

# NEWS & RECORD

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**N.C. A&T Chancellor Edward Fort, who is retiring this week, addresses a group of people during his last Board of Trustees meeting in April. Fort is stepping down after 18 years at A&T.**

JERRY WOLFORD  
News & Record



## Fix-it man: Fort's A&T tenure comes to

● Retiring A&T Chancellor Ed Fort leaves behind an improved school — and a complex legacy.

BY BETH MCMURTRIE  
Staff Writer

As Ed Fort steps down this week as chancellor of N.C. A&T, he leaves behind a legacy as complicated as the historically black school he has led for nearly two decades.

Fort's hand is everywhere on campus. In the gleaming high-tech laboratories of the Edward B. Fort Interdisciplinary Research Center and the sweltering

dormitories that still lack air conditioning. In the Fortune 500 companies that court his graduates and the pool of alumni who refuse to give him a dime. In the remarkable leaps made by the College of Engineering and the paralyzing institutional bureaucracy.

He is fiercely driven by a need to see both himself and A&T lauded as the best, regularly putting in 18 hours a day at work. Yet some colleagues say he has hurt himself and his school with his autocratic leadership and unwillingness to change.

"If I had to start all over again as chancellor of A&T, I don't think I would change my modus operandi," Fort, 67,

said in an interview in April. "What I've done has gained success. True, it has alienated people and has brought about some negative commentary, but that comes with presidency."

A deeply religious man, Fort said Jesus Christ is his role model.

"He was a superb leader, but at the same time gathered some enemies. I think I have support, but at the same time have some enemies."

When Fort arrived in 1981 from Wisconsin, UNC President William Friday handed him a university with some serious problems. Among his top priorities: repair A&T's

finances and

It was a tough by the fact that particularly w Many on the had hoped for an A&T graduate would win the chose Fort, the did not show announcement Fort was a where Aggie one is an inside a black man

## U.S. doesn't disappoint

Fans hold breath, are requited with dramatic victory

BY BEAU DURE  
Knight Ridder News Service

### SPORTS COMMENTARY

For decades, Americans have learned what it means to be a soccer player. Or a soccer parent. Or even a soccer basher.

On Saturday, the United States learned what it means to be a soccer fan.

And how the country responds to that lesson will be one of the factors in the future of the game, men's and women's, in this country.

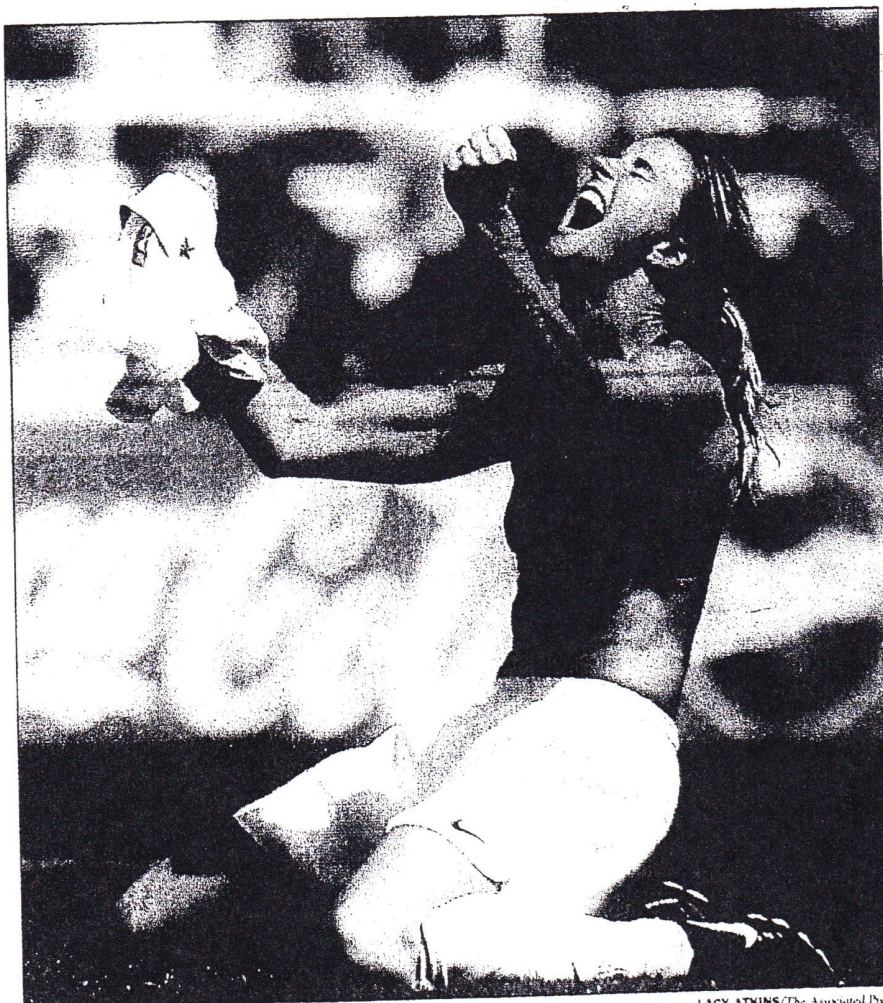
The marathon Women's World Cup final — won by the U.S. over China 5-4 on penalty kicks after two scoreless hours of soccer — exposed the country to a type of agony it has seen in foreign countries but never understood. Hours of tension without the release of a goal.

No slam dunk to punctuate a change in momentum. No strike-out with a runner on third to end a threat.

Just the screams as the U.S. team charged upfield. Just the held breaths of millions every time the ball got near the U.S. goal. Just the endless tension, building and building, as a country watched through its fingers the success of a team it has embraced with unprecedented warmth.

And finally, when Brandi Chastain's perfect penalty kick hit the net, the unequalled joy.

Around the world, fans know this tension. It goes on for weeks as fans watch their teams chase



LACY ATKINS/The Associated Press

The United States' Brandi Chastain celebrates kicking the game-winning overtime penalty shootout goal against China during the Women's World Cup final at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., on Saturday.

● Chastain's penalty kick goal in shootout lifts U.S. C1

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## Search educational boss start

● It took the Guilford seven months to find an

intendent Jerry Weast is

BY COURTNEY HARDEE  
Staff Writer

As the crying of supporters subside following Weast's announcement he will leave the Guilford County Board of Education, the search for a new

Board Chairwoman. The group will meet later this month to discuss his contract with the Guilford County Board of Education.

"We'll need to give the board a personal feeling about an interim superintendent to look at the search process something we've got to do."

Mendenhall said the board will meet on Thursday, depending on the weather.

Weast surprised few people when he was named superintendent of the Guilford County system in Montgomery, Ala., and many others in the system waiting for him to leave.

But his public announcement of his tenure and, in a way, his departure from the Guilford County school system in 1993, has been the end of an era for the county's three school systems.

Now, some board members are entering a new phase, and some are leaving.

"I think it's a milestone because Dr. Weast is the first person to have been in charge of the major administration at

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child care and ease to the Mid- ar-battered Ko- e the age-old Catholics and htern Ireland. stion that Bill y-minded," said olitical analyst nterprise Insti- ng to have any e remaining 18 idency. e proposals out e because it's opportunity to , but obviously potatoes, bread or Democrats."

Clinton's presi- over. energy, and he be so positive, ng. He gets in- gets down, it id, referring to deal that domi- hs of the year. -grabbing pro- and Social Se- onstrated anew ating the news enda. s hold slim ma- se and Senate, e they remem- ident has the and presidents ne time on the

Clinton, though, ed in the best s as they try to ne House and esident says he grams through s may decide ave an issue to ections.

Al Gore and nton they are

free to disagree with him if it suits their political purposes, as the vice president seeks the presidency and the first lady pursues a Senate seat.

White House officials recoil from talk about legacy-building. Some think it sounds like Clinton is more interested in resume-padding and scandal repair than in doing the peoples' business. The chief of staff, John Podesta, said he banned the word "legacy" from White House discussions.

Despite the disavowals, however, Clinton has been known to fret about his legacy. He told CBS' Dan Rather that he was not at all sure that the word "impeachment" would show up in the first paragraph of his obituary.

Clinton never talks publicly in terms of legacy, even as he praises his administration for the strong economy and falling crime.

"Any president who talks about legacy is not in the business of producing one," said Brookings Institution scholar Thomas Mann.

## CUP

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championships or try to avoid relegation, the process that knocks the bottom teams out of a league for the next year. (Imagine if the Florida Marlins had to face this prospect.)

Excluding newcomers with lingering allegiances to homeland teams, American fans haven't experienced such strain. The men's team has scored its biggest victories out of the public limelight. Major League Soccer teams haven't been around long enough or attracted enough publicity to force such emotion.

The women's team is different. The World Cup united fans who've known Michelle Akers since 1990 with fans who've been swept up in the hoopla, from 10-year-old Mia Hamm wannabes to older guys saddened to learn that Chastain and

Julie Foudy are both married.

This time, the agony led to joy. It doesn't always work that way. Ask the heartbroken Chinese. Ask the U.S. players about the 1995 World Cup. Ask fans of Germany's Bayern Munich, who saw their team give up two goals in the last five minutes to go from European champions to runners-up in an instant.

Would American fans still love the game if Kristine Lilly hadn't headed a corner kick off the line in overtime? Or if Briana Scurry hadn't saved a penalty kick? Or if Chastain's penalty kick hadn't been flawless and powerful?

If the answer is yes, then the United States has truly arrived in soccer. And that will be enough to make a professional league viable.

Forget questions about the number of talented players. The U.S. has fantastic players who didn't even make this team. Three national college players of the year — Debbie Keller, Staci Wilson and Robin Confer — didn't make the

cut, though Keller is in a difficult situation, bringing a sexual harassment suit against former national coach Anson Dorrance.

Only one player from 1995 champion Notre Dame, Kate Sobrero, made the team. Only Danielle Fotopoulos represented the reigning champions, Florida.

Former national team players are still kicking in obscurity, coaching teams and playing in the unheralded W-League. They're ready to play professionally.

And the World Cup showed that U.S. fans are willing to embrace foreign stars. Brazil's Sissi, Canada's Charmaine Hooper and Nigeria's Mercy Akide would be heroes on any team.

Undisciplined high school basketball players can go pro. Forty-something boxers can go pro.

The players are ready. The sponsors are eager. The fans are plentiful and enthusiastic.

Just give them a few weeks for their hearts to stop racing.

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