

soccer player we recruit has ascended to her level. That is why, unlike many collegiate programs, we want you to participate with us and your daughter in everything: cookouts at Dino's, dinners at my house, golf in between Friday/Sunday games for parents and coaches, European tours, etc. One way you can continue to help is to still serve as sounding boards when your daughters come to you with their problems, obviously; but if it is a soccer issue, the best way to help them is to push them to become accountable and responsible for wherever they are in their game. Don't protect them from "the chaos of the universe" . . . let them face it and be strengthened by it. Please don't use the numbers as a club to beat your daughter with but don't be naive if she purports to be killing herself all the time when the numbers indicate she might not be. The most thorough review is the fall composite matrix. Even through we compile the overall matrix at the end of the season (so we don't look at this to pick our lineups), the top ten generally is close to the starting unit. Even going back to when we started this in the early 90's, the #1 player in our fall competitive matrix has almost always been a member of the full national team, something we have been very proud of since usually she is the only collegiate player on the roster. If a player is not a starter, the higher they are on the list usually gets them on the field faster (where obviously with a poor performance they can loose time or their place or with a great performance solidify it or expand it . . . Gaston and Morrell are good examples from last fall of fighting to get on the field and then staying there). Other things to look for are long range athletic and long range technical tracking . . . these reflect a combination of natural ability and work ethic. Hopefully a look at everything will give you an insight into what we see on a daily basis. And please don't feel if someone is low in one chart or another they are not training or playing to their potential, natural talent divides us all. Then the triumph in this individual is to keep working hard to push teammates in practice, to still remain positive and support the team mission and to demonstrate a nobility and dignity even though painfully this positive life force rarely gets to play.

I have also enclosed a chapter out of my book "The Vision of a Champion" on the ways young players can help their parents. I wrote it for high school aged girls, I hope you find it interesting. Please don't look for yourselves in there, I am very happy with the way all of our parents support their daughters and our program . . . it's there in case any of you decide to visit the "dark side" so you can see the symptoms.

Also attached is our core values. Another part of what we try to do is take your daughters to their human potential as well. I hope you understand how much the entire staff enjoys the challenge of helping these wonderful young women to all (soccer and human) aspects of their potential.

Sincerely,

Anson Dorrance
Head Women's Soccer Coach
University of North Carolina

Enclosures: (The 2002-2003 Competitive Cauldron; Annika Sorenstam's article in *Time Magazine*; UNC's Core Values). And please feel free to share all of this with your daughter . . . we are always very open and up front with all of them. See you soon, I hope.

June 6, 2003

Dear

As all of us look forward to our European Tour and the next fall season, I wanted to share with you a review of the past year with you in “numbers”. A part of what we try to do to take people to their soccer potential is to frame our athletic culture with these three fundamental ideas:

- People do what you inspect not what you expect.
- Players develop best in competitive environments.
- The truly great athletes (the ones that are ambitious and hard working) want constant feedback and information about where they are and where they need to concentrate to get better.

I have enclosed a recent (May 26, 2003) *Time* magazine article on Annika Sorenstam that makes mention of “numbers” that bears some comparison with what we try to do with our “competitive cauldrons”, athletic and technical tracking and thorough information packets. A middle paragraph in the article struck me most:

“Sorenstam, a math lover and self-confessed geek, says ‘the numbers always tell the truth.’ For 16 years she has kept a spreadsheet with all her vital golfing stats – scoring, putting, driving. In 1987 ‘my scoring average was 77’, she notes. Last year it was an LPGA record 68.70 (Tiger Woods’ average was 68.56.) ‘It’s fun to see the progress’, she says. Despite the presence of phenoms such as Karrie Webb and Se Ri Pak, Sorenstam has owned the past two seasons. In 2001 she won 11 tournaments and shot a record-low round of 59; last year she won 13 times, matching a mark set by Hall of Famer Mickey Wright in 1963. ‘I have days when everything falls into place, but then I think, ‘Why can’t I do this more often.?’

Her perfectionism stems from her hypercompetitive childhood in the small Swedish town of Bro.”

We have always tried to set up an environment here that is “hypercompetitive” with “numbers always telling the truth” designed to take our players to the highest level. Numbers help us do it because there is something very clear and uncompromising about them. I like this tie in with Annika because like us she wants to test her limits and reach her full potential and even though her “spread sheet” was over 16 years and ours is only over 4, I want the players to take responsibility for their own successes and failures. I also want our players to feel “its fun to see the progress” as well. And with few exceptions the progress over four years here is very clear with the numbers.

This is all a part of an effort to help these young women become accountable. Although it is always clear to us who works hard and trains properly that is a pretty meaningless understanding if the athlete herself has constructed a comfortable bubble around herself and is without accountability for her own (insert what applies) playing time, fitness level, performance. It is “human” to protect yourself in this fashion. After a while the numbers force even the most irresponsible to take stock and often this realization is the first step in reaching potential, becoming mature or demonstrating nobility . . . sometimes growth is manifested in all three areas. Accountability is not just for the individuals on the weak side of the continuum but also anyone scattered along it including the very good who aspire to be extraordinary.

You as parents can help us with this. Unquestionably you are part of the reason we recruited your wonderful daughter. We have always felt that the parental support is one reason the talented young