

Sports

This is it: Tar Heels travel to Clemson for Final Four weekend

By CHRIS SPENCER, Assistant Sports Editor

Back in August, UNC men's soccer coach Anson Dorrance said that he was excited about the upcoming year. Dorrance believed that the men's team had the potential to show the nation that it was a good squad, one that could earn the school's first NCAA bid since 1968.

Dorrance has proven himself a prophet this season, or maybe the team has, for on Saturday, the Tar Heels will play at Clemson in a national semifinal match at 3 p.m. No matter what happens this weekend, they have clinched their best season ever, with a school-record 20 wins.

The game Saturday is important enough to merit a live broadcast on the campus station WXYC, 89.3 FM. Air time is 2:50 p.m. or thereabouts, depending on the completion of the first semifinal, which pits Harvard, the only undefeated team left in the nation, against San Diego State.

The winners will meet Sunday at 1 p.m. for the national championship. WXYC would carry that game as well should the Tar Heels be in it.

North Carolina is in the midst of a blitzing nine-game win streak, with their last loss coming at the hands of the South Carolina Gamecocks, who later became victim No. 8 in the streak.

To get to the Final Four, UNC sloshed through the Johns Hopkins turf last Sunday in a rainstorm to down Loyola (Md.) 1-0 on freshman sensation Derek Missimo's header.

The Tar Heels have already beaten Clemson twice this season by identical 2-1 scores. The first win, in Chapel Hill Sept. 21, gave the team a 5-0 mark on the year. The second one, which came in double overtime in the first round of the ACC Tournament, was crucial in UNC's quest for an NCAA bid.

In both wins, the Tar Heels found themselves down by a goal at halftime and then rallied in the second period. As in the previous games, Saturday's battle will also match two Herrmann Trophy candidates — the Tigers' Bruce Murray and the Tar Heels' David Smyth.

If the Tar Heels should weave their way to the title, Dorrance, who was named South region Coach of the Year Monday, would become the first coach in NCAA Division I history to lead two teams to national championships in the same season.

But what has happened this season to raise this team from ho-hum status in the pre-season to national championship contenders?

"Everything has fallen into place," Dorrance said Thursday, as he took a break from a pick-up game with some of the Tar Heel women players. "This year we've had a good balance of youth and experience."

The youth stems mostly from the play of Missimo. The 6-foot-4 native of Bedford, Texas, has been red hot as of late, scoring seven goals in his last 10 matches since being moved to striker. He has scored the winning goal in matches against Clemson, N.C. State, South Carolina and Loyola.

The experience comes from the 12 returning lettermen the Tar Heels enjoyed this season. But they have basically been doing it through a team effort, with the same strong play of certain players coming throughout the season.

"One tremendous key this season has been the play of Dave Smyth," Dorrance said. "He is perhaps the best player we've ever had here."

The senior co-captain has generally been responsible for the team's strong performance from his sweeper slot. In matches that the Hicksville, N.Y., native has scored at least one point (a goal or an assist), the Tar Heels

are an incredible 12-0.

Other keys for the Tar Heels include senior midfielder Reid Storch ("What a great athlete he is for us," Dorrance said) and senior back Steve Dragisica, a study in consistency. The Columbia, Md., native has started all 85 games of his four-year career.

"Look at his career," Dorrance said. "How many players start every game they ever play for the University?"

Another key is junior goalkeeper Darren Royer, who has broken the minutes-played record for one season at UNC with 2,200. "What an impact Darren has made on the success of the team this year," Dorrance said.

Of course, that's not all for the Tar Heels. Other standouts include midfielders Chad Ashton and Dino Megaloudis, forward John Cocking and backs Donald Cogsville and Marc Buffin, basically the rest of the starting team.

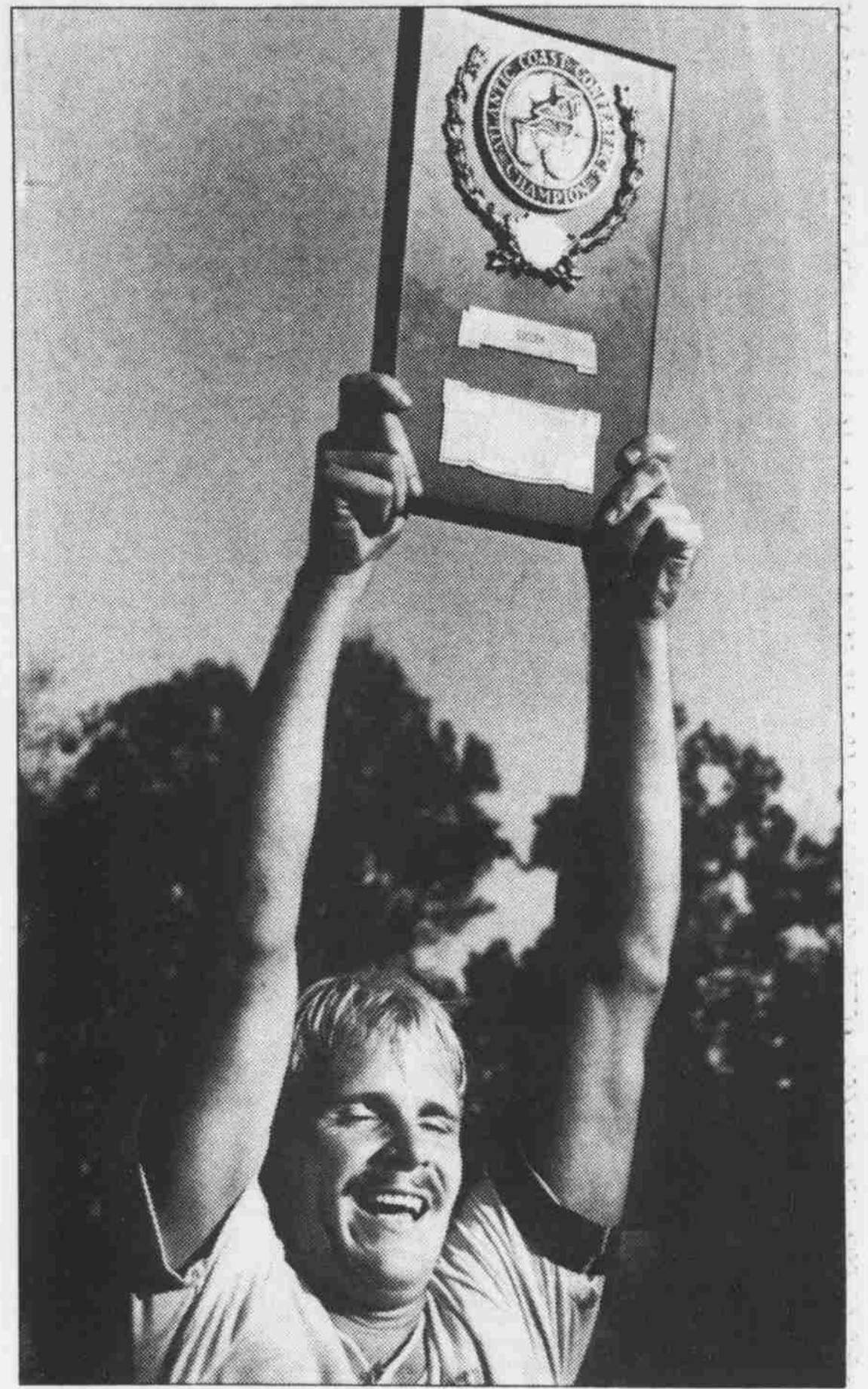
The Tar Heels have virtually exploded since that loss to the Gamecocks Oct. 21. "I think we've been gelling since that game," Dorrance said. "The loss shocked us, and we showed our potential that game. That's the game we moved Derek to forward from the midfield, and from then on we've gelled."

There have been some comments this week from Tiger coach I.M. Ibrahim as to the validity of the earlier Tar Heel wins. Ibrahim has said that the referees were biased in those matches.

But whatever happens this weekend, Dorrance said that this season has been special for him.

"What great camaraderie this team has," he said. "Every victory is a celebration, and we're not taking anything for granted. For us, the Final Four is new and exciting. We've genuinely enjoyed everything that's happened, and we've appreciated every victory."

Dorrance and Company would appreciate two more wins this weekend.



UNC soccer team captain David Smyth, shown here following the ACC Tournament, hopes to hoist one more championship trophy

This is your chance to speak out on coach

From staff reports
A new wrinkle has been revealed in the search to find UNC football coach Dick Crum's replacement. The seven-man Advisory Committee leading the search has issued an

invitation to faculty, staff and students to appear before it with five-minute statements about the qualifications they believe desirable in the selection of a coach.

The committees will hear individuals between 3-6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, in the conference room on the first floor of the Morehead Building. Anyone who wishes to address the committee should sign up between 9 a.m. and noon Friday in the Morehead Building's lobby.

Scoreboard
Men's Basketball
UNC 86, Stetson 74
UNC — Madden 5-9 0-0 12, Reed 3-7 6-9 12, Williams 8-12 0-0 16, Lebo 3-4 3-11, Smith 4-6 0-0 8, Bucknall 4-7 1-2 9, Rice 0-0 0-0 0, Chilcutt 6-7 0-0 12, Fox 2-4 1-2 5, Totals: 35-57 11-76
Stetson — Anderson 7-15 0-2 15, Kuhl 2-3 2-2 6, Woodward 6-9 2-2 14, Barnett 1-9 0-0 3, Johnson 5-10 0-0 14, Jenkins 4-9 0-0 8, Coleman 0-1 0-0 0, Gehlke 1-6 0-1 2, Cumble 1-1 0-0 2, Ireland 5-9 0-0 10, Sampson 0-2 0-0 0, Totals: 32-74 4-6 74
Halftime Score: UNC 44-33, Three-point goals — Stetson 6-15 (Anderson 1-1, Barnett 1-6, Johnson 4-7, Gehlke 0-1) UNC 5-7 (Madden 2-3, Lebo 2-3, Smith 1-1), Turnovers — UNC 18, Stetson 17, Rebounds — UNC 28 (Williams 7), Stetson 37 (Woodward 13), Assists — UNC 26 (Lebo, Williams 5), Stetson 16 (Johnson 9)

Stetson

court-length pass and two-handed a jam to give the Tar Heels a 54-39 lead with 16:42 left. He followed that with a steal and another basket before

adding a 3-pointer to finish off the run.

Freshman forward Pete Chilcutt added 12 points for UNC, while Lebo hit for 11, dished out five assists and made five steals.

Even with Madden's heroics, the Tar Heels still seemed flat and played well only in spurts.

UNC forward Steve Bucknall felt

the Tar Heels needed to put together a 40-minute effort. "For some reason we looked slow and dried out," Bucknall said. "But we came through and did the job."

Lebo echoed Bucknall's sentiments. "I think we played in spurts," Lebo said. "But when we got up 25, the starters came out and we got a little sloppy."

Sloppiness is a flaw in the Tar Heel machine that must be repaired before it is to truly become the No. 1 team in the land. Vanderbilt awaits the Tar Heels on Saturday.

Before the varsity match, UNC's junior varsity rode a second-half spark from Jim Phipps to break open a close game and defeat the Methodist Spartans, 85-62.

Royal Park, Kingswood, Estes Park, Booker Creek, UNIVERSITY LAKE. Avoid the lottery blues. Apply now! All apartments on the bus line to UNC. Call today for full information 967-2231 or 967-2234.

Maurice. Sat-Sun Matinees 1:30 & 4:15. WONDERFULLY INTELLIGENT AND GRACEFUL. METICULOUSLY CRAFTED, INTELLIGENT AND ARTFUL.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS. Brendle's Department Store is currently accepting applications for: FULL TIME: Office Worker, Sporting Goods Clerk, Customer Service Clerk, Jewelry Repair Person.

CINEPLEX ODEON AND PLITT THEATRES. THE CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING SOLUTION. GET YOURS NOW! AVAILABLE AT ALL BOX OFFICES. A comic tale of true love. THE PRINCESS BRIDE. HELD OVER!

The Daily Tar Heel Classified Advertising

Pre-Christmas Sale at Lacock's Thursday-Saturday. 20% OFF Penny Loafers, 20% OFF Walkover Dirty & White Bucks, 20% OFF Clogs, 50% OFF Tretorns. Don't Miss The Sale At Lacock's.

The HIDDEN. Now the fun starts. Friday 7:00 • 9:15, Sat & Sun 1:00 • 3:00. AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY.

Classified Info. LOST: A silver tone duo-system SHUEFFER PEN-PENCIL. LOST: GOLD WATCH in Gardner or between and Phillips 11 a.m. Dec. 3. I LEFT MY GREY TWEED ADOLFO WINTER JACKET in the Cutting Board Tuesday nite.

Classified Info. HIRING: Federal government jobs in your area and overseas. ATHLETIC ATTIC is now accepting applications for manager-trainee position. LANDLUBBERS RESTAURANT is now accepting applications for the following positions: buspersons, kitchen help, hostesses and cashiers.

Classified Info. WANTED: RESPONSIBLE, WARM PERSON to care for cheerful 21-month-old three mornings/afternoons a week in Chapel Hill, near University. CHILD CARE: LIGHT HOUSEWORK. MOTHER'S HELPER for Duke family.