TAR HEEL STUDENT-ATHLETES
SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER

Tar Heel student-athletes helped spread holiday cheer and assisted families in need by participating in the Share Your Holidays program. UNC teams adopted 15 local families and provided them with Christmas gifts and other items for the holidays. Shown at the right are the baseball, football and women’s track and field teams wrapping gifts as part of this invaluable program.

In between taking finals and finishing up the semester, student-athletes shopped for, wrapped and delivered presents to the families, adopted through the Durham-based Share Your Holidays program, which is affiliated with the Volunteer Center of Durham and Durham Social Services.

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM STUDENT-ATHLETE SERVICES

On November 30, the Academic Team Captains program hosted an evening with Jimi Gibson, a comedic hypno-therapist. It was a night for laughs in the spirit of helping the students prepare for finals week. A crowd of more than 150 student-athletes was present, as well as several academic support personnel and the program’s benefactor, Mr. Francis Henry, and the laughter they enjoyed will be remembered for some time.

The program was designed to be a different delivery of the Academic Support Program’s central theme: FOCUS on academics, especially in the pending exam period. By helping several students “focus” on the night’s events, Mr. Gibson treated everyone to a truly entertaining evening in which the students enjoyed a nice break from all of the preparation and assignments that come at the end of a semester. There is nothing like seeing our confident students forget numbers and their last names, transform into Drag Queens and Martian-Speaking Rednecks and sing their favorite musicals to their teammates. It was truly a night to remember.

On December 7, the Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes hosted several new University employees in Student Affairs for a tour of both the Kenan Football Center and the Academic Center. The focus of the tour, beyond simply saying “Welcome,” was the relationship between the Athletics Department and the University at-large. It is important to remember and to stress in our daily interactions that the Athletics Department is a part of the University and...
not a separate entity. In higher education today, the opposite relationship is too often felt on college campuses. The tour reiterated our commitment to the University’s student-athletes and to an open relationship with all offices on campus. From Admissions to Housing to Undergraduate Academic Advising to Athletics, we are all on this campus to help educate and assist the maturation process of Carolina students.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM SPORTS MEDICINE

Coaches- “On the Job” Injuries: What to Do?

Each year, situations invariably arise in which coaches are injured while in the midst of fulfilling their coaching duties, whether it occurs while teaching a move to a wrestler, providing a spot to one of the gymnasts, or some other coaching task. Incidents may occur even if every precaution and protocol is followed. The Sports Medicine Staff is more than happy to assist in the evaluation and care of the injured coach to ensure they receive proper health care. However, there are important steps that the coach needs to take in order to ensure that they are properly covered for any medical bills that may arise from their injury:

1. Report to the University Employee Occupational Health Clinic (UEOHC) at the Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) as soon as possible. In order to create the documentation needed to qualify for the University Workman’s Compensation Insurance, you are required to be evaluated by a Nurse Practitioner at the UEOHC. Normal Operating Hours are 8:30-4:30. Appointments can be made by calling 966-9119.

2. There are two forms you should complete:
   a. Employer’s Report of Injury to Employee (NCIC Form 19): This is required by law. The injured employee’s supervisor (Head Coach, Athletic Department Administrator) must complete and send within 48 HOURS to the Dept. of Environment, Health and Safety (CB#1650). If this form is not sent, there is a risk that the University’s insurance may not provide coverage, or insurance payments could be delayed.
   b. Employee Incident Report Form: Employee’s description of how the injury occurred.

These forms can be found on the Department of Environment, Health and Safety Website at www.ehs.unc.edu/worker_comp/forms.shtml.

TICKET OFFICE NEWS & NOTES

The ticket office is finally catching up from the busy fall. The staff is looking forward to the rest of the men’s and women’s basketball regular-season events and postseason schedule and the upcoming spring sports. We have a few items to update you on.

The only 2005-06 men’s basketball game with any ticket availability is the UNC vs. Davidson game on Tuesday, January 3rd. All other remaining games are sold out.

On Friday, February 17th at 8:00 p.m., we are delighted to be hosting the 2005 Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year, Keith Urban, with Special Guest Natural Brown at the Dean E. Smith Center. The Smith Center will be in a “half house” set up for the concert and we’ve already sold over 7,000 tickets for this event. This continues a long tradition of great country talents performing at the Smith Center. While it is now past the established deadline, we do still have good seats held for athletic department staff. If you do wish to enjoy Keith Urban’s performance, please contact us as soon as possible, and we’ll give you the best seats we’ve got. Tickets are $49 each.

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Chris Ducar, Asst. Women's Soccer Coach

Contribution by Jeff McLerran, Athletic Communications
Student Assistant

Heart. Determination. Work. Ethic. There are a lot of attributes that can be found within the makeup of a successful program. But to reach a truly championship level, you also need to have a little talent.

For the last 10 years the man in charge of finding the talent for one of Carolina’s winningest programs has been assistant women’s soccer coach Chris Ducar.

Ducar joined the Tar Heel staff in 1996 and has since helped compile and mold rosters that have won nine conference championships, five national championships and produced seven national player of the year honorees. An impressive resume like that, though, doesn’t come without plenty of hard work.

“I probably make about two to three trips a year during the season,” said Ducar. “It is hard to leave the team, sometimes for a week at a time, but it is an important that we be at college showcases.”

As the team’s recruiting coordinator, it is Ducar’s job to manage a process that begins two to three years before a potential player takes her first class on a college campus.

“We begin several years in advance by compiling a mailing list around 30 players,” explained Ducar. “By their junior year we have cut the list down until finally we have the three to five players we really want to go after.”

For most of the recruiting period, Ducar is on his own. He is the one who starts and builds the relationships, offers the tours of campus and does most of the selling of program. It is also his job to keep a watchful eye on a recruit’s skills to ensure they are the best player for the program.

“With a tradition like ours, you can’t have any mistakes,” said Ducar. “The responsibility is huge. It means a lot to me [head coach] Anson [Dorrance] trusts me to do the job.”

While often helpful, carrying on the North Carolina tradition can also be a hindrance in the recruiting process. Other schools will try to add a negative connotation to the Tar Heel name claiming it is just a “soccer factory” and is too hard on its players. Some potential targets, despite their love for Carolina, can be scared off by the pressure of playing for the most prestigious program in the sport.

“Many young women that have dreams of playing for us, don’t end up here because they begin to doubt themselves,” said Ducar. “They find it terrifying—not living up to expectations. It’s not easy to commit.”

While it is Ducar’s job to ease that fear and help a player through the process, he says the recruits that have the most success are the ones who have made it a point to attend Carolina from the very beginning.

“The players that do best here are the ones who have been Tar Heels all along,” said Ducar. “The come to our camps, watch the games, have the posters hanging on their walls. They have a sense of what it is like to be a part of Carolina women’s soccer and they want to make their own mark. Those are the fun ones to coach.”

On top of being an expert recruiter, Ducar has earned an equally accomplished reputation as a coach. In addition to coaching Carolina’s goalkeepers, he coached the keepers for three years on the Under-21 U.S. National Team. During his tenure the team captured two Nordic Cup gold medals and one silver medal.

“It is quite an honor to represent your country,” said Ducar. “It is also an experience to work with the best players around.”

One day Ducar does hope to have a head coaching position of his own. To date he has received a handful of offers but have not yet come under the right circumstances.

“It has to be right for me and for my family,” said Ducar. “It has to be a really good situation because you have to have a passion for the program. But my plan is to make it a satellite program of Carolina. Both my wife and I plan to coach there, as well as hopefully bringing along a couple former players.”

Ducar’s wife, Tracy, who was a goalkeeper at Carolina in the mid-1990s, is currently the head coach at Greensboro College.

One guarantee is, wherever Ducar finds himself in soccer, he will enjoy it.

“I love the game and I never get bored. I look at some other coaches and see them walking around like their job is such a job. I have to laugh because I’m thinking to myself, ‘this is the coolest job I could ever imagine.’”

2006 UNIVERSITY HOLIDAYS:

New Year’s: January 2, 2006, Monday
Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday: January 16, 2006, Monday
Spring Holiday: April 14, 2006, Friday
Memorial Day: May 29, 2006, Monday
Independence Day: July 4, 2006, Tuesday
Labor Day: September 4, 2006, Monday
Thanksgiving: November 23 & 24, 2006, Thursday & Friday
Winter Holiday: December 25, 26 & 27, 2006, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Auditorium on Saturday, February 25th at 2 p.m. As you know, you may attend all regular season Olympic sporting events with your UNC OneCard for general admission seating. Due to tremendous ticket demand for UNC-Duke Women’s Basketball game, the entire lower level of Carmichael Auditorium will be reserved seating (except for the bleacher seats behind the team benches). UNC Faculty, Staff, Students and general admission ticket holders may purchase an upgrade to reserved seats for $3 each. We would like to offer UNC Athletics Department staff complimentary reserved seating for this game. You may request tickets for yourself, a guest, and/or immediate family, while supplies last. If you do plan on cheering for the Tar Heels in person and you want reserved seats, please contact the ticket office by Wednesday, February 15th.

FROM SPORTS MARKETING

Health & Fitness Fair

Sports Marketing is hosting a Health & Fitness Fair (H&F Fair) in conjunction with the Carolina women’s basketball game against Florida State on Sunday, January 22nd. The H&F Fair begins at 12 noon in Woollen Gym, and the basketball game tips off at 2:00 p.m. in Carmichael Auditorium. The H&F Fair idea arose from the National Girls and Women In Sport (NGWS) campaign, which hosts a specific
NGWS Day in mid-February.

Sports Marketing wants to encourage young girls (and boys) to attend the game, but we also want to give back to these kids and make an impact on them. The H&F Fair will attempt to encourage the importance of being active, staying fit, and eating healthy. We will incorporate female student-athletes and various business vendors to make this an interactive fair that is something special for our young Tar Heel fans.

The general public can purchase $1.00 general admission tickets for the game and fair by calling the UNC Ticket Office. Athletic Department staff and family receive free general admission seats to women's basketball with their complimentary pass (staff can upgrade to reserved seats for just 3 bucks per ticket).

Wachovia “Signs” on with UNC

On November 22, 2005, Wachovia and the University of North Carolina announced an eight-year partnership that will allow on-site signage in several of the facilities around campus. This agreement also will extend the 2003 agreement for Wachovia to remain as the official financial service sponsor for the university’s athletic department. Dan Fleishman, Director of Sponsorships and Alliances for Wachovia, was quoted as stating, “We are very proud to be expanding our partnership with UNC. We are confident the enhancements to the sponsorship will serve to strengthen an already successful relationship.”

The athletic department will use the funding to maintain and improve the UNC athletic facilities, including the Dean Smith Center, Olympic sports venues, sports medicine and student-athlete service programs, which includes academic counseling, career development, and community outreach. Wachovia will be represented in the Smith Center, Boshamer stadium, Carmichael Auditorium and Fetzer field and electronic messaging at Kenan Stadium.