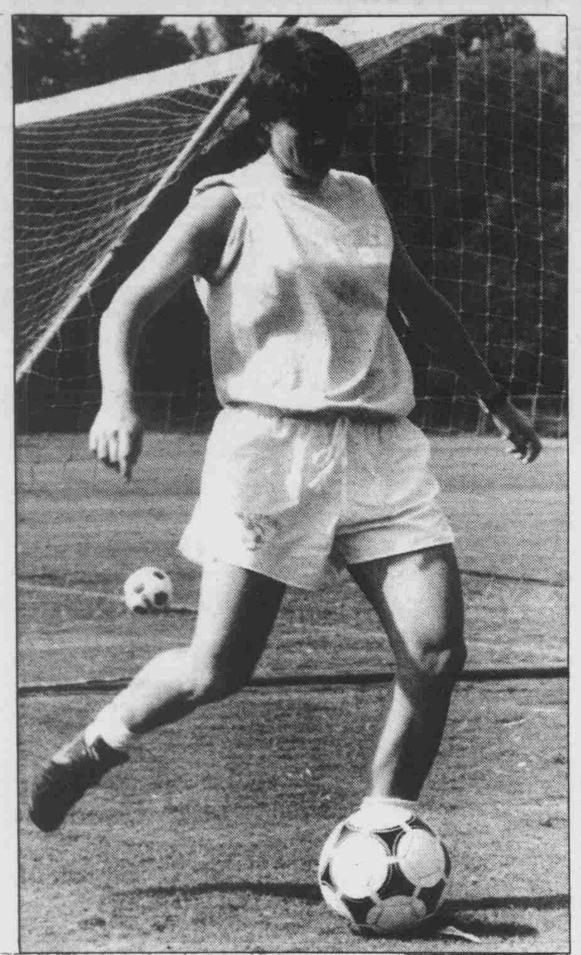
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Sports



Heinrichs kicks her way to top in soccer

By EDDY LANDRETH Staff Writer

The best.

Many people strive for that ideal, but few achieve it. Regardless of the activity, rising above one's peers requires dedication, hard work and natural talent.

Through the use of this formula, UNC women's soccer player April Heinrichs has become a member of the elite in the collegiate soccer world.

"She's the best women's player in the country," UNC head coach Anson Dorrance said.

Before you explain this away as coaching hyperbole, examine Heinrichs' credentials: 1984 collegiate player of the year, 1984 NCAA tournament MVP and the captain of the 1986 women's national team, which finished second to the host country, Italy, in a tournament this past summer.

She modestly brushes aside the description of beingthe best in the country, although she noted the honor in being chosen as player-of-the-year.

"It was incredible to be singled out like that," Heinrichs said. "It was quite an honor to be singled out from the team that won the national championship."

The championship in 1984 was the fourth in a row for the UNC women. The team finished second to George Mason this past season. Dorrance describes Heinrichs as one of the reasons for the continued success of the program.

"She has been one of the key

foundations of our program, both on and off the field," Dorrance said. "She helps with recruiting and all phases of the program. When April Heinrichs calls a young high school girl, it really has an effect."

Beyond the playing field, soccer has played other roles in her life. "All my life I've been an athlete," she said, "and soccer has gotten me to various countries and all over the United States. It got me into a university I otherwise may have not gotten into. I think soccer has gotten me an excellent education."

Ironically, Heinrichs' soccer career at the University occurred almost by accident. Despite earning All-State and All-America honors during her high school career in Littleton, Colo. and once scoring seven goals in a game, she received no scholarship offers upon graduation.

So, instead, she attended Mesa College in Colorado on a basketball scholarship and played club soccer. A friend of Dorrance discovered her in a game at an invitational game at Brown University and told Dorrance he should take a look at her. Soon after this she transferred to UNC.

The lack of offers in high school was due to lack of respect for the high school programs in Colorado, she said.

"I don't think the coaches in general were impressed with the programs in Colorado," she said. "No one had ever succeeded (in soccer) coming out of Colorado."

She described herself as a medi-

ocre high school student who has become a good one at the University. She is a radio, television and motion pictures major, and hopes to work in production after graduation.

Because of the time involved with being a college athlete, she said, there is little time for things other than soccer.

Sometimes this can make school even more difficult.

"I think it (time spent on soccer) affects your school a lot," she said. "The amount of time you spend is enormous. Sometimes you're exhausted and you don't feel like studying. Sometimes you're away on road trips, you have to try to ease into one of your professors the fact you're missing this exam and need to make it up, and no, it is not convenient to take it early.

"I think being an athlete puts a tremendous strain on your ability to distribute your time equally."

Despite the time constraints, she always comes back to soccer.

"Soccer for me is not going to end when I leave the University," Heinrichs said. "I hope to play in one, maybe two Olympics and on the World Cup team and be there when they win it."

Although she is probably the best in the country, she is still striving to improve. "Since January, my game probably has improved more than the four years since I've been here," she said. "I trained every day in the summer, very hard."

She has now set a higher goal.

"Whether I'm the best player in the country now, or whether I was the year I got player-of-the-year, that's all fine and dandy, but now I have aspirations of being the best in the world," Heinrichs said.



DTH/Charlotte Cannon

April Heinrichs, called by some the best women's soccer player in the nation, will lead UNC in a quest to regain the NCAA title.

Wrestling, track have tryouts

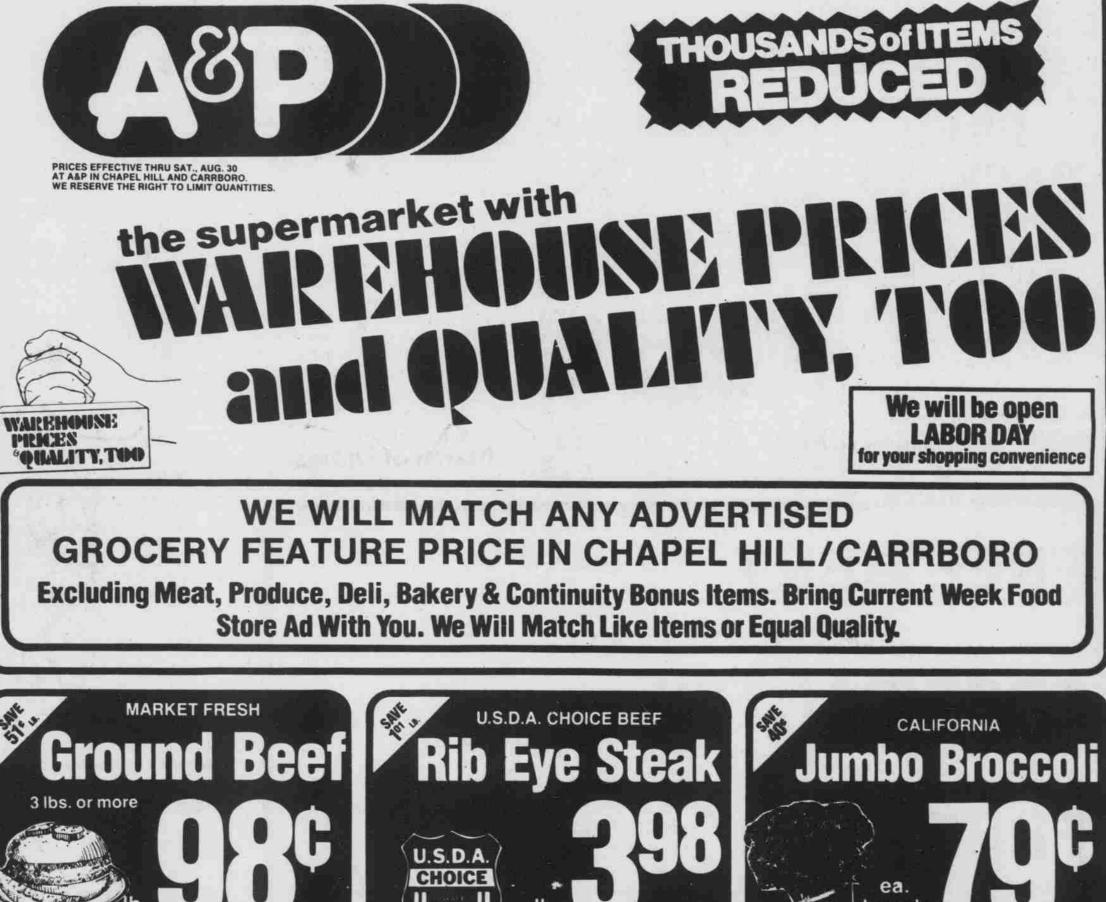
And now, for a word from our sponsors. Craddock will conduct a similar meeting for any runners, jumpers or

At 4:00 p.m. today in Fetzer Gym Room 104, UNC wrestling coach Bill Lam will hold an organizational meeting for anyone interested in trying out for the Tar Heel wrestling program this year. Imagine the thrill of working out with one of the fastest growing grappling programs east of the Mississippi!

Not to be outdone, coach Dennis

Craddock will conduct a similar meeting for any runners, jumpers or throwers interested in track-andfield or cross-country. Sprinters and hurdlers are especially encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held Tuesday, September 2nd in the Tin Can at 3:30 p.m.

So pull on those wrestling singlets and lace up those track spikes. A CHANCE LIKE THIS COMES ONLY ONCE IN A LIFETIME!









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