

TECHNICIAN SPORTS

'96 SOCCER PREVIEW

The men's team
heads back up the
ACC mountain with
the help of SHOHN
BEACHUM.

page 4

The women's squad
wants more than
the Final 8 this
year. Captain
MONICA HALL is
ready to lead the
way.

page 5



August 30, 1996

Volume 1

WHAT'S INSIDE

Team outlook **PAGE 3**
The women look to reload and the men look to rebound.

Beachum & The Seniors **PAGE 4**
How good is Shohn Beachum?

Hall & Sanders **PAGE 5**
Three years together isn't easy

Corneal and Tarantini **PAGE 6**
The two best coaches at State

WHAT IS THIS?

A soccer preview, are you crazy? Why would you want to do that?

Usually the tabloids published by Technician Sports consist of either football or basketball.

This year in addition to those two, we have decided it's time the soccer programs got the recognition that is long overdue.

Whenever I read a book I often wonder why there is a gratuitous preface page that thanks everyone and their mother. Well, here goes nothing, thanks to: George Tarantini, Alvin Corneal, Kurt Johnson, Andy Tucker, Chris Baysden, Woody Wallace, and the players from

both teams.

A special thanks to photographer Salvador Farfan III. Besides the pictures he provided, his Spanish came in quite conveniently when Carlos Valderrama said, "No hablo ingles."

I'd be remiss to forget Michael Preston. I am convinced the only person who knows more about the women's team is Alvin Corneal.

Well, this was only supposed to be a word, so I'll be leaving now. Go to the games this week and all year.

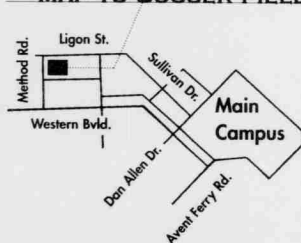
See you next week when the football tab comes out.

Oh, I better not forget to thank Mom, too.

—J.P. Giglio

About the Cover: Picture of Shohn Beachum taken by Technician Photo Editor Salvador Farfan III. Designed by appropriately enough the Design Editor, Woody Wallace.

MAP TO SOCCER FIELD



'96 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER		
1	(M) Belmont Abbey	2
3	(W) at Duke	7
6	(W) Nebraska—WKNC	3:30
WOLFPACK/ADIDAS CLASSIC		
7	(M) Mercer	3
8	(M) DePaul—WKNC	1
9	(W) George Mason	3:30
11	(M) South Carolina—WKNC	3:30
13	(M) vs. American*	TBA
14	(W) at Washington	noon
15	(M) vs. Akron*	TBA
	(W) at Portland	2:15
WOLFPACK TOURNAMENT		
20	(W) Loyala	3:30
21	(W) Brewton Parker	2
23	(W) Campbell	4
	(M) Maryland—WKNC	2
28	(W) at Clemson	7
29	(M) at Clemson	2
30	(W) Davidson	4
OCTOBER		
4	(W) at UNC-Greensboro	7
6	(W) Virginia—WKNC	2
	(M) at Virginia	3
9	(M) at East Carolina	3
10	(W) at Wake Forest	7
13	(M) Wake Forest	2
15	(W) at William and Mary	3
19	(W) at Maryland	3
20	(M) Duke—WKNC	2
22	(W) Charleston Southern	3:30
23	(M) at William and Mary	7:30
25	(W) at Florida	7
27	(M) at North Carolina	2
	(W) at Florida State	2
NOVEMBER		
2	(W) North Carolina—WKNC*	7
3	(M) UNC Charlotte	2
6	(M) UNC Wilmington	2:30
7-10	ACC Women's Tournament at Clemson, S.C.	
14-17	ACC Men's Tournament at Charlottesville, Va.	

Live broadcast on WKNC-FM, 88.1.

* Duke Met Life Classic in Durham
\$ at Paul Derr Track on campus



SEASON OUTLOOK

1996: It's time to reload

Looking to improve on last year's trip to the Final 8, the Pack's defense will need to step up.

By Michael Preston
Assistant Preview Editor

The concern for the N.C. State women's soccer team this season shouldn't be offense.

State's two leading goal scorers from a year ago, Monica Hall and Stephanie Sanders, return for coach Alvin Corneal up front.

It's the two defenders that won't be back.

This year, the Wolfpack has a difficult task ahead of itself — solidifying the defense after the loss of both All-American Thori Staples and All-ACC teammate Sandy Miller.

"It's not easy to replace Sandy and Thori," Corneal said. "So if you were to say that we'd start with a minus, you might be right, but remember, even they [Miller and Staples] didn't start out like that, they ended like that."

So this season, the responsibility of not only anchoring the defensive backfield but ensuring a

smooth transition will likely fall into the hands of Robin Morlock and Bridget Durkan.

"Durkan will have to bridge the gap and Robin [Morlock] has been doing well," Corneal said. "So far, Durkan will be playing sweeper for the early part of the season."

Joining the defensive line with Durkan, Morlock, and Christine McNally could possibly freshman Shannon Blair.

"Shannon will be playing on the right side in Durkan's old position and she could be the defender who would score the most goals," Corneal said. "She shoots the ball well, and if she doesn't score, she'll assist."

Goalkeeper Kat Mertz, who Corneal said has improved even more since last season, will start her third year in net.

"Outside of one goal last year, Kat [Mertz] was super and gave an honest to goodness great effort," Corneal said. "I think they'll feel more confident with her behind them."

In the midfield, Corneal has five quality midfielders returning, led by All-ACC selection Megan Jeidy and Stacey Hampton.

Likely to be joining them will be



SALVADOR FARFAN III/STAFF

A new season, a different perspective. Soccer action kicks off Sunday.

See DEFENSE, Page 5 ▶

Booters look to rebound

The men look for stability after rocky season.

By J.P. Giglio
Preview Editor

The late Jim Valvano once asked why basketball beat writers always asked about a team's chemistry. "What about the physics?" V joked.

Last season the men's soccer team didn't have the mythical chemistry, physics or any other subject that involves a beaker and the periodical chart.

"We had difficulties because our

chemistry was never set," Coach George Tarantini said. "We struggled to see what we could become."

Maybe the key to the 1996 season is astrology. Two years ago the prognosticators picked the Wolfpack to finish seventh (Note: Florida State and Georgia Tech do not have a men's soccer program). With a handful of underclassmen counted on to contribute, State swept through the ACC regular season with the best record.

It was only last year, with an experienced squad back, that the Pack was expected to finish in the upper tier. An 8-7-3 record

isn't what the forecast called for and it has made the summer lemonade taste more like bile.

"Not playing in the NCAAs was a big letdown," Tarantini said. "A winning season isn't good enough for the tradition we've built at N.C. State."

The preseason positions are in, and it's *deja vu* all over again. A young squad with a wealth of new talent and unknown underclassmen are at the bottom of the ladder.

This is not construed as problem by the members of the team.

"We have nothing to lose," senior Jason Keyes said, noting the preseason prediction. "We're

just going to out and have fun." Fun was a concept that was lost in the wind last season. But a memorable moment was knocking off No. 2 Duke at Durham, 2-1 in front of 2,500 people. "Year in and year out," defenseman Nick Dutka said, "We go out and knock people off." Gaps will have to be plugged from last year. Gone is leading scorer Mark Jonas. The forward led the team with 10 goals and 49 shots on goal. Jonas finished his career with 43 goals and 100 points.

The graduation of Damon

See REBOUND, Page 7 ▶



BEACHUM & THE SENIORS

Going for the goal

You may not know him, you may not have seen him, but this year Shohn Beachum plans on making a name for himself.

By J.P. Giglio
Preview Editor

After 1-0 overtime loss to second-ranked UCLA last year, Shohn Beachum looked physically exhausted.

Running down ball after ball, player after player can do that to a person.

The Sanderson prep star, three years removed, who had dazzled the capital area, even the world as senior for the U.S. Under-17 National Team with his goal scoring ability had just finished his first 120 minutes of playing sweeper.

"I wish I had 10 Shohn Beachums," Tarantini would say half joking, half wishful thinking after the loss to the Bruins in the Duke Met-Life Classic.

Almost a year later, the N.C. State men's soccer team could still no doubt use 10 players like Beachum, but this season they need only one—the scorer.

"We're counting on him to be a key figure," teammate and roommate Nick Dutka said. "He's just too fast and too good not to."

Dutka hit the key word—speed. Like Keanu Reeves, "Speed" is what makes Beachum's career worth watching.

As a senior in high school, he decided to go out for the track team. Lo and behold the *Times* read 10.8 after only 100 meters.

"Rather than make moves by a defender," Beachum said. "I can just touch it by him and run." You can bet Beachum will use his speed, too. A tired Shohn Beachum is a content one.

"If you're slandering around, then you're just killing space," the Raleigh native said.

Time after time on the field, Beachum will make up ground on the that just doesn't seem possible.

"There's nothing he does that surprises me anymore," Carson White, who has played with Beachum since they were 12.

He used the speed for the U-17 Team to score four goals in the CONCACAF competition where he was named MVP. He also found the back of the net in the FIFA World qualifying match in a 3-1 win over China.

"It allowed me to play with some of the best players in the world," Beachum said. "The speed of play teaches you that you have to make quick decisions under pressure."

Again it comes back to speed. Now Beachum is in a hurry to get the finishing touch back.

In two seasons he has totalled 10 goals, six of which came last season, and seven assists. The numbers pale in comparison to his gaudy 43 goals his senior year at Sanderson where he was named to the Parade All-America team.

After a redshirt season his sophomore year due to an injury, Beachum struggled with hamstring injuries last year and to find a position.

On track to graduate this May, this will be his last season despite having a year of eligibility left.

This year's his last chance to get back to being a scorer. "I'm too unselfish," Beachum says giving himself a back-handed compliment. "I give up opportunities to score goals when I shouldn't. I've got to quit passing off the responsibility [of scoring] and do it myself."

Shohn wants to add his name to the list of Ramos, Lassiter, and Gutierrez in State lore.

"I want to show everyone what I can do this year," Beachum said. "This year, I'm settling in up top and I'm going to try to score more goals to lead us to the Final Four."



Shohn Beachum, dribbling in practice, is ready to leave his mark. SALVADOR FABIAN III/STAFF

Change is the only constant

Change is what the senior class is all about.

By J.P. Giglio
Preview Editor

In the last year, we've been told that life forms exist on Mars, Madonna is with child and The Beatles somehow recorded a "new" album with John Lennon. If you played on the men's soccer team during the same duration, these *World Weekly News* items seem rather blasé.

It's not that Martians have invaded Method Road Soccer Stadium and stole the team's Copa Mundials, it's just there's a different feel around the practice. Nobody knows the differences with this year's team better than the five seniors.

Kyle Campbell, Adam Stockwell, Carson White, Deniz Solakoglu, Jason Keyes and Shohn Beachum are on their final tour of duty. The attitude adjustment from last season's team is the most important aspect the seniors bring to the team.

"They are extremely important for leadership," Tarantini said. "The older guys understand what you're trying to accomplish." As sophomores, they were a part of a team that won the ACC regular season championship. Then last year they experienced a sub-par 8-7-3 mark and an embarrassing 5-0 loss to Clemson in the first round of the ACC Tournament.

"There was a lot of pressure on us last year to finish up top," White



Stuck in the middle with you

Seniors Monica Hall and Stephanie Sanders anchor the 1996 offensive line.

By Michael Preston
Assistant Preview Editor

In the time it takes to blink, they're already by you. All you had time to do was miss-judge a trap and the ball got through. Now you've hung your goal-keeper out to dry.

Last season, the front-line combination of Monica Hall and Stephanie Sanders, perhaps two of the quickest forwards in the ACC, registered 11 and 10 goals, respectively, in 24 games.

They've played together now for three seasons, starting together for the past two. Each have improved over time and now one is the captain and both could be first team All-ACC selections. Hall's style on the field is a simple one — Speed. There are no head-fakes, no studder-steps. As soon as the ball is sent upfield, she's the first one there.

And over the summer, she worked on keeping the ball in front of her and focusing on putting the ball in the back of the net.

"Her awareness of where I am, where the midfield is and where she's going is improved," Sanders said. "She's got plenty of speed and she knows when to use it now."

She is the consummate team player. Regardless of the score or situation, Hall is vocal. On the



Hall (left) and Sanders have led the team in scoring, back-to-back years. SALVADOR FABIAN III/STAFF

field she does more than just play, she makes sure the team

gets pumped up and stays that way throughout the game.

Now, as a captain, she realizes her responsibilities have just been taken a step further.

"Being captain, it's not so much what I do on the field but thinking about things off the field I have to do," Hall said. "It's more responsibility than it has been in years past."

Sanders' performance last season earned her second team All-ACC honors. She tied for the team lead in assists with seven, she was second on the team in goals with 10, and had 79 shots on goal.

"If there's a change in Stephanie, it's her attitude toward the game," Hall said. "Going out on the field, I know I count on Stephanie, if there's a ball there, I know she's going to get to it, so that makes me want to run harder."

This year, Sanders wants to lay it out on the line. This is her senior season, and she doesn't want to end her career the way others before her have.

"I don't want to regret anything and I want to give everything I have because this is it," she said. "I've talked to too many people who look back and regret that they didn't do that one extra thing."

The two know that this is the year that the Wolfpack makes it run for the national championship, and it starts on September 3.

"We want to win every game and Duke is first," Sanders said.

"And we want to cream Duke, because they're cocky." What a way to start the senior season.

play good opponents, so we're going to step up to the block this year," he said. "To elevate the level of the program here at N.C. State, we need to do things like this."

Defense

Continued from Page 3

sophomores Lisa Boggs, Jane Walton and Laura Ferguson, whose only goal was a game-winner in last year's NCAA game against William

and Mary.

"Boggs came in fitter this year because last season she had trouble with her ankle and Jane Walton is doing well," Corneal said. "Except for Jedy, our big problem will be consistency and with our schedule, there is no room for inconsistency." The schedule to which he is

referring includes two Final Four teams (North Carolina and University of Portland), and seven Top 20 teams. Four of which are from within the ACC, but Corneal said that it is by design.

"One of the reasons we didn't get an automatic bid last year was the claim that we didn't

Listen to Women's soccer on WKNC-FM 88.1 on September 6 vs. Nebraska



Two on top of the game

Summer "vacation" kept Corneal busy.

By Michael Preston
Assistant Preview Editor

Alvin Corneal's summer reads like "Around the World in 80 Days," but without the hot-air balloon. Shortly after the women's soccer coach led the Wolfpack to a near upset of SMU in the Final Eight of the NCAA Tournament, Corneal began a journey that would take him all over the Western Hemisphere.

And if you asked Corneal how he spent his summer vacation, all he could tell us is it went a little fast. "I really missed the summer," he said. "Somebody needs to tell me what went on."

April...

For starters, Corneal spent a little time in Brazil working for FIFA, the soccer world's governing body. Then, he spent the rest of the month travelling through Mexico for the World Youth Cup qualifying, having to cover 10 games and submit technical reports.

May...

For Olympic qualifying, Corneal had to spend the next three and a half weeks in Edmonton, Canada where they had to sometimes endure temperature of zero degrees.

"When we touched down there, it was still snowing and it had snowed the day before," he said. "Fortunately we had not seen snow during the period but the cold weather was there." That's summertime fun.

June...

Even when he finally got to go home to Trinidad for the Shell Cup Finals, it was no vacation. "I'm still the technical director, so not only did I have to get information and do reports, I had to collate it and put it into booklets," he said. "That was kind of a tedious job."

July...

Corneal then came back to Raleigh for three soccer camps before being sent by FIFA back out for another three-week job. And after all of that, he still had to broadcast the Olympics.



SAVADOR FABIAN III/STAFF

Corneal (above) and Tarantini (right) contrast in styles but not effectiveness.

This year's games marked the fifth for Corneal, and it would have been six had the 1980 games in Moscow been in a different environment, under different circumstances.

Like NBC, very rarely would Corneal have to cover an event live, unless it was quarterfinal or semifinal match.

"I cover all sports, mainly the sports we participate in in the Caribbean," he said. "Like swimming, which is big for us, cycling is big, boxing is big, and track and field most definitely."

But one area where he felt NBC missed a pass was not on what it did cover, but what it didn't. Aside from failing to focus on some non-American Olympic athletes, it was the traditionally non-American sport that got the boot. "My biggest problem is that they underestimated and ignored soccer, totally," he said. "And that, in my mind, is sacrilege — You don't underestimate the world's greatest sport, regardless of what you think or if the United States qualified for the second round."

"They had an average of 70,000 people watching a soccer game, and that includes women's soccer," Corneal said. "How could you ignore that?"

However, during his stay in Atlanta, and somewhere between writing technical



Coach George Tarantini is as enigmatic as he is passionate. He is a true character of the game.

By J.P. Giglio
Preview Editor

There's nothing more difficult to plan, more doubtful of success, no more dangerous to manage than the creation of a new system.

— Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

This quote sits framed on George Tarantini's desk, which in itself is a creation. He claims, "it's not his quote," but anyone who has ever met the man can't help but think differently. Tarantini is a creation connoisseur. His system changes with each player combination he tinkers with. Rarely will you see the same attack twice by his teams.

George Tarantini is half soccer mastermind and half mad scientist.

"He's a maniac during the season," Tab Ramos of the New York/New Jersey MetroStars, one of the best players ever to play for Tarantini and one of his favorite said. "But so am I. He's

like family to me."

It's hard to argue with the results, achieved by maniacal or conventional wisdom. In 11 years he has 118 wins compared to only 56 losses. In this decade alone, he's taken the Wolfpack to the Final Four, an ACC Title, a regular season title and the only No. 1 ranking by any team at this university.

But numbers are empty. It's the system. The danger of it. The passion he puts into it, that makes him who he is. "Nobody owns the system," he says. "The most important part is the players. The greatest coach is the one that is represented on the field by the intelligence and willingness of the players to do something great."

Content and satisfaction were left for the lexicons when he came over from Italy as a young boy to Argentina. He measures his success by his players, not numbers.

As far as George is concerned Hall-of-Fame baseball pitcher Satchel Paige hit the nail on the head: "Don't ever look back." "The last thing I want to read about is me and what I've done in the past," Tarantini says after a long pause. "Every time I talk about soccer, I want to talk about the future. That's all that matters."

George Tarantini is a character. His unorthodox sideline tactics can quite simply make fans scratch their head. "What's he doing?" is often mumbled in the stands across the ACC. He has been known to talk to passers-by, climb into the press booth and commandeer the public address system, even take a stroll away from the playing area for his beloved Diet Coke. It's not that his mind isn't on the game, it's just that his head is occupied with the next play. What can they do better? How can we score a goal? What can we do to win?

Two years ago the season regular season finale against East Carolina went into overtime tied, 3-3. Midfielder Damon

'96 SOCCER PREVIEW

Rebound System

Continued from Page 3

Nahas. The Long Island native was a creative force and complement to Jonas' scoring punch. Filling in on the front line for Jonas is Shohn Beachum (See page 4).

Joining Beachum at forward will be a combination of players. Freshman Chris Welling, a Parade All-American from Florida.

The midfield is where the competition has been the fiercest in the fall practice. A number of different combinations with returning starters: senior Carson White (5 assists, 11 points), Pablo Mastroeni (3 assists, 5 points) leading the way in the five-back midfield.

Junior Oronde Ash from Brooklyn, who was the New York State Player of the Year in 1994, packs an explosive scoring power. The brothers Cubillas, Cristian, a junior transfer and freshman Tefoloni, add more speed and depth to the midfield. Canadian

midfielder Ian Hooper (4 goals, 8 points) and freshman Daniel Villarreal will help. Defensively juniors Nick Dutka, Jaman Tripoli and senior Jason Keyes each started more than 10 games a year ago.

At sweeper, the athlete at N.C. State with the most vowels in his name, Ubusuku Abukusumo. In goal, the keeper duties rest on the capable shoulders of All-ACC keeper Kyle Campbell. Campbell won a spirited battle in practice for the starting job with Dan Alexander.

Chemistry, botany, meteorology or whatever reason, a little luck from the stars can go a long way in this game.

Summer

Continued from Page 6

reports and travelling across the Western Hemisphere, Corneal did get a chance to see an old opponent and friend — Pele. The two met through a mutual friend and coach, who had suggested that Corneal continue his playing career in Brazil. So, Pele had heard about this and decided to go down to Trinidad to meet him.

Continued from Page 6

Nahas scored the winning goal in that game. It may have been the only time in his life that Damon didn't want to score.

"On the play before, Coach got on his knees and begged me, 'Please, please Damon, go far post.' The action was no where near he wanted to put me, but I figured I'd better listen to him and I went far post." Nahas said. "As soon as I'm running down that side of the field, somehow the ball ends up there, next thing I know I put the ball in the back of the net and we win the game. I was dreading the walk back to the bench when Coach comes running to me and he points at me and says, 'That's my goal! That's my goal!'"

To Tarantini, the goal is the thing. Sounds a bit obvious and maybe you think that Old George has maybe missed the point of *football* all these years, but to here him

speak about it so passionately, it's borderline a religious experience.

"Goals are what create the excitement," Tarantini said. "They are the celebration of the game." George Tarantini is an arm-chair psychologist.

"One thing that I've definitely learned from Coach is that you never as good as you think you are," All-Star with the Tampa Bay Mutiny and U.S. National Team Member Roy Lassiter, who played under Tarantini from 1990-1991 said. "You could never lose your head around him because he'd let you know how far you had to go."

Lassiter's point is illustrated at almost every practice. In the middle of a scrimmage, if there's something Tarantini sees that he doesn't like, you can be sure there's going to be running involved. His wrath doesn't discriminate either, everyone will get there chance to move their legs.

"The most difficult thing to do is to give the player an opportunity to express his freedom,"

Tarantini tells me *this is his quote.*

"All of the sudden, you have a player who does something you've never seen before. Now you have a player that has the confidence to win the game." "You want to figure him out," defenseman Nick Dutka said. "But it's impossible. One minute he's killing you, but the next he takes care of us."

Tarantini's contract with adidas sees that the team has the best equipment in the world, but he has no control over the facilities. The team changes at Reynolds coliseum and then drives to the Method Road Soccer Stadium. This might be a hassle to some of the players, but to Tarantini it's insignificant.

"I don't care what we don't have, or what anyone else has," he says. "Because I'll tell you something, we're going to win a national championship no matter what."

Out of all things George Tarantini is, quite simply, he's the passion behind N.C. State soccer.

Change

Continued from Page 4

said. The problems involved the conflicting personalities on the team. In the off-season, two players that entered State with this senior class, Alberto Montoya, Brad Schmidt, transferred. "I have no hard feelings," Keyes said. "They did what they thought was best for them."

Putting the transfers behind them, has been a cleansing process, while it may hurt the team's offensive weaponry, it has helped the

chemistry.

"This is the first year we really have a team," Solakoglu said.

"There's no different mentality from player to player."

Campbell has been the most visible of the class on the field. In 1994, the keeper from California was named the ACC Player of the Year.

"Kyle's an excellent keeper," Stockwell said. "I look forward to watching play in the MLS next sea-

son."

Stockwell, from Jacksonville, N.C. dislocated his shoulder this season and will be out for the duration.

Listen to WKNC-FM 88.1 Soccer coverage by J.P. Giglio, Damon Nahas and Greg Frey.



SOCCER



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