

# North Carolina field hockey faces uncertain year

## Graduation guts UNC defense while front lines remain tough



By NEIL AMATO

Staff Writer

In 1988, the UNC field hockey team's strong point was defense. The Tar Heels, who finished the season ranked second nationally with an 18-2 record, allowed only 13 goals in 20 games.

This season, however, defense will be a point of concern as the entire back line was vacated by graduation.

According to head coach Karen Shelton, who enters her ninth season as mentor of Tar Heel hockey with a stellar 115-37-4 mark, several players will be vying for the open back positions. Despite some uncertainty over who will play, Shelton said she feels good about the 1989 season.

"I'm most concerned with the defensive end of the field, but I've been encouraged by the couple of practices we've had and the development of the returning players," Shelton said. "I feel comfortable that we'll be a competitive team even though we'll

be relatively inexperienced."

Shelton added that, despite the lack of extensive time in the UNC lineup, many players gained experience through spring practices and summer camps.

Leading the charge for a squad whose only two defeats came from 1988 national champion Old Dominion will be senior captain and 1988 All-America midfielder Leslie Lyness and fleet-footed senior forward Kathy Staley. Paoli, Pa. native Lyness, who this summer captained the U.S. Junior National Team at the World Cup in Canada, returns at center-mid with 14 career assists under her belt, 12 of which came last season.

"She's superb," Shelton said of Lyness, who started all 20 games last season. "I've been here nine years and Leslie is, by far, the best all-around student-athlete that I've ever had. Her attitude is great; she's a wonderful student and a fantastic team leader. I feel very fortunate to

have her one more year."

Staley, an Endicott, N.Y. resident, played right midfield last year but most likely will be moved to center forward, which Shelton considers to be her natural position. Staley will replace the graduated Julie Blaisse, who last season scored 21 goals.

Staley will be joined on the front line by sophomore Cathy Osmer and junior Peggy Anthon, both of whom added six goals while constantly threatening with their quickness. Speed, in fact, is something Shelton mentioned as one of her team's strengths.

"We have a lot of team speed," Shelton said. "We're going to play an exciting brand of field hockey. With Peggy, Cathy Osmer and Kathy Staley, we've got some wheels on the forward line."

Shelton was excited about the midfield trio of Lyness, honorable mention All-America Laurel Hershey

See HOCKEY, page 15

Senior Kathy Staley will move from midfield to forward to give the Tar Heels a fleet-footed attack

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