

Tart looking for one more title shot

KELLY MAGUIRE Senior Writer

As the last remaining member of the 1993 runner-up team to the national championship, senior soccer player David Tart has known the taste and thrill of victory.

It's something Tart would love to feel again.

Tart has been playing soccer for as long as he can remember. As a child, he played baseball, basketball, football and soccer, until it got to the point where he had to choose one sport. Tart decided to stick with soccer because of his love for the sport, as well as his ability.

When Tart reached high school, he began to excel in the sport, earning All-State, All-Region and All-Conference honors. He also played at the national, regional and state levels in the U.S. Olympic Development Program.

These honors did not come easily, however. In Tart's junior year of high school, he broke his left leg in May. He fought back to regain his form, but, ironically, did the exact same thing his senior year in May, breaking his right leg.

Tart's playing ability made him highly recruited throughout high school. His father had played football at N.C. State, and his sister was a gymnast there.

Tart's other sister also attended N.C. State. He believed that was where he was destined to go. Everything seemed to work out perfectly — N.C. State worked hard to recruit him and his best friend was going there.

But, Tart decided to visit the four remaining schools on his list: Furman, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro and Carolina.

"When I came here, (men's Head Soccer Coach Mark) Berson went the whole nine yards," Tart said. "He did a better job at recruiting me than

any other school did. He spent more time with me, he drove to my house and had dinner with my parents."

Tart broke his right leg after signing to come to Carolina. He wasn't going to say anything until he knew exactly what was going on, yet somehow Berson got word of the injury.

"He called me and he was as nice as he can be and said 'Look, don't worry about it. You can sit out a year, take a red shirt, and that's not going to be a big deal,'" Tart said. "So I came in here with a good attitude because I knew I'd have an extra season here to play, but it was tough because I knew how good we were going to be.

"Don't get me wrong, it was a great experience to be a part of it, but I would have much rather been on the field contributing, but then again, I wouldn't change it for the world."

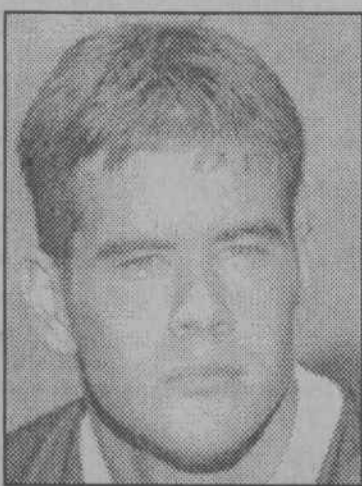
When comparing the 1993 team to the 1997 team, Tart says the personnel here now is just as good as it was then.

As soon as Tart was able to play, he contributed greatly. Tart played in 16 matches as a freshman, 19 matches as a sophomore — also finishing third on the team in scoring — and played in 17 matches as a junior.

As Tart's senior season approached, he was selected as a co-captain. Tart's teammates cite several reasons why they chose him.

Matt Landman said dedication was the number one reason.

"He's always going 110 percent, never slows down, won't make excus-



TART

es, expects everyone around him to be working as hard as he is and he's a competitor and a winner," Landman said. "He works as hard as he can, all the time, and so it's motivational toward us."

Ryan O'Neil says several things made him choose Tart.

"Leadership, confidence, just a person to look up to," he said. "You want to follow his attitude and how he thinks about the game, and how he treats you as a person as well as a player."

"Last year, looking up to him, he was kind of my size, kind of my type of player, and a person I want to be a lot alike."

"I think his teammates chose him as a captain quite simply because he's the type of player that all our guys want to be," Berson said. "Every player on our team has different qualities. They do some things better than other things, and David Tart, as a soccer player, is not as complete as he is as a person."

"It was really an honor for me to be chosen as captain and I hope that I'm doing a good job in leading these guys, although we have a lot of great leaders on this team," Tart said.

Tart takes tremendous pride in this team.

"I'm most proud of this season, the way we've come together after a season like last year's," he said.

"It's tough for a team to rebound like we did, and I'm really proud of the guys. So far, you can't ask for much more than what these guys have given on the field."

Tart has overcome a lot to get to where he is now. Injuries, along with academics, have put pressure on him.

"I think the hardest aspect of playing soccer at Carolina is the time commitment," he said. "Students say, 'Oh you're on the soccer team! Wow that must be great.' But I don't think people realize we practice for almost three hours every day. We're out of town a lot of weekends."

"My major's Biology, and some of these classes it takes me weeks to prepare for a test, and just the time commitment that goes along with playing a sport, and trying to maintain a good GPA, is really, really tough."

For Tart, the best aspect of playing soccer has been the camaraderie and friendships he's made.

"I've made some of my best friends here," Tart said. "It's a family that will always be here when I graduate. At our home games, we have alumni that sit on our sidelines. I can't wait to be a part of that."

After graduation, Tart plans to travel and possibly go to medical school. Health administration or hospital administration are also options.

Tart looks forward to the future, but will also miss soccer and his teammates.

"Besides the fact that I can sit here and tell you how hard it is to play and practice everyday and play the games, I will miss that too," he said. "Shoot, we're out here running around everyday, staying in shape. It's an easy way to stay in shape and exercise, and then the games are a complete buzz. They're so much fun to play in. We have great fans here. Walking out and playing in front of The Graveyard is one of the greatest things ever for me."

"I will miss being around (my teammates), the friendships," he said. "The good times we have, and the goofiness of all of them. It's a good time."

NWO beats WCW at Halloween Havoc

SHAWN SINGLETON new world order

As most of you know, Halloween is the next exit off David Lynch's lost highway. So while we're on that subject of morbid holidays you don't get days off for, let me cause some havoc — Halloween Havoc, that is.

WCW's Halloween Havoc was, to me, a pretty good reason to forego Game 7 of the World Series. You couldn't pick a more dark or perfect place for my favorite soap opera than in the same city Tupac Shakur's Machiavellian demise occurred.

And you definitely can't have a Halloween party without inviting the darkest of guests, the New World Order.

Of course, the NWO won all of their matches at Halloween Havoc. For those who are wondering, "Didn't Hollywood Hogan lose to Roddy Piper in that cage match?" the answer is, yes, but that's the beautiful thing about the scriptwriters at WCW. Even when the NWO loses, they still win. The Wolfpack just comes in and beats the crap out of their opponents afterward.

After his victory over Hogan, Piper got handcuffed to the cage while the rest of the NWO treated him like Troy Aikman against the Eagles. Hogan even beat up a drunk fan who took it too seriously and tried to get into the fight by climbing into the cage.

It's only a soap opera, guys. You can fake sides like I have, but don't go overboard. The guards will kick you out, but not before you get your ass kicked by one of the wrestlers.

To make a long story short, the NWO is like a fraternity. They're very exclusive in who they select and they beat up and torment those who aren't in their exclusive mode of thinking.

One thing that's different about the NWO, however, is that Eric Bischoff has paid to make friends out of them, not the other way around. Another difference is that the NWO is a biracial unit with one purpose — to dominate WCW.

Maybe its that affirmative action thing that people here hate so much.

Truth be told, the New World Order has more lives than Kenny from "South Park." Just when you think the organization is dead, the scriptwriters always find a way to keep the fans and WCW screaming, "You bastards." Once again, I admonish the fans to convert if they want to cheer for a winning team.

Make the right choice. You'll feel much better in the end.

It's now time to shift gears from people making the right choice to someone who made the wrong one, as I induct another member into the Singleton Hall of Shame with the "U Suck Award."

This week's award goes to someone who was just that, weak. But then again, what could you expect from someone who steps into the ring as if he stepped straight out of "Saturday Night Fever."

Disco Inferno, for those who don't know, got his ass beat by Jacquelyn, the manager of the Harlem Heat. I don't know what precipitated this, but it's pretty embarrassing. I have nothing against women, because she could probably kick my ass, but he's a wrestler, and you would think the scriptwriters could have given him a break even if he couldn't punch or kick her.

Just think of it this way, if it had to be someone, he was the perfect and most likely choice to suffer this week, in both the eyes of WCW and mine.

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