



ACC INSIDE STUFF

Dick DeVenizio

Boys Club Soccer Team In Tourney Finals

The Kings Mountain Boys Club senior soccer team advanced to the final round of the Pumpkin Bowl Soccer Tournament last week with an 8-0 victory over the Stanley Steam.

The Pumpkin Bowl Tournament is held each year in

Gastonia with participation by invitation. Some of the top youth soccer teams in the Piedmont area are entered in the event.

The Kings Mountain team earned a spot in the tournament by finishing in a tie with Mt.

Holly for the league title. Kings Mountain compiled a 10-0-5 record and was unscored on in league play.

In the opening round of the tournament, Kings Mountain got three goals from team captain Cris Henson, two goals each

by James Adams and Darius Ross and one goal by Casey Wiggins. Goal keeper Brian Dellinger recored his 12th shutout of the season.

Kings Mountain was scheduled to host the North Belmont Bombers Tuesday night.

NCSU: They Have Lots Of Fire Power

NC State Coach Jim Valvano is more suited to being a celebrity than any sports figure I know of. Besides his ability as a speaker and his sense of dealing with the media, he gives the guy on the street more time, more respect, and more attention than any big time sports figure anywhere. Furthermore, after his miraculous NCAA title two years ago, you know he has to be able to coach extremely well.

Yet I have to admit, as much as I admire him personally, and as much as I respect his accomplishments, I have been skeptical of his coaching ability.

State teams seem to stand around too much; and I haven't understood why Ernie Myers is permitted to take so many bad shots, as are Spud Webb and Terry Gannon. And why has Lorenzo Charles been permitted to loaf noticeably on the court as he did often last year?

Just before practice began, I thought my doubts were being clarified. The players threw up a lot of "recreation" shots (shots you don't take in games) and although all five coaches were at courtside looking on, not one made a comment like "Use this time to improve" or "Practice the shots you will get in the games." Not one of the coaches walked onto the court to give a pointer to the players out there wasting time.

Yet, once the practice beg, they were all business. The practice was spirited and well run. I have to think that Valvano, in keeping with his sometimes laid back attitude, feels that the time before practice is for warming up, and that therefore he doesn't find it worthwhile to inject himself into that time. The official practice time, he must think, is enough.

As for the practice performance, it was something like awesome. Valvano has seven foot Freshman Chris Washburn looking fit and trim and playing excellent, hustling basketball. I thought it would take Valvano three years to get Washburn to this point. I have seen Washburn at the Prep Stars camp and in games last year, and never did he hustle like he did for Valvano in practice. So mark a big plus for Jimmy V. He has already done something very impressive in my opinion.

Beyond Washburn, there is Co (-zell McQueen) and Lo (-renzo Charles), both looking impressive, and 6'8" newcomer John Thompson, looking like a feisty bull who can't wait to break out. Russell Pierre and Benny Bolton, both of whom started a lot last year, were hardly noticeable. No wonder Valvano has said "We have more fire power than a lot of small countries."

With Spud Webb and Terry Gannon back at guard, and rookie Quentin Jackson looking very good too, the back court is solid. Add Ernie Myers and 6'6" JC transfer point guard Nate McMillan (who may be a small forward too—he's THAT versatile) and State is clearly THE MOST talented team in the conference.

State has two complete teams which could compete for the ACC top spot. Does that mean State will come first? I don't know. But the other teams are lucky that State can play only five at a time. State is big, tough, and fast. The best hope of the other ACC teams is that State's players get in each other's way, become tentative, or disgruntled, and fail to find a team chemistry.

Too many good players can cause problems. Some will tend to shoot too soon in a game. On the bench, some may drag down team morale and play selfishly when they finally get a chance to perform. Chemistry is difficult to establish when more than five players truly can make a good case for deserving to start.

I don't know how Coach Valvano will deal with these problems, but if he does so effectively, State could beat everyone like UNC did last year. The talent is there. There is no way I can pick Georgia Tech or Duke over State. At this point, State looks number one.

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Tom Mayhue Wins County Bass Tourney

The Cleveland County Bass Club held its monthly tournament Saturday at Lake Hickory.

Tom Mayhue won the event with a total catch of 10 pounds, 15 ounces. Second was John Rankin with eight pounds, 12

ounces, and third was Jesus Loees with five pounds, 15 ounces.

Richard Bridges caught the biggest fish, a four pound, six ounce bass.

Junior Soccer Team Has 9-3 Mark

The Kings Mountain Boys Club Junior soccer team completed its season last week with a 9-3 overall record. The team finished 8-2 and in second place. The team was invited to par-

ticipate in the Pumpkin Bowl where it dropped a close 1-0 decision to the defending champion Belmont Strikers. Kings Mountain had several scoring opportunities and out-shot the winners

by a three to one margin but lost late in the second half on a Belmont penalty kick.

Coach Bobby Bell said he was "very pleased with the team's effort and hustle throughout the

season, and I was particularly proud of the improvement we made throughout the year considering none of the kids had ever played soccer before this year."

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THANKS...

To the 21,446 people who cast their votes for me on Nov. 6th.

Let's now clean up Gaston County by seeing that any political signs we may have missed are removed.

Thanks again for all your help. May God Bless each of you.

Glenn

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