

Sports

Track team attends open meet

By Eric Porter
Staff Writer

The UNCA men's and women's track and field teams competed at the Spec Town's Invitational at the University of Georgia on April 1. The competition was open, so the events were not scored, but many Bulldogs placed in the normal top six spots.

"This was an open meet," said head coach Stan Rosenthal. "In a typical meet, (the top six) is where you get your scoring. This was probably the least important meet of the season because it wasn't scored."

UNCA went up against nine other schools and did well against most of them, according to Rosenthal.

"We had a lot of good performances," Rosenthal said. "A good meet is when 25 percent of your kids do really well."

"We had some people that have been doing well that are continuing to do well," said Rosenthal.

Freshman Crystal Goure set two new marks. Her clearance of 9'6" in the pole vault raised her one-week old record by 6" and placed her in third. Goure also threw the javelin 131'7" ranking her second in the conference. The throw also gave her both second place in the competition and a second UNCA record.

Despite the fact that UNCA's field team has only had a throwing coach for the last two years, the program is moving along well, according to Rosenthal.

"The throwers have been the bright spot in the team consistently as a group all season long," said Rosenthal. "Crystal is really talented. She has consistently been able to do in competition what she's been doing in practice."

Freshman thrower Clint Barden improved his mark in the discus by almost 15', which placed him fourth with a throw of 141'3". This was

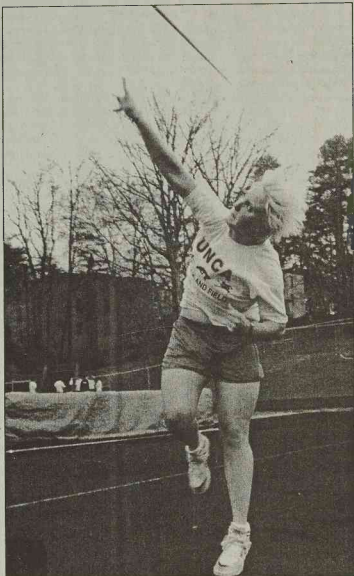


PHOTO BY WALTER FLYER

Freshman Crystal Goure sets two new marks in the javelin throw at the Spec Town's Invitational open track meet.

also a new UNCA record. Also placing in the meet were freshman Erick Reijerse with a throw of 130' to place fifth and freshman Mike Mewborn with his 124'6" throw in the 16-pound hammer throw. Mewborn placed third overall and moved into No. 2 on UNCA's all-time list.

"Clint Barden had a really good

improvement in discus," said assistant coach Dean Duncan.

"Everybody does well in practice," Rosenthal said. "The trick is to do well in meets. This week (Barden) was able to put what he's been doing in practice together in a meet."

"As a whole, the group stayed pretty consistent and are continu-

ing to improve each week," Duncan said.

In the running events, Zola Davis ran 4:42.75 to take the conference rankings lead in the 1500m mile. Brandon Trollip and Celso Fernandez both moved up in the conference standings in the half-mile. Andy Guzy improved to 57.97 in the 400m hurdles, moving to the seventh spot in the Big South rankings.

"What we're trying to strive for is for the (runners, jumpers and sprinters) to be more consistently good," Rosenthal said. "We need good performances from each person in their respective events. That's why the consistency between what they're doing in practice and in meets is so important."

Freshmen Ashley Southern and Brooke Thompson placed fifth and sixth, respectively, in the discus and triple jump. Southern's toss of 130'2" was nearing the school record, while Thompson's mark of 34'11" was her best of the season.

Two Bulldogs had minor injuries and did not compete as a result, according to Rosenthal.

"We didn't run relays because of that," Rosenthal said.

Senior Michelle Ray and freshman Chad Pearson traveled to the Raleigh Relays where over 100 universities sent competitors to take part in the two-day meet.

"Michelle Ray ended up placing well at the Raleigh Regionals, which is a very big East Coast meet," said Duncan. "She held her own against other Division I powers. As a program, it's our goal to make sure we're competing against Division I powers."

The Bulldogs have improved steadily each week, setting new personal and school records. These improvements are important in preparing for the upcoming conference meet on April 21.

"We're just trying to work hard and stay healthy to get ready for the conference meet," said Rosenthal.

Shuba waits out recent injuries

By Teshania Wiley
Staff Writer

Sophomore Stefanie Shuba, the women's tennis team's No. 1 seed, is still practicing, despite recent injuries, according to head coach Jeff Duncan.

Shuba has a 4-7 record in singles play and 5-5 record in doubles action.

"She is always the first to practice and the last one to leave," said Duncan. "Now that she has had an injury, she is limited in her practice time. The team normally practices about two hours for five or six days a week."

Shuba is very athletic, according to Duncan.

"She has lost some close matches this year, but on the flip side, I think that if she stays focused and is willing to put in the extra time, it will pay off in the long run," said Duncan.

"I began playing tennis when I was nine years old," said Shuba. "My mom played tennis, and my sister and I would watch her play

because she did not have a babysitter for us. I played whenever she would take us."

Shuba is a real asset to the team, according to Duncan. He also feels she is the backbone of the UNCA tennis team.

"I played a few tennis tournaments over the summer, and I won a couple, but it really was not anything major," said Shuba.

All aspects of Shuba's game enable her to be coached, according to Duncan.

She struggled with injuries for the first part of the year, but now she is the type of player who is dangerous.

"She is a good kid, not only on the court, but off the court, too," said Duncan. "She has always done everything I told

her to do. She is a very focused and determined player who has a lot of room to grow. If she stays healthy and continues to improve, she has a bright future."

Shuba says her favorite professional tennis player is Andre Agassi. "Whenever he was having trouble and struggling, he would still play through it," said Shuba. "He would manage to get back on top of his game, and I think that is pretty impressive."

Shuba, originally from Boca Raton, Fla., wants to eventually manage a country club or a racquet club after she graduates from college. She also plans to work with and teach kids.

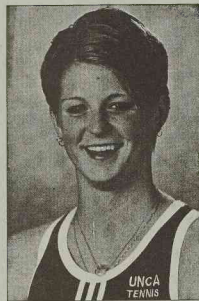


PHOTO COURTESY OF ATHLETIC DEPT.

The 'Dogs' No. 1 tennis seed is sophomore Stefanie Shuba.

Profile

Bulldogs edge out Marshall, stopped by Tourists

By Jennifer Crowl
Staff Writer

The UNCA baseball team competed in the doubleheader against Marshall on April 5. The Bulldogs stopped the Thundering Herd 6-4 in the first game and fell 5-3 in the second. Their record is now 3-9 in conference play and 13-17 overall.

Sophomore Curtis Moncus hit two home runs and drove in four runs to lead the 'Dogs to a non-conference win over Marshall in the first game. Marshall led 2-0 before the Bulldogs scored three times in the bottom of the second inning.

Freshman Aaron Rembert pitched 4 1/3 innings to record the victory. Moncus homered to cut the lead to 2-1, and junior Jason Ronai contributed a two-out, two-run double to advance the lead to 3-2. After Marshall tied the game 3-3 in the top of the third inning, Moncus hit a three-run homer to place UNCA in front for good at 6-3.

The night before, the Asheville Tourists defeated the Bulldogs 3-1 in an exhibition game at McCormick Field on April 4.

UNCA's own Chancellor Jim Mullen entered the game at the bottom of the sixth inning, played first base, held both runners closely and then had a scoop at first to finish a double play off a throw from junior Corey Mercer.

"The chancellor did an outstanding job in cold weather and got us out of a big inning with a fine play

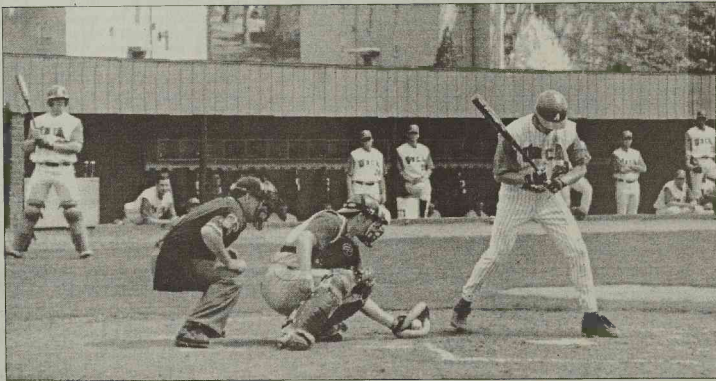


PHOTO BY JUSTIN MECKES

UNCA's senior Todd Interdonato stands at bat in a recent home baseball game. The Bulldogs participated in an exhibition game against the Asheville Tourists on April 4. The Bulldogs also took on Marshall in a doubleheader on April 4.

at first," said head coach Mike Roberts. "These young men believe they can win every game, and they showed their determination to continue to play well by bouncing back with an excellent game on (April 2)," said Roberts.

On April 2, the Bulldogs tied the game in the fourth inning, but Coastal recaptured the lead in the bottom of the fourth. UNCA then sent 10 men to the plate in the fifth inning with six of those crossing the plate.

The big hit was on a double straight down the left-field line by senior third baseman Stephen Deyo, which helped score a pair of runners.

The 'Dogs continued to add four more runs in the sixth inning.

Freshman reliever Aaron Rembert pitched 5.2 innings and allowed seven hits and four earned runs.

Junior Nick Brannon got his second save of the season when he pitched the final 3.1 innings, allowed just two hits and struck out

three.

Senior Todd Interdonato led a 16-hit attack for UNCA by going 4-for-5 at the plate with two runs and three RBI's. There were three hits each contributed by senior Pete Meterko and Moncus.

Todd Interdonato is one of the six seniors we really count on each game and in practice to keep the team focused," said Roberts. "I am very pleased with all our players, but Todd did pick up offensively in the 16-4 win."

Moncus scored the 'Dogs' final run on Meterko's groundout to second base.

Coastal's Scott Sturkie picked up the win by allowing only five hits and walking none in 7.0 innings. He also struck out eight UNCA hitters.

"The team is looking forward to the second half of the season," said Roberts. "One of our goals is to have a great second half and to come finish the year strong to prepare for the Big South Conference tournament."