

Guest on "North Carolina People"

# Waldrop talks about his life at Carolina

by Jim Thomas  
Asst. Sports Editor

"My biggest thrill has not been any one thing. It has just been great to meet new people, see old friends and go new places. There is a certain feeling seniors get when they realize how much they enjoyed a school and are leaving it very shortly. It is a sad feeling but a nice feeling too."

Thus Tony Waldrop summed up his four years on the Carolina campus. Waldrop was a guest of Consolidated University President William Friday on his television show "North Carolina People" last Friday night. In the program Waldrop talked about his academic and social life at UNC as well as his sensational athletic career.

Waldrop has run nine consecutive sub-four minute miles over the past calendar year, a feat never accomplished in track, but he has not always met with such unprecedented success. A sibling rivalry was responsible for his getting started in track.

"I had an older brother who could do everything better than me," the UNC star said. "I kept chasing after him in basketball, baseball,

anything at all until I finally caught up to him in track."

Waldrop had natural ability but had to be encouraged by Dr. George Vosberg to compete. There is a story that Tony hid in the library in high school one time to keep from running in a meet. Vosberg found him there and carried him off.

"He was the one that always gave me the confidence to go ahead and run in the bigger races," Waldrop said. "He told me I could do bigger and better things. I think he was lucky in his guesses but a lot of it did turn out like he said it would."

He was a half-miler his first three years at Carolina before he ran his initial mile; however, it was always in the back of his mind. "Most of the people who saw me in cross country and track thought I would run the mile a little better," said Waldrop. "There was not a conscious effort to get me to run the mile but a lot of people whose knowledge of track I respect suggested I should try it."

### RUN FOR FUN

Waldrop's consistent success would seem to

demand disciplined devotion to training but unlike most other great athletes he takes a relaxed attitude toward running.

"Running during college was a nice break from studying. It is something I enjoy so I did not really feel I was disciplining myself," said Waldrop. "I am a lazy trainer but I work hard in what I do. I don't do a lot of things other middle distance runners do. I can't make myself get up in the morning and go run."

Waldrop's run for run attitude toward sport is in stark contrast to the grim-faced approach of most runners. While most runners go off into a corner by themselves before a race Tony would rather sit and talk with some of his friends or some of the other runners.

### WALDROP—BIG NAME

"At one time I used to let the big names and races get in my way," he said. "You have to think of those guys in the same way you do yourself. I still admire them and think, golly, what am I doing out here with them but when I step on the track I figure I have just as good a chance as they do."

"San Diego was a lot like the other races. I just

wanted to improve my time. I was not thinking about the record.

"Towards the last quarter I was out there by myself but then you start thinking there is somebody back there who is going to make a strong finish and come up on me. It was nice hearing the crowd cheering but the big thing was seeing coach Hilton jump out on the track and shaking his hand. It took a lot of work between coach and myself, he deserves as much credit as I do. He is a great coach to have worked under. He and I are more like friends than coach and athlete."

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Track was not Waldrop's only area of interest. The Morehead Scholar also enjoyed his academic experience at Chapel Hill. "Unfortunately I think I got my degree in the wrong field," he said. "I had thought about changing majors but I felt I would go ahead and graduate and if I decide to do something later I will come back to graduate school."

"I always thought I would like to go to law school," said Waldrop. "I took the law boards

and had everything ready but did not apply since I want to take a year off and run some more. Now I would sort of like to try coaching and if so I will do graduate work in physical education."

### SUMMER PLANS

Even though Waldrop is uncertain about the future outside of track he does plan to compete in two more races this summer, the NCAA, AAU and then he will go to Europe with a track club. "Europe has always been one of my big goals," he said. "Not just to run there but to sightsee and visit all the places I have read about."

The beginning of the European tour conflicts with the USA-Russian track meet in Durham in July so Waldrop is unsure if he will compete. "The track club left that open," he said. "I can go to Europe when they go or come over after the meet. The question is whether or not I can qualify. The top two finishers in the AAU make the team. A lot can happen on a given day. It is whether or not I want to risk two weeks in Europe against running against the Russians. I will have to wait until the season progresses more before I make my decision."

## Around and about the ACC sports scene

by Bill Kay  
Sports Editor

### Around and About:

What's Happening on the ACC Sports Scene:

**CONGRATULATIONS BIG WALT:** Carolina's Walter Davis has been notified by Sports Quarterly Magazine that he will make its pre-season All-America basketball team. To say the least, Davis has had an outstanding freshman season with the Tar Heels last winter. Did the Quarterly have a reporter at the season-ending Duke affair?

No matter, Walter became a household word to avid UNC rooters, as he proved to be a truly consistent battler all season, after he became accustomed to Dean Smith's system. Indeed, Walter is headed for bigger and better things, and will go down as one of the very best Carolina has ever seen on the Carmichael floor.

Walter is spending the summer with his family in Charlotte. He plans to attend several basketball camps in that area. We think you deserve the honor, Big W. We'll be looking forward to your dazzling moves and twisting, off-balance jumpers next winter...

**THE NBA** conducts its draft of collegians today with big men the top priority.

The draft should be especially interesting for ACC fans with Maryland's Len Elmore and Tom McMillen, N.C. State's Tommy Burleson and North Carolina's Bobby Jones expected to be chosen early in the first round. The Tar Heel's Darrell Elston and Wake Forest's Tony Byers should also be picked within the first few rounds.

Philadelphia with the no. 2 choice must decide between centers Elmore, Burleson, Providence's Marvin Barnes and Notre Dame's John Sumate. The 76er's appear to be leaning toward Elmore, a defensive intimidator, shot blocker and rebounder of

great leaping ability.

Seattle has the no. 3 pick acquired from Cleveland in a trade for veteran guard Dick Snyder.

The SuperSonics are expected to draft the 7-4 Burleson. Burleson's value skyrocketed after his NCAA playoff performance. The State star has one quality noticeably lacking in the pros—enthusiasm and is three or four years away from reaching his potential.

North Carolina coach Dean Smith expects Bobby Jones to be among the first five drafted and Darrell Elston to be picked in the second round.

Jones is a running forward and an excellent defensive player. The pro scouts suspect Jones' ability to hit the outside shot but are impressed with his speed, grace, rebounding and offensive board play.

At 6-4, 204 pounds Elston has the size pro like to see in their guards. He possesses a consistent outside shot from 20 feet and is a strong defensive player.

McMillen has the best outside shot among the big men but at 6-11, 210 pounds the pros are concerned about his stamina and whether or not he is rugged enough to take on the big forwards in the NBA.

**WHEN TONY WALDROP** was voted Atlantic Coast Conference Athlete of the Year last week, it marked the sixth time in 21 years that a Tar Heel star has taken the honor. No other conference member has had that many winners.

Carolina winners were basketballer Lennie Rosenbluth in 1957, football player and baseballer Danny Talbott in 1966, basketball player Larry Miller in 1968, basketball star Charlie Scott in 1970, footballer Don McCauley in 1971 and last but not least Waldrop.

Duke ranks a close second with five Athletes of the Year. N.C. State has had four winners, Wake Forest three, Virginia two and South Carolina one. Neither Clemson

## Waldrop loses

Paul Cummings of Brigham Young University upset Tony Waldrop in the mile last Saturday in the 33rd California Relays.

Waldrop had run nine consecutive miles under four minutes including a 3:52.3 at the Penn Relays but was fourth most of the way and appeared to struggle on the final lap. His last lap kick never materialized and he finished fifth in 4:04.

Cummings took the lead from pace setter Len Hilton, the AAU mile champion, and raced home with a 3:57.7. Oregon State's Hailu Ebba made a late challenge but settled for second place in 3:58.6. Hilton was timed in 4:04.6.

nor Maryland has ever swept the award...Look for Maryland's John Lucas to receive the coveted honor his senior year, unless State's David Thompson doesn't show up next year...There has never been a repeat winner in all the years of voting for the McKelvin award. Thompson, State's amazing b-baller, was a strong candidate to be a repeat winner this year, but finished second to Waldrop in the voting.

**ALONG THE TRACK** circuit, long jump champion Sam Beasley and distance runner Dave Hamilton have been chosen co-captains of the Carolina track team for next season. Hamilton also will serve as co-captain of the Tar Heel cross country team next fall...

**CAROLINA CENTERFIELDER** DALE Lydecker finished the Atlantic Coast Conference season atop the batting race with a .350 average...

Tar Heel righthander and football hero

Billy Paschall tied State's Tim Stoddard (who the hell is he?) for the best pitching record. Both posted 5-0 records. Stoddard has the best earned run average, 1.26, while Paschall finished with a mark of 1.67. A vote cast for Timmy Stoddard as the most underrated athlete in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

**CAROLINA MAY HAVE** picked the wrong year to put Georgia Tech back on its football schedule. New Yellow Jacket Coach Pepper Rodgers is having some good words to say about his 1974 version of the Tech team.

"For the ability it's got, this may be the best Tech team ever," Rodgers said after spring practice...But then again this is relatively speaking.

The Tar Heels meet Georgia Tech in Atlanta on Oct. 12.

**RALPH KING, THE** Atlanta phenom who has signed a grant-in-aid with Carolina, recently ran a blistering 4:06.9 mile in the Georgia State High School meet...And, as hard to believe as it may seem, the best mile ever recorded by Tony Waldrop in high school was a 4:18...

Well, if King comes any where near to Tony's feats Carolina students are in for many a heartstopping spring and winter sessions.

**MARYLAND, LEADING THE** crusade of the three universities in the ACC, not located in North Carolina (Virginia, Clemson), towards more recognition and away from a North Carolina-dominated press in regards to the ACC, was the leading spokesman at the ongoing annual spring meeting of the Atlantic Coast Conference scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday, May 21-23, at Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The big question was concerned with the site of the 1976 ACC Basketball Tournament since the current contract with the Greensboro Coliseum expires following the

1975 tournament.

The tourney has been held at the 15,000-seat Coliseum for four years under a contract that has one more season to run. Prior to that, the tournament was at the 11,000-seat Charlotte Coliseum for three years.

Maryland expressed a desire that it be played away from the state of North Carolina, whose instate teams have dominated the event since its inception...A committee, made up of the various ACC athletic directors, heard proposals for staging the annual basketball tournament following the 1975 classic...Four different groups appeared at the Thursday session to apply for the 1976 spectacle.

Representatives of coliseums in Greensboro and Charlotte, the Richmond, Va., Coliseum and the new and magnificent Capital Centre at Landover, Md. met with the basketball committee to make presentations regarding the championship basketball tournament...Conference officials listened to proposals by the reps. of the interested cities, but no decision as to where the 1976 tournament will be played was made. Further study of the question is needed according to the committee.

Maryland, compromising with the Big Four North Carolina ACC schools, proposed that the annual classic rotate every year from school to school in the ACC. This bid did not pass.

A report from the long range planning committee dealing with requirements and procedures for admitting a new school to the conference was also on tap. There were no applications on the agenda...

According to ACC Commissioner Bob James, "Most of our business is transacted at our February meeting, and the purpose of the spring gathering is to discuss items which do not require changes in the constitution and bylaws."

See you 'round and about...

**The Tar Heel**

SPORTS

Bill Kay,  
Sports Editor

## Soccer starts

The Chapel Hill Recreation Department's Adults Soccer League gets under way June 4 with an organizational meeting scheduled for Lincoln Field on Merrit Mill Rd. The league is for people 15 years and older.

The summer league, which supplements the Rainbow Soccer program during the regular school year, is under the co-directorship of Joe Hodgson, head soccer coach at Chapel Hill High School and Tim Morse, a former co-capt. of the UNC soccer team.

There are no scheduled practice sessions since there is not enough space available; games will be scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30.

The summer league is designed to be competitive as according to Hodgson. "We are based in a friendly atmosphere but in the process we've developed some of the best soccer players in the east coast."

The size of the league this year will depend on the number of people who turn out for the organizational meeting. The league will run through June and July, and it is open to males and females, who compete on the same teams.

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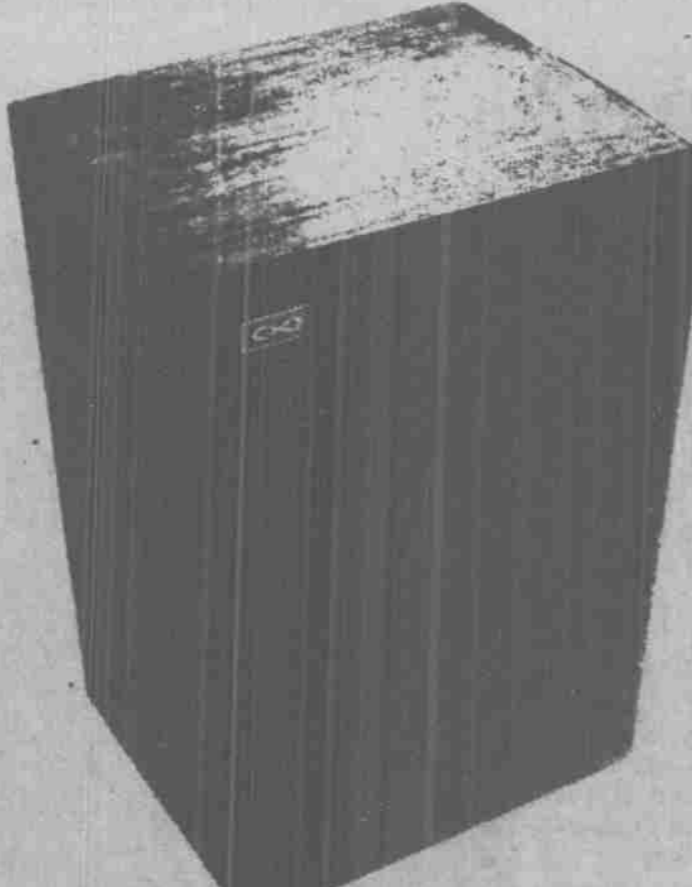
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