

SPORTS FRIDAY

"You look in the pages of Soccer America, and there's one page on the women and the rest of the magazine is about the men's game."
— Tisha Venturini

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THE PITCH



Bryan Strickland
Assistant Sports Editor

Set up the pins: ACC enters fall bowling league

It's that time of year again: The ACC's fall bowling league is ready to roll.

From newly waxed lanes up and down the Atlantic coast, athletes from five ACC schools are slipping off their football cleats and sliding into bedazzling bunches of bowling shoes. Yes, *bowling shoes*, those Velcro-hitched foot-huggers that evoke images of unwanted moisture at every neighborhood Fair Lanes in America.

Four of the conference's football programs are playing hooky from the veritable Bowl-a-rama. At the dark end of the alley, Duke, Maryland and Wake Forest just plain weren't invited. Their bowling hopes are in the gutter.

Meanwhile, Florida State — the ACC's undisputed kingpin — is passing on the preliminaries. The Seminoles have all but locked up the league crown.

But for UNC, N.C. State, Virginia, Clemson and Georgia Tech, Saturday kicks off the stretch run of the 1992 ACC football campaign. And when the 10th and final frame is officially on the score sheet, all five will join FSU in the bonus frame.

But where will the ACC's elite end up? Three will land a guaranteed spot in the bowling bevy, while three others will have to wait it out for midnight bowling — hanging around the alley late into the selection process, waiting for an at-large bowl bid.

But before getting to that point, the remaining pins must topple in the regular-season race.

Frame No. 1: Florida State at Virginia (Oct. 31):

The recently stumbling Cavs (6-2, 4-2 in the ACC) need this one to keep their bowl coalition hopes alive. Wahoo running back Terry Kirby is likely to return to the lineup Saturday, but FSU is just a little too powerful. The Seminoles clinch the ACC outright with a 38-24 triumph.

Frame No. 2: UNC at Maryland (Oct. 31):

The Terps (2-6, 1-4) sport the league's top offense. The Tar Heels (6-2, 3-2) sport the league's top defense. Saturday, the Tar Heels will top the stingy Terps 23-17.

Frame No. 3: UNC at Clemson (Nov. 7):

This game, combined with the State-Virginia clash that same day, will go a long way toward determining the league's second-place finisher — and the second ACC qualifier in the bowl alliance. The Tar Heels will bowl over nemesis Clemson. Make it 27-21 Tigers.

Frame No. 4: N.C. State at Virginia (Nov. 7):

Wolfpack coach Dick Sheridan is 0-6 lifetime against the Cavs. The seventh time's the charm. The Pack wrests control of second place with a 19-17 win.

Frame No. 5: Wake Forest at Duke (Nov. 7):

The beer frame. Duke wins a turkey of a game, 35-33.

Frame No. 6: Clemson at Maryland (Nov. 14):

Maryland puts a happy cap on a season of disappointments. The Terps send Clemson flying from the major bowl field, 24-23.

Frame No. 7: Duke at N.C. State (Nov. 14):

The Devils are the only barrier between State and a bowl-alliance bid. It always seems to be a close game, but this one will be an exception. State moves on, 30-10.

Frame No. 8: UNC at Duke (Nov. 21):

How does Duke keep showing up in this? They're supposed to be meekly wobbling down the gutter. The Tar Heels wind up a satisfying 8-3 campaign with a 29-12 spanking of the Devils.

Frame No. 9: Georgia Tech at Georgia (Nov. 28):

Tech needs this non-conference rivalry game to assure itself a spot in the ACC bowling league. The Jackets zip up an 8-3 season by surprising the Bulldogs between the hedges, 17-13.

Frame No. 10: Florida at Florida St. (Nov. 28):

FSU's already headed to a New Year's Day bowl. The 33-14 whipping of the intrastate Gators heads the Seminoles toward the Sugar Bowl against Alabama.

And with the 10th frame in the books, the hosts of this little bowling bonanza (i.e., bowl representatives) will make an unprecedented six ACC teams dance in their squeaky bowling shoes.

Sugar: FSU (10-1, 8-0, first) vs. Alabama

Blockbuster: N.C. State (9-2-1, 6-1, second) vs. Penn State

Peach: Georgia Tech (8-3, 5-3, tied)

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Tish, Tish, Tish: No sophomore jinx for 1991 soccer hero

Editor's note: The following story is the last in a three-part series on women's soccer stars.

By Carter Toole
Staff Writer

Domination is the norm for the UNC women's soccer team.

But last year, expectations were not at the usual ludicrous heights. Key players were missing and the coach departed for the World Cup in China midway through the season. If there was ever a chance to topple the Tar Heels, it was in 1991.

But a freshman from Modesto, Calif., stepped in, led the nation in scoring, led North Carolina to its sixth straight NCAA crown and silenced any doubters of UNC's soccer supremacy.

A freshman? From the Bay area? They play soccer there?

"Yeah, but it's not very popular," says sophomore midfielder Tisha Venturini. "There aren't any big players from around there."

Until now.

Venturini had arguably the best freshman campaign in women's soccer history last year. She tallied 21 goals, 16 assists and 58 points. She had at least one point in 20 of 24 games. Her point total was the ninth highest in UNC history.

A freshman?

Ahhh... must've been a hot-shot, point-grubbing, ball hog, right? Wrong. She was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player of the NCAA Tournament.

Did Venturini expect to dominate the way she did?

"No way, but it's not like my role was to be the goal scorer," she said. "If you're doing bad, these girls can still make you look good — everybody is so good on this team, you can't give one person the credit."



Tisha Venturini
Women's Soccer Greats

Year Goals Assists Points
1991 21 16 58
1992 12 13 37
Totals 33 29 95

All-American, 1991; National Freshman of the Year, 1991; National scoring leader, 1991

And thus far in 1992, Venturini has been anything but a sophomore slump. She has scored 12 goals and has dished out 13 assists. Those numbers rival her figures from last season, although with Mia Hamm and Rita Tower back on the front line, Venturini is relied on primarily for passing — not goal scoring.

"I don't feel I'm as needed this year: It's like every time I give someone the ball, they're gonna score," she said. "But I'm still working hard, if not harder, out there. I don't say to myself, 'OK, (Hamm and Tower) are here, so I'm just gonna lay back, jog around and let them do the work.'"

Venturini feels that this year's squad is more balanced than last season's team, and the statistics prove her right — 15 different UNC players have scored.

"I think we're clicking more as a team," she said. "Last year, individual performances carried the team, but this year, everybody's scoring and contributing on both offense and defense."

But despite UNC's outstanding success this season, Venturini, like her teammate Kristine Lilly, feels the Tar Heels are getting slighted in terms of national exposure.

"You look in the pages of Soccer America, and there's one page on the women and the rest of the magazine is about the men's game," she said. "It's a little frustrating at times because nobody has had a record like this program's in men's soccer, or other sports."

Venturini is no stranger to exposure. She was one of the most sought-after high school players in the country. She played on the 19-and-under national squad and competed in France, Norway and Bulgaria. Her high school team was 54-0-2 in the four seasons she played.

"I was recruited by schools from all over the place. I didn't even know where most of them were," she said. "It was overwhelming to me how many letters I got."

One of those letters was from UNC. Venturini had heard of the Tar Heels' success while in high school, but initially she did not entertain any thoughts of coming to Chapel Hill.

"I didn't consider UNC at first; even when I came on a recruiting trip I was pretty much opposed to going here," she said. "But all the players and (head coach) Anson (Dorrance) made such an effort to make me feel at home."

"You could tell that they cared. They weren't just trying to get me to come here for their benefit, it seemed like they really cared for me as a person. After the first day, I knew this was the place for me to go."

Crossing three time zones to see their daughter play does not seem to bother Chick and Lynda Venturini. "My dad loves it and he goes crazy if he has to miss any games."

No wonder. Venturini is on a record scoring pace, even by North Carolina standards. She has 95 career points in just 43 games. And with the postseason looming, expect Tisha Venturini to once again be a catalyst for the Tar Heels' march towards an 11th national title.

This weekend's ACC Tournament season-long goal for cross country teams

By Stephen Higdon
Staff Writer

The North Carolina men's and women's cross country teams will compete in their biggest meet of the year so far when they travel to the ACC Championships Saturday in Raleigh.

The women's 5-kilometer race will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the men start their 8-kilometer contest at 11:15.

The efforts of both squads have been directed toward this weekend's contest. In their first meet of the year, the NCSU

Invitational/ACC Preview, both squads got a good look at Carter-Finley Stadium Course. The unusually hilly course, which is hosting the ACC Championship for the first time in seven years, presents a unique set of challenges for runners to overcome.

"The first mile went pretty fast because it was in the woods," said team captain Judith McCullough after the Sept. 18 contest in Raleigh. "The second mile, the hills sort of took some of the time out of it."

"But the third mile was definitely the

hardest, because it was wide open — you can see the finish line, and how far you are from it."

As the UNC harriers have moved through the season, the teams have worked to overcome the loss of some prominent runners. On the women's side, the emergence of Andrea Bailey and Jenny Musselwhite has helped ease the loss of Stephanie Beches, who has mononucleosis.

"They're both racing very aggressively," said McCullough of Bailey and Musselwhite. "Andrea's got that com-

5 women's soccer teams vie for the ACC-ademy awards

By Jeff McKinley
Staff Writer

The Atlantic Coast Conference gives out its women's soccer award this weekend — the prestigious ACC-ademy award. While last year's winner, the North Carolina Tar Heels, seem to be a sure shot for the Best Actress award, the most drama surrounds this year's Best Supporting Actress award.

With four of the five ACC women's soccer teams ranked in the top 15, this weekend's tournament at Durham's Duke Soccer Stadium will showcase some of the nation's top soccer action, capped by the championship game Sunday at 3 p.m.

The Tar Heels, trying to win their fourth consecutive title, lead the star-studded cast. UNC's 19-0 record earned the Tar Heels the tournament's top seed and a first-round bye. The Tar Heels' second-round game begins at 5 p.m. Saturday against the winner of Friday afternoon's Virginia-Maryland match.

Head coach Anson Dorrance says the Tar Heels have played well recently, but he remains cautious.

"We feel pretty good now," Dorrance said. "My only concern is we played three games in five days — Friday, Sunday and Tuesday — and sometimes when you play a lot of games it burns you out, and you lose enthusiasm a bit."

Dorrance said he will try not to overwork the team in practice to prevent additional fatigue.

Despite Dorrance's concerns, the Tar Heels still boast four of the ACC's top six scorers in forwards Mia Hamm and Kristine Lilly and midfielders Tisha Venturini and Angela Kelly. Hamm leads the conference and the nation with 80 points.

The Tar Heels may be the leading ladies, but, like in the movies, sometimes the supporting cast can steal the show. Just because UNC goes in as the favorite, Dorrance warned against overlooking the rest of the tournament field.

"I think every team in the tournament has the potential to beat anyone," he said. "Duke, N.C. State, Virginia and Maryland are all excellent programs, and all have outstanding athletes."

Virginia and Maryland meet in the tournament's only first-round match Friday at 3 p.m. Virginia enters the weekend action as the nation's No. 6 team with a 12-3-1 record. Maryland, though winless in the ACC, posted an 11-6-1 regular-season mark. With potentially three games in three days (including one against UNC), the winner of this game faces the toughest challenge in attaining the conference championship.

An interesting sideline matchup arises in this contest. Both UVa. head coach Lauren Gregg and Maryland head coach April Heinrichs graduated from UNC.

N.C. State and Duke, the second and third seeds, will play the other

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Game and time: No. 22 North Carolina vs. Maryland. Kickoff is at 1:30 p.m.

Site: Byrd Stadium, College Park, Md.

Playing surface: Natural grass
Tickets: Tickets are still available for the game and can be purchased at the gate Saturday.

TV/Radio: The game will not be televised. The Tar Heel Sports Network will provide live radio coverage. The flagship stations are WCHL (1360-AM) and WZZU (93.9-FM).

Season records: UNC 6-2 (3-2 in the ACC); Maryland 2-6 (1-4)

Series: UNC leads 29-25-1

Last meeting (1991): North Carolina 24, Maryland 0

Last week: UNC defeated then-No. 19 Georgia Tech 26-14 in Chapel Hill. Maryland defeated Duke 27-25 in Durham.

Personnel update: North Carolina — CB Thomas Smith (broken forearm) is out. LB Tommy Thigpen (fullered hamstring) is questionable. Maryland — TB Mark Mason (fractured shoulder) is out. RB Larry Washington (knee) and DB Andre Vaughn (neck) are doubtful.

North Carolina offense: UNC has to be the only team in the nation not to have a starting QB after eight games. But no one's complaining.

Freshman Mike Thomas proved last week he's not just an athlete with a strong arm by leading UNC past Georgia Tech. Just a week earlier, Jason Stanicek was getting almost all of the snaps from center.

Expect Thomas to get the start after last week's stellar performance, and he should have a field day with Maryland's porous secondary, ranked worst in the league. He shouldn't have to throw much. Expect Natrone Means, who needs 121 yards to break the 1,000-yard mark for the second straight year, to carry the ball more than 30 times.

Strong safety Bracey Walker (ACC

UNC Tar Heels

Maryland Terrapins

Sat., 1:30 p.m.
Byrd Stadium, College Park

Maryland offense: First-year head coach Mark Duffner has the Maryland no-huddle offense running up more yards than any team in the ACC. The Terps have broken 12 ACC and team records this year.

The stats are unreal. Quarterback John Kaleo has attempted 129 more passes than any other quarterback in the ACC. Split end Marcus Badgett has gained almost twice as much as any ACC receiver — he's first in the NCAA among receivers in yards per game and second in receptions per game. Flankers Richie Harris and Dan Prunzik are third and fourth in catches in the ACC.

The Terps went 88 yards and scored a touchdown in the game's last 14 seconds to beat Duke. So why 2-6?

Kaleo has thrown 18 interceptions and only 10 touchdowns. Tailback Mark Mason is absent from the Maryland offense, leaving an anemic rushing game. Despite these numbers, Maryland is fourth in the ACC in scoring, only a point ahead of UNC.

North Carolina defense: UNC's suddenly rejuvenated secondary, after getting scorched by N.C. State and Florida State in UNC's only two losses, toughened up against two explosive QBs from Virginia and Georgia Tech.

The Tar Heels need the same effort they received against Bobby Goodman and Shawn Jones in facing Kaleo and the Maryland offense. In fact, they need a better one.

Strong safety Bracey Walker (ACC

defensive back of the week) and free safety Rondell Jones must help UNC's cornerbacks in double-teaming Badgett. That will leave Harris and Prunzik — no slouches — in single coverage some of the game. Reserve cornerbacks Lawrence Winslow and Eric Thomas will need as strong an effort as starters Sean Crocker and Cliff Baskerville.

The UNC defense has allowed a league-low four touchdowns passes. But the only two times the Tar Heels faced a receiving corps like this, they lost.

Maryland defense: If the adage "a good defense is the best offense" is true in College Park, then the Terps, who have a bad defense, have a terrible offense.

A good defense should hold on to leads. Maryland's first five losses came against ranked teams, but fourth-quarter folds by the defense resulted in three losses. Duke outscored Maryland 14-0 in the fourth quarter until Kaleo and Badgett combined for a miracle.

LB Mike Jarmolowich is the defense's team leader, keying a decent rushing defense. But the Maryland secondary has allowed 700 more yards in the air than any other ACC team.

That's a lot of yards.

Weekend Action

HOME
VOLLEYBALL vs. Clemson, Fri. 7:30 p.m., and vs. Georgia Tech, Sat. 6 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY vs. Virginia, Sat. 1 p.m., and vs. Duke, Sun. 1 p.m.

AWAY
MEN'S GOLF at Old Dominion/Sea Scape Collegiate Golf Tournament, Kitty Hawk, Fri.-Sat. All Day

WOMEN'S SOCCER at ACC Tournament, Durham, Sat.-Sun.

WOMEN'S TENNIS at Riviera All-American Championships, Los Angeles, Fri.-Sat.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY at ACC Championships, Raleigh, Sat. 10:30 a.m.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY at ACC Championships, Raleigh, Sat. 11:15 a.m.

FOOTBALL at Maryland, College Park, Md., Sat. 1:30 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER at Appalachian State, Boone, Sun. 2 p.m.

Final analysis/prediction: Some teams find ways to lose.

UNC has shed its "choker" label. Maryland, despite keeping it close against good teams, is still a few years away from winning the big games.

The Tar Heel offense should have no problem scoring and scoring often

against Maryland. The Terps will move the ball against North Carolina, but when they get near the UNC end zone, expect the Tar Heels to get tough.

Means gets his 1,000 yards and the Tar Heels win and win easily. North Carolina 31, Maryland 7

— Steve Politi

DTH PICKS OF THE WEEK

Warren Hynes (56-28) .860	David J. Kupstas (53-31) .630	Bryan Strickland (59-25) .700	Eric David (56-28) .660	Steve Politi (56-28) .660	John C. Manuel (61-23) .720
UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC
FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU
Clem.	Clem.	Clem.	Clem.	Clem.	Clem.
Tech	Tech	Tech	Tech	Tech	Tech
Colo.	Colo.	Colo.	Colo.	Neb.	Colo.
PSU	PSU	PSU	PSU	PSU	PSU
Ga.	Fla.	Fla.	Ga.	Ga.	Fla.
Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.
Wash.	Wash.	Wash.	Wash.	Stan.	Wash.
Cal.	UCLA	Cal.	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA
MSU	MSU	MSU	MSU	MSU	MSU

From riches to rags: Love leads troubled field at Tour Championship

The Associated Press

PINEHURST — While Davis Love III escaped, Pinehurst picked the pockets of golf's other millionaires Thursday in the first round of the season-ending Tour Championship.

Not only did the famed old No. 2 course in the Carolina sandhills send Nick Price and John Cook plummeting to the bottom of the elite field, it so confused Fred Couples that he resorted to cross-handed desperation putting.

It didn't help.

And that does not mean that the four

\$1 million winners were alone in their misadventures through dunes, pines and autumn-flaming trees.

There was Tom Kite, the U.S. Open champion needing a victory in this \$2 million event to have a shot at Player of the Year honors, slashing and thrashing his way to a 73 and topping only four men in the field of the 30 leading money-winners.

Or take Paul Azinger, needing a win in this one to extend a string of at least one victory in five consecutive seasons. He managed a 70, 1 under par but

remarkable in that he birdied two of the last three holes — while putting with his wedge. He bent his putter with a sharp rap to the ground after missing a short putt on the 11th.

Love, one of the four millionaires vying for most of the game's season-long honors, hung on for a share of the lead at 68, 3 under par, despite a three-putt bogey on the final hole.

He was tied with Keith Clearwater, who had his customary hot opening round. Clearwater now has had opening scores of 68 or better in 12 of 32 starts

this year — and has not won.

Defending champion Craig Stadler and South African David Frost were a single stroke back at 69.

In addition to Azinger, those at 70 included Greg Norman, John Huston, Duffy Waldorf, Lee Janzen, Tom Lehman and Brad Faxton.

The other end of the standings contained much more impressive names: Kite and Couples at 73, Price, Cook and Corey Pavin at 74. Only David Peoples, at 75, was higher.

Couples — the Masters champion

and leading the standings in money-winnings, scoring average and the PGA Player of the Year coming into this event — hurried through the crowd and left the course immediately after signing his card.

"I had a fun day. Freddie didn't have a fun day," said Love.

"He didn't look comfortable with his driving, and this is not a course to be uncomfortable with your driver."

"He looked like a lot of things bothered him. He looked like he didn't know what to expect."