

UNC soccer great Higgins says women's sports not respected

Editor's note: This is the final article in a six-part series profiling outstanding women in North Carolina and at the University in honor of Women's History Month.

By Erik Rogers
Staff Writer

R-e-s-p-e-c-t. Aretha Franklin sang for it during the late 1960s. Some twenty-odd years later, UNC ex-soccer player Shannon Higgins, one of the greatest soccer players in UNC history, says the word which became such a big hit song for Franklin has not completely found its way into the world of women's sports. The implication from Higgins is that

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the lack of respect toward women's sports is due to a patriarchal society. "People may come out one time to watch the women's soccer teams at their schools, and then they automatically assume that all of the teams are about as good as the ones at their schools," said Higgins, who has just been promoted to the head coaching job of the women's soccer team at George Washington University. Men especially take women's athletics for granted, Higgins said. "The men do not think women's soccer is competitive because they do not think the women players are fast and

strong enough," Higgins said. "Toward the end of my junior and senior year, we got quite a bit of support from the fans at North Carolina, but we had to win first. I'd say we averaged about 800 people at the games." Convincing males that women athletes are legitimate competitors will not be difficult, according to Higgins. "I think if you could just get them out to one game, they would see that women's sports are competitive," Higgins said. Higgins' accomplishments have been a key factor in establishing a dynasty at UNC — one comparable to the UCLA men's basketball dynasty. Since 1982, the UNC women's soccer team has won eight national titles.

Higgins' career includes: being named 1988 national player of the year by Soccer America, graduating as first team All-American, being named to the first team 1988 All-South Region, being named most valuable offensive player in the 1988 NCAA Final Four and scoring three goals in a 4-1 win over N.C. State in the 1988 championship game. Higgins, who had her jersey number retired, said she could not tell if male athletes were intimidated by her and other female athletes' strong performances. But if she ever ran into that problem, she said, handling it would be relatively easy. "I would just try to appeal to him as a person," Higgins said. "I would let

him know that I know as much about soccer as he does and try to establish some common ground with him." At George Washington, Higgins finds herself in her first coaching position and she feels optimistic that the program is on its way to being competitive. "I feel that we are on the verge of cracking the top twenty," Higgins said. In the meantime, Higgins said other females considering coaching as a profession should not get discouraged if they have not found jobs. "I've seen a trend in many of the sports where most people are hiring women to coach women's teams, whereas before they would only hire men." The teams would only consider men for the coaching positions because

that was the traditional thing to do, according to Higgins. As women become more knowledgeable about sports and the rules, society can expect to see more women in the head coaching ranks. A native of Washington, Higgins came to UNC because she was impressed with the academic and athletic programs that the school had to offer. "I was so impressed with the people because they were just so friendly," Higgins said. "I just fell in love with this school."

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Corrections

In the April 1 Daily Tar Heel article, "Tuchi's decision to publicize planning meetings applauded," UNC Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Ben Tuchi should have been quoted as saying he would ask the Facilities Planning Committee if its meetings could be open to the public. The administrators' meetings with students and residents about the land-use plan will be publicized in the future.

In the March 26 article, "Teasing the Korean titillates while fusing dark, vicious tunes," Teasing the Korean's guitarist's name should have been spelled Lyndon B. Jernigan. The DTH regrets the errors.

Campus Calendar

TUESDAY
2 p.m. **JOB HUNT 101:** Basic information on how to use the UCPPS Office will be held in 306 Hanes. PC SAS session 3 is in 02 Manning until 3:15 p.m. 4 p.m. SPSS PC + session 3 is in 02 Manning until 4:15 p.m.
5 p.m. The UNC Juggling Club will meet in Carmichael Ballroom. Beginners are welcome!
UNC Committee for Peace and Social Justice will meet in the Union until 7 p.m. Room number will be posted.
CHIPSA, Carolina Hispanic Association: Nuestra reunion esta semana sera en 218 Union. Todos son bienvenidos.
6 p.m. **Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week** presents a teach-in on hunger and homelessness, a panel of UNC professors discussing issues of poverty, healthy care and urban development, in 208-209 Union.
6:30 p.m. Come share exotic food and interesting conversation on the second floor of Carmichael Residence Hall. It's an International Dinner, held the first Tuesday of every month, and all are welcome.
7 p.m. The UNC Chess Club meets every Tuesday evening on second floor of the Union.
7:30 p.m. Student Government offers **FREE tutoring** in CHEM 11, BIOL 11, STAT 11 & 23, MATH 22, 30 & 31, ECON 10, French 1-4 and Spanish 1-4 tonight and every Tuesday night on second floor Dey Hall until 9:30 p.m.

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ATTENTION SENIORS!
See the Raleigh-Durham Skyhawks as they make their first home appearance against the Barcelona Dragons at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 6. Tickets are just \$7 and are available in the Pit or the Senior Class Office Tuesday through Thursday. Also look for more information during Senior Week 1991, April 6-13!

ITEMS OF INTEREST
"Sharing Our Faith with Those of Other Cultures." Pastor William Peery, a retired Lutheran missionary, will give a presentation to the Lutheran Campus Ministry 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 4, at the Campus Ministry Center. Call 942-2677 for more information.

Course offering: **Dynamics of Effective Leadership** (Special Studies 91P) Thursdays, 2-3:15 p.m., one credit, pass/fail. This course will focus on leadership theory and the development of leadership skills. For more information or to register, contact Cindy Wolf Johnson, 966-4041, 01 Steele.

Applications for **Campus Y Co-Chairs** are available in the Campus Y, Union and Chase Hall. The deadline for applications is April 10. Interviews will be scheduled soon. Everyone is encouraged to apply.

The **Interfaith Council Emergency Shelter** (The Homeless Shelter) is seeking donations in the form of old clothing, personal hygiene products (shoes, socks, razors, toothpaste, combs, etc.) Please bring any of the needed items to one of these drop sites: South Campus lobbies, Mid-and North Campus area offices. Thank you in advance for your support. Sponsored by Zeta Amicae.

Interested in ticket distribution? Then pick up an application for the 1991-92 CAA Ticket Committee in the CAA Office, Union or the Black Cultural Center. Applications are due by noon, April 4. Interviews are April 4-5. Questions? Call the CAA at 962-4300.

Phi Mu Sorority is sponsoring the **Second Annual Phi Mu Classic Golf Tournament**, April 20, at Finley Golf Course. Proceeds benefit the Children's Miracle Network. Pick up your applications in front of the Post Office. \$1,000 prize for a hole-in-one.

This is your **LAST CHANCE** to have your portraits taken for the 1991 Yachety Yack. To make an appointment, call toll free (800) 873-7591. Portraits are being taken in 213 Union.

Order your copy of **1991 Yachety Yack**. Stop by the Pit or 106 Union to get a subscription form. Yes, the **1990 Yachety Yacks** are finally here!! The staff would like to express our sincere gratitude for your patience. Come by 106 Union to pick up your yearbook.

Tar Heel Voices will be selling tickets and singing in the Pit for their spring concert. Come by the Pit at 12:15 p.m. and be captured by our a cappella sound. The concert is at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 6, in PlayMakers Theatre. Be there!

JUNIORS: Find out what you can do over the summer to prepare for your senior year job search. Attend **JOB HUNT 100: JUST FOR JUNIORS**, either at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, in 210 Hanes or at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, in 306 Hanes. Sponsored by UCPPS.

"Ceremony: A Spiritual Journey" will be presented in Bingham Hall from April 10-14. Co-sponsored by the Carolina Union Performing Arts Committee and the Department of Speech Communication. Tickets are available at the Union box office.

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