he noted. "But, of course, it's pretty bad for the players. They will lose a great deal of valuable bargaining power when it comes to salaries and other conditions. Overall, however, the pros of the merger outweigh the cons."

"I have no plans for the future beyond playing basketball," Verga said. "I will, of course, keep my eyes open for something."

Whatever happens, he continued, he hopes to remain in North Carolina.

"The people here are really terrific," Verga said. "They are very knowledgeable with a healthy awareness and understanding of basketball. Also, I enjoy the living conditions in North Carolina."

With Verga continuing to pace the Cougars during the exhibition season so far this year, his immediate future in pro basketball and with the Cougars should be very secure.

Defense Gets Real Test

Heels Need Their Best Game

South Carolina's balanced offensive attack poses a serious threat for Carolina's fine defensive team when the Gamecocks and Tar Heels clash in Kenan Stadium here Saturday.

Tar Heel Coach Bill Dooley said Wednesday that it is difficult to prepare for the Gamecocks because they do so many things well.

"Here is a team that can run the ball right at you or can hurt you with wide plays and passing," Dooley said. "Our defensive team will have to play its best game of the season in order for us to win."

The Tar Heel defensive platoon has been sensational in Carolina's drive to four straight victories so far. Only Maryland managed to score more than one touchdown against UNC and two of the Terps' three touchdowns came against reserves in the closing minutes of the game. Carolina won, 53-20.

The North Carolina defense is paced by such established stars as guard-linebacker Bill Richardson, tackles Flip Ray and Bud Grissom, ends Judge Matlocks and Bill Brafford, guard Tom Cantrell and linebackers John Bunting, Ricky Packard and Jim Webster. The defensive backs are Richard Stillely, Greg Ward and Lou Angelo.

Testing this defensive corps will be a flashy South Carolina offensive unit sparked by quarterback Tommy Suggs, the master of the big play. He has connected on 43 of 86 passes for 592 yards and three touchdowns. His replacement, Jackie Young, has hit 16 of 26 passes for 204 yards and one touchdown.

The chief Gamecock runners are Billy Ray Rice, Tommy Simmons, Bob Miranda and Ken Waldrup. Rice leads the way with 193 yards in 46 carries for an average of 4.2 a snap.

This game will be a battle of the favorites in the Atlantic Coast Conference race. South Carolina is the defending league champion. The Gamecocks have won one and tied one (against N.C. State) in ACC play so far this year.

Dooley's Tar Heels have won two ACC games over State and Maryland and have posted impressive victories over two Southeastern Conference teams, Kentucky and Vanderbilt.

Saturday's game is a complete sellout. A crowd of 47,000 will see the old rivals come to grips at 1:30 p.m.

South Carolina has won the last three. It was 14-6 last year in a game in Columbia. But the Tar Heels hold a wide edge in the overall series with 39 victories to 14 for South Carolina. There have been four ties.



Tom Cantrell



Lou Angelo



John Bunting

Frosh Booters Open Sked

Face Duke On Fetzer Field

by David Zucchini
Sports Writer

The UNC Freshman soccer team opens its seven-game 1970 schedule today at 3:00 as it hosts the Duke freshmen on Fetzer Field.

Freshman coach Dennis Hoagland, who coached Windham High School's soccer squad in Windham, N.Y. last season, is apprehensive about his team's chances this year.

"Our backs are our strength," he stated, "while our scoring punch worries me."

Hoagland also expressed concern over the squad's defensive ability, which he described as "just average."

Since the Athletic Department at Carolina offers no soccer scholarships, all members of the team are try-outs from the freshman class.

Hoagland did not single out individual performers for special recognition or

merit, thus indicating a stress on team play. He was also rather uncertain about the over-all outcome of the upcoming season, as he refused to make any predictions concerning the team's fortunes.

"It's too early to tell anything for sure," he explained. "We'll know a great deal more after the Duke game."

Other than the two Duke contests, the schedule lists only one other ACC matchup, a Nov. 10 clash with N.C. State here in Chapel Hill.

Other opponents include Brevard Jr. College (Oct. 21), Wilmington New Hanover High (Oct. 26), Duke (Oct. 29 at Durham), Wingate College (Nov. 2, there), Southeastern Community College (Nov. 3 in Whiteville) and UNC-G (Nov. 17).

Today's probable starting lineup for UNC has Barry Perez, Jim East, David Patterson, Tim O'Connor and Chris Plummer manning the front line, Gerald

Bush, Mark Baldwin and Ed Smyge at the three halfback posts, Craig Moore and Bill Brenizer at fullback, and Win Bennett holding down the strategic goalie position.

Pep Rally Set Tonight

There will be a pep rally beginning at 7:20 tonight on South Campus and winding up to the Carolina Theater at 8. Coaches Bill Dooley, Bobby Collins and Lee Hayley will be joined by Tar Heel tri-captains for the South Carolina game as feature speakers.

Cheerleaders encouraged students to attend the pep rally and to prepare signs and banners to take to the USC game Saturday.



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This week's Mini-Lesson Schedule

CHAPEL HILL	Thurs. Oct. 8	Mon. Oct. 12	Tues. Oct. 13
Carolina Inn W. Cameron	8 p.m.	8 p.m.	8 p.m.
DURHAM	Thurs. Oct. 8	Fri. Oct. 9	Sat. Oct. 10
Downtown Motor Inn 309 W. Chapel Hill	8 p.m.		
Hilton Motor Inn 2424 Erwin Road		8 p.m.	10 a.m.
RALEIGH	Thurs. Oct. 8	Mon. Oct. 12	
Downtown Motor Inn 309 Hillsborough St.	8 p.m.	8 p.m.	

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