

Men's soccer looks for first title

By Leah Campbell
Staff Writer

In 2011, the North Carolina men's soccer team will be hard-pressed to match the success of the 2010 campaign — one of the most successful seasons in program history.

But with nine recruits signed under new head coach Carlos Somoano's watchful eye, the Tar Heels look to earn something that has long evaded them — UNC's second national championship.

For the last three years, UNC has advanced to the College Cup only to leave the dream of bring-

ing a national title to Chapel Hill unfulfilled.

But this year, someone new will be in charge.

Somoano is taking the reins from Elmar Bolowich, the winningest men's soccer coach in UNC history. Bolowich, who coached at North Carolina for 22 years, announced his resignation in February, and became head coach at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

Somoano, who served as interim head coach after Bolowich's announcement, was promoted to head coach after nine years of working for the program as an assistant.

"I'm very excited," Somoano said. "It's definitely an honor to be able to lead the program and I certainly want to thank (athletic director) Mr. (Dick) Baddour for trusting me to do that."

Bolowich, the players, and members of the soccer community said they were happy to hear Somoano had landed the job after many recommended him for the



DTH FILE/ERIN HULL

Junior midfielder Martin Murphy jumps over a Clemson opponent while on his way to the ball during UNC's 2-0 win in Nov. 2010.

successor's position.

"After nine years with the team and in the ACC, it's the smoothest transition it can be to take over a team on which he recruited many of the players," Bolowich said. "He has all the ingredients for him to be successful as a head coach."

With Somoano, the program will likely experience a sense of continuity despite losing Bolowich and key seniors Michael Farfan and Eddie Ababio.

Second-team All-American Matt Hedges is transferring to UNC from Butler, and eight high school seniors, including three five-star and four four-star recruits, will join him.

College Soccer News ranks recruits Darvin Ebanks, Jordan McCrary, Boyd Okuwonu and Cooper Vandermaas-Peeler in the top 20 nationally.

UNC will return five starters from its 2010 NCAA College Cup team and will enjoy the return of Billy Schuler and Cameron Brown, who will both take the field in 2011 after spending last season on the bench recovering from injuries.

"We look forward to working with this year's class," Somoano said in a press release. "I think they will be a great representation of what we look for in student-athletes at the University of North Carolina."

Contact the Sports Editor
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Women's soccer expects success

By Michael Lananna
Staff Writer

By most standards, the North Carolina women's soccer team had a successful season in 2010.

But success takes on a different meaning for a program that has amassed 20 NCAA championships and 20 ACC Tournament titles in the last 31 years.

Last season the Tar Heels (19-3-2) failed to take home the crown in either tournament, falling just short of the postseason glory that has become commonplace for them.

In November, the No. 1-seeded Tar Heels' ACC Tournament run came to a halt against No. 5-seeded Wake Forest, who advanced to the championship game after winning a penalty kick shoot-out 5-4.

The early tournament exit marked the first time the Tar Heels had ever missed the championship game. But with five players on the bench, injuries were heavy on coach Anson Dorrance's mind.

"Would we have enjoyed competing in the final again? Absolutely," Dorrance said after the game. "I just don't think we can afford another injury."

Unfortunately for the Tar Heels, they met a similar end in the NCAA Tournament, losing in the third round to Notre Dame — the eventual tournament champion. With their 4-1 victory, the Fighting Irish dethroned the defending champion Tar Heels in historic fashion, becoming the first team to beat the UNC women by more than one goal since 1985.

For Dorrance, the streak is a testament to the team's tenacity.

"That's something I'm incredibly proud of, that our kids over the years have figured out a way to hang in there," Dorrance said.

The Tar Heels will look to return to their championship-winning ways this upcoming season, as eight newcomers will join a roster that includes the team's top-scoring forwards from a year ago: sophomore Kealia Ohai and senior Courtney Jones.

As a freshman, Ohai scored



DTH FILE/ELIZABETH MENDOZA

Senior forward Brittani Bartok lines up to kick against Miami in UNC's 5-0 win in Oct. 2010. The Tar Heels were 19-3-2 on the season.

a team-best 14 goals and, along with the veteran Jones, should help to solidify the Tar Heels' offensive attack.

Of the recruits, four have mid-field experience, which could help make up for the 2,023 minutes Meghan Klingenberg supplied a year ago.

Klingenberg was part of two championship teams during her tenure at UNC, and she's confident that the team will continue to thrive without her.

"I've always thought that our program is bigger than soccer, and that's why we've been so good for these past 30 years," Klingenberg said. "I always hope they win national championships, but I hope that they have as amazing an experience as I did in four years."

The Tar Heels will begin the quest for their 21st national championship on Aug. 19 in Lincoln, Neb., where they'll square off against the Cornhuskers.

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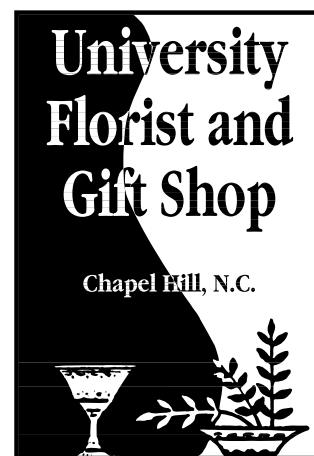
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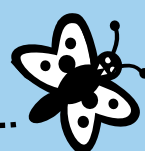


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