



Tony Waldrop

Staff photo by Steve Clark

Carolina vaults into second place

by Jim Thomas
Asst. Sports Editor

For most collegiate runners a sub-four minute mile would be cause for celebration but for UNC star Tony Waldrop a 3:59.8 was just routine.

It was Waldrop's ninth consecutive time under four minutes this season and 11th over the past two years dating back to the Big Three meet at Raleigh last spring when he broke the four minute barrier for the first time.

Maryland ran away with their 19th consecutive outdoor title and 20th in the past

21 years piling up a record 127 points far ahead of second place North Carolina.

It appeared Waldrop's streak might end when the field completed the half mile in a slow 2:05. However Waldrop realized most of the crowd of 7,800 had come to see him run a sub-four minute mile and churned the final two laps in 58.4 and 56.4.

Although the time was disappointing in view of his 3:52.3 at the Penn Relays the crowd didn't seem to care cheering the new mile sensation every time he passed the stands. Few of the fans, spectators and officials expected Waldrop to turn in a record breaking performance given the

competition, hard track, hot surface and humid 84 degree temperature.

After the race was over Waldrop was swarmed by a horde of photographers, reporters, spectators and children but now the country boy was used to such clamoring attention.

Later Waldrop conducted a massive press conference at trackside and patiently answered the barrage of questions. He said, "I am really tired. I was glad to see the finish line. The cold I had this week is making this a slow recovery. It took a lot out of me. Usually I jog a mile and a half after a race but today I am too tired."

Ironically the world indoor record holder failed to break the ACC meet record of 3:59.3 set by former teammate Reggie McAfee last year.

However, Waldrop expressed no disappointment at his time, the slowest of his sub-four minute miles this year, saying, "I am perfectly satisfied with the time. If someone thinks that is a slow time that is their problem not mine."

He continued, "I was worried about this race from the beginning to the end. Even if I had been at full strength I would have been worried about Wheeler, I could feel him near me all the way through the final 220. The biggest difference today was that I was running scared. I did not get much sleep a couple of nights and did not feel particularly well."

However with the crowd behind him Waldrop breezed by Wheeler in the backstretch and crossed the finish line with him more than six seconds behind at 4:06.8.

Waldrop got the Robert Fetzer award as the meet's most versatile. Beasley won the long jump (24-9 3/4), came in second in the triple jump (47-11), third in the 100 (9.9) and was a member of Carolina's second place 440 relay team.

Terry Taylor won the shot put (153-1/2) as the Tar Heels dominated that event with Gil Vance placing third and Lee McLaughlin fourth. Jeff Gorski finished third in the javelin with a throw of 217.

Maryland had two double winners in Nick Basciano (100 and 220) and Jeff Nichols (120 yard high hurdles and 440 intermediate hurdles).

UNC edged N.C. State for second place 52-49 despite Bob Medlin's 10 points for winning the shot put and finishing second in the discus when Danny Deacon came through with a winning vault of 15-6 in the extended pole vault competition. Duke was fourth with 41, Clemson had 13, Wake Forest 12 and Virginia 10.

Waldrop captures McKelvin Award

Sensational miler Tony Waldrop was named the Atlantic Coast Conference athlete of the year last Saturday.

"I am very shocked," said the modest miler when informed, he had been voted the Anthony J. McKelvin award by the Atlantic Coast Conference Sports Writers Association.

"I would have expected David Thompson to get it myself," said Waldrop. "I admire him as an athlete very much."

Shock was the typical reaction for the shy country boy who doubted his ability to keep pace with the nation's best during the indoor season. But the award was no surprise to anyone who has been following Waldrop's record setting feats during the track season.

Despite being a three sport All-American his junior year Waldrop was not a well-known figure outside track circles. He first

appeared before the public eye when he finished second in the NCAA mile behind Dave Wottle on national television.

Waldrop began to attract casual attention when he ran a sub-four minute mile for the first time indoors at the East Coast Invitational in Richmond at a time when most runners are barely in shape.

The UNC star was the first track performer to capture the ACC honor since Dave Sime of Duke in 1956.

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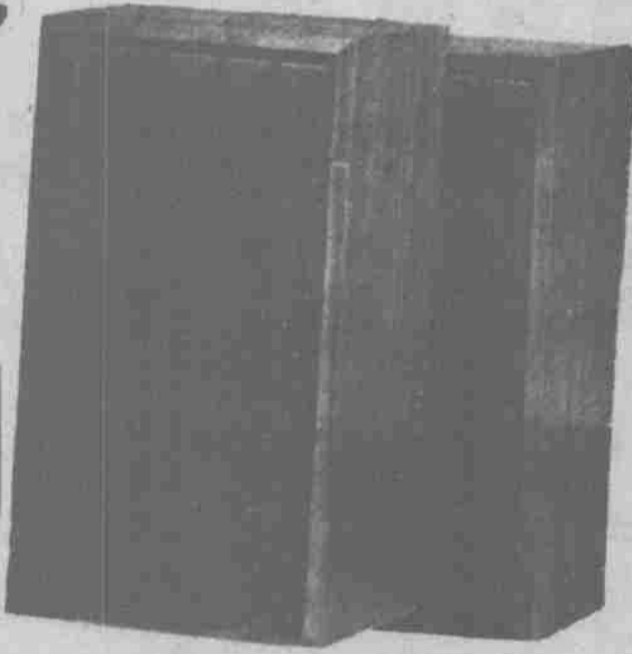


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The Tar Heel

Bill Kay, Sports Editor



IM summer activities set

Attention first session students — the summer intramural program will soon begin play.

This session offers three sports for participation: softball, golf and tennis (if there is enough interest, we hope to have a co-rec tennis tournament).

Since the summer session is so short, entry dates for each sport are: softball by Thursday, May 23; golf by Thursday, May 30 (in which two 18-hole score cards from Finley Golf Course must be turned into the club no later than 7 p.m. to determine flights); and tennis also by Thursday, May 30. Entries should be turned in to the intramural office in 215 Woollen Gym.

Would you like to earn \$1.85 per hour? Officials for softball are needed. Experience is not necessary as we will train, but it is preferred. If interested contact John Schwarz in the intramural office or call 933-1153.

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