

# QUITE A

## The Carolina Courage made out like bandits at the WUSA Draft, with four strong selections — and another Norwegian.

**M**arcia McDermott knew she

BY SCOTT FRENCH

Canadian forward Silvana Burtini's retirement two days after the

was going to get something good. Holding onto the No. 1 selection in the WUSA Draft, reward for her Carolina Courage's worst-place finish in 2001, with her aim squarely on national team starter Danielle Slaton — a defender of tremendous ability and potential — that much was certain.

Slaton's acquisition was but one component of a wonderful weekend for the Courage, who emerged the big winner in Fort Lauderdale with four superb selections and the news that Unni Lehn, the Norwegian midfielder it had been chasing, was indeed coming.

These were critical times for McDermott, who had trimmed 11 from her 2001 roster and picked up German star Birgit Prinz and former CyberRays winger Venus James. Carolina headed into the draft with 15 players, the shortest roster in the league, and McDermott's makeover required success in selecting from a shallow pool.

She found it with Slaton, with West Virginia forward Katie Barnes, considered the No. 2 collegiate striker available, with the ninth pick; at 17 with Penn State goalkeeper Emily Oleksiuk, college soccer's premier netminder; and at 20 with Nebraska midfielder Meghan Anderson, a highly regarded playmaker whose stock fell during the pre-draft combine.

draft left Carolina an open foreigner slot. Australian defender Cheryl Salisbury, impressive at the combine, might fit the bill.

How the rest of the WUSA fared:

**ATLANTA.** The Beat wanted for little but came up with Santa Clara defender Anna Kraus, Atlanta's fourth Bronco, who will battle for a job on the back line, and Texas A&M forward Nicky Thrasher, a potential backup for Homare Sawa.

**BOSTON.** The Breakers already had the WUSA's best attacking quintet but needed defensive reinforcements. Jena Kluegel, a winger who played for Hoffman in the 1999 Pan Am Games (and who Anson Dorrance, her North Carolina coach, says will revolutionize the way wingers are employed in the women's game) and Notre Dame's Monica Gonzalez will help.

**NEW YORK.** Finnish forward Minna Mustonen, a former NCAA D2 scoring champ at Franklin Pierce, dazzled everyone at the combine, and the Power had a foreign opening. Bonnie Young, who played for Patrick Farmer at Penn State, is the big defender he coveted. Meredith Flaherty, Florida's keeper when it won the NCAA title in 1998, was the best netminder in Fort Lauderdale. Making this team will be tough: Farmer's roster, should Anita

# QUARTET

Rapp's acquisition come through, stands at 24, six beyond the active limit.

**PHILADELPHIA.** Mark Krikorian targeted versatile Arizona State standout Stacey Tullock last fall and bit early, although she won't arrive until school's out in May. UCLA forward Mary-Frances Monroe reminds some of Tiffeny Milbrett. No replacement for the departed Doris Fitschen, although Andrea Alfiler, Karyn Hall and possibly Tullock could be used toward that aim.

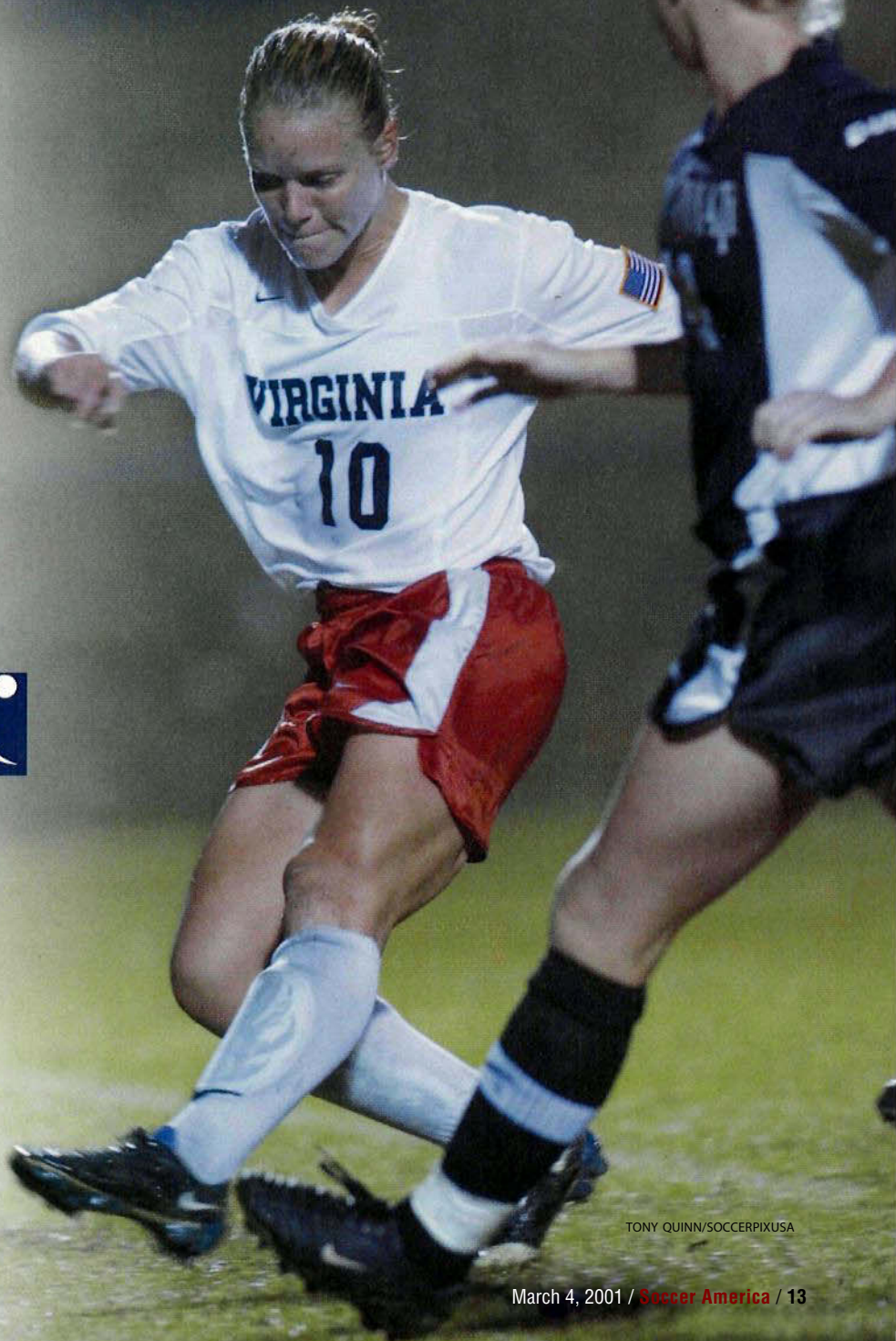
**SAN DIEGO.** Virginia's Lori Lindsey, the best playmaker in the draft, was an easy choice at No. 4, especially after her MVP performance in the Umbro Select game. Stanford defender Amy Sauer's physical dimensions are of concern, but she's a heady defender and organizer who had a superb combine. Wen Lirong's retirement, because of an eye injury, opens another foreign slot; Carlos Juarez is looking for a European midfielder or defender and anticipating the arrival of a Chinese forward.



**SAN JOSE.** Speedy wing-defender Danielle Borgman, a North Carolina All-American, was better than Ian Sawyers expected with the No. 8 pick. He — like others — set up battles for three goalkeeper jobs by drafting two, including Mexican national-teamer Linnea Quinones of San Diego State.

**WASHINGTON.** Florida's Abby Wambach is the forward Jim Gabarra so desperately wanted, and he chose Connecticut's Casey Zimny over Monica Gonzalez for defensive depth. ■

Virginia All-American Lori Lindsey, taken by San Diego with the fourth pick, was the best attacking midfielder available.



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