

SPORTS

# Despite losses, women's soccer is still a national favorite

By Jason Bates  
Staff Writer

The list of the missing is a Who's Who of college soccer. No Anson. No Kristine. No Mia. No Rita. No Jill. No Emily. But UNC will still be No. 1. They may struggle. They may not score goals as often as they did last

season. They may lose more than one game in a season for the first time in six years. But rain or shine, come hell or high water — the Tar Heels will probably be the ones who put the NCAA championship trophy in their case. Granted, no one has ever been called brazen or gutsy for picking UNC to win the national title. But this year may be more uncertain than years past.

Instead of fawning over how much talent UNC has in its arsenal, preseason talk has focused on how much talent won't be around this year.

First and foremost is the head coach, Anson Dorrance, who will leave the team after the ACC Tournament in the first week of November. The reigning demi-god of soccer — his UNC teams have won nine national titles and five in a row — will be doing duty in China at the Women's World Cup as head coach of the U.S. National Team. He is not worried about his absence, though.

"This isn't football or basketball," he said. "Soccer coaches aren't puppeteers. We don't sit on the sidelines and pull strings and call timeouts and make substitutions and call plays."

"For me to have an impact on this team, the stuff we're doing right now is my impact. We're going to try and solve problems in training. By the time the NCAA Tournament rolls around, this team's identity and personality will be formed. That will be done in all the sessions I'm involved in."

Taking over in Dorrance's absence will be his assistant of 12 years, Bill Palladino.

"Bill could be a head coach at any program in this country," Dorrance said. "I consider it a wonderful privilege that he selected to stay here and work with me. He's not going to struggle in the least handling this team on his own."

The loss of Dorrance at tourney time will be minimized, but the talent loss on the field may be harder to make up.

Following Dorrance to China will be last year's ACC Player of the Year, Mia Hamm, and last year's National Player of the Year, Kristine Lilly.

"Hamm and Lilly, by the time they graduate, will be considered among the two best players all-time to have ever played in college, not just at the University of North Carolina," Dorrance said.

Hamm is not playing with the team at all this season. Lilly will play with the team until November, but will leave before the NCAA Tournament starts.

The team was prepared to lose those two players, but injuries have also hit hard. Junior Rita Tower and sophomore Jill Jakowich will both miss the season

because of knee injuries.

Hamm, Lilly, Tower and Jakowich were the top four scorers on the team last year. They combined for 56 goals and 43 assists last season, while the rest of the Tar Heels mustered only 32 goals and 25 assists.

With the offense almost crippled, the focus now moves to the defense, which returns several experienced players from a unit that surrendered only 12 goals last season. Junior Lori Walker will mind the nets. Last season she played in 10 games while studying under the graduate Meridee Proost.

In front of Walker will be two returnees — seniors Stacey Blazo and Louellen Poore. Linda Hamilton graduated but will be replaced in the lineup by Keri Sanchez, a highly regarded freshman from San Jose, Calif. Laura Boone also graduated, but sophomore Carolyn Springer should step in easily.

"(The defense) will be about the same speed (as last year's) but more experienced," Dorrance said. "(Sanchez) is really not a rookie; she's trained with the national team. She comes in with a sophomore's experience."

The big concern before last year's campaign was the young, inexperienced midfield. This year's midfielders will be just as young. Emily Rice, who would be a senior this year, did not return to school. That leaves sophomore All-ACC player Jane Vest as the most experienced returning player. She will be joined by redshirt freshman Angela Kelly and true freshman Tisha Venturini.

The big question mark is the decimated frontline.

"I know what the problems will be," Dorrance said. "The players don't have an inkling of it yet. We're going to struggle scoring goals."

Lilly will play in the regular season, and the hope is that her talent and leadership will rub off on everyone else. She will be a big stabilizing factor to a team that has no other proven scorers.

The remaining spots on the front will probably be filled by senior Pam Kalinoski and sophomore Paige Coley. Kalinoski is returning to the team after missing last season because of injury. Coley played in all 22 games last sea-

son, and her five goals and three assists make her the top returning scorer on the team besides Lilly. Junior Kristin Acquavella is also returning. She was right behind Coley with four goals and three assists and will definitely be counted on to score more this season.

The Tar Heels have never had to worry about finding tough competition, even if they rarely lose. This year's schedule has all the usual ACC teams, plus the Tar Heels will face every team that made the Final Four last season.

"At the beginning of the year everyone has unbridled optimism," Dorrance said. "I don't care what program you walk into. In the preseason, everyone thinks they've got a tremendous opportunity. Reality sets in after your first couple games or by about midseason."

So here's reality: They may struggle, but the Tar Heels will more than likely do it again.

Remember, the race may not always go to the swiftest, nor the battle to the strongest, but go ahead and bet that way, anyway.

## Women's Soccer

Head Coach: Anson Dorrance (13th year)  
Dorrance's Record: 226-8-9  
Assistant Coach: Bill Palladino  
1990 Record: 20-1-1, NCAA Champions  
Returning Letterwinners: (16) Kristin Acquavella, Stacey Blazo, Julie Carter, Paige Coley, Meagan Dougherty, Jill Jakowich, Pam Kalinoski, Kristine Lilly, Sarah Ludington, Louellen Poore, Sasha-Kate Soares, Carolyn Springer, Rita Tower, Jane Vest, Lori Walker, Jennifer Zaccagnini  
Newcomers: (10) Dawn Crow (Plano, Texas), Danielle Egan (West Islip, N.Y.), Shelley Finger (Duncanville, Texas), Susie Green (Cincinnati), Angela Kelly (Bramford, Ontario), Tracy Noonan (North Andover, Mass.), Ashley Riggs (Raleigh), Keri Sanchez (San Jose, Calif.), Roz Santana (North Babylon, N.Y.), Tisha Venturini (Modesto, Calif.)



DTH file photo

Junior Kristine Lilly will leave the Tar Heels in November to play in the World Cup

## Waller fails to qualify in World meet

Staff Reports

TOKYO — UNC track star Tisha Waller, already the first UNC trackster to win an international medal, failed to become the school's first female track and field world champion this weekend, as she did not qualify for the finals in the World Track & Field Championships in Tokyo.

Waller, ranked 15th in the world going into the championships, placed 10th in her qualifying group, while only eight women advanced to the finals.

German Heike Henkel won the event, jumping 2.05 meters.

Waller, a senior from South Boston, Va., had qualified for the Tokyo games by finishing third at the TAC National Championships in June.

In July, Waller became the first UNC women's track and field international medalist when she placed third in the World University Games in England.

Among an assortment of scholastic achievements, Waller holds ACC records in both the indoor and outdoor high jumps.

### Craddock names assistant

Dennis Mitchell, a member of the 1985 Abilene Christian NCAA champion track team, has been named the new head field events coordinator for the UNC track squad. Tar Heel head coach Dennis Craddock announced Tuesday.

Among other duties, Mitchell will direct the pole vaulters, high jumpers and throwers. He replaces Jeff Ward, who left the program in late July to pursue private business interests.

A Rialto, Calif., native, Mitchell has been an assistant with the University of Texas men's track team since the fall of 1985.

### Swofford leaves committee

UNC athletic director John Swofford has stepped down as chairman of the NCAA Special Events/Post-Season Bowl Committee. Swofford announced earlier this week.

Swofford, a 1971 UNC graduate, said he made the move in order to concentrate on the University's upcoming bi-centennial fund-raising campaign and other school events. He had served as chairman of the committee for almost three years.

David Cawood, NCAA assistant executive director for communications, said Swofford had made great strides in working with the committee and the Football Bowl Association.

"What has been accomplished under his leadership has been unbelievable," Cawood said. "He's tackled some big problems and solved them. The results of his work are going to be great for schools and players in future bowl games."

This was the third major NCAA committee Swofford had chaired since becoming athletic director in 1980. He also headed the Football Television Committee and the Communications Committee.

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