

SPORTS

Versatile McGorty has his sights set on '88 Olympics

By JOHN HACKNEY
Staff Writer

Assistant track coach Jeff Gorski calls him the greatest thing to come along since sliced bread. "And yet he's so unassuming," Gorski says.

Freshman decathlete Kevin McGorty has received a lot of similar praise in the past year for his sensational performances in several big competitions. And so it comes as a surprise that he didn't make a firm commitment to the decathlon until the summer after his senior year at Westfield High School in New Jersey, when he won three big decathlons in one month. This included a performance in California in which McGorty amassed the second highest point total (7,321) for a decathlete in high school history.

McGorty's specialty is a two-day competition that includes 10 events: the 100-meter dash, 400-meter dash, 1500-meter run, 110-meter high hurdles, long jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, javelin and shot put. It is easy to see why the winner of the Olympic decathlon is most knowledgeable people's pick as the world's greatest athlete.

McGorty needs only to improve his score to 7,625 points to qualify for the 1984 Olympic trials, and Gorski says he has already added enough distance in the shot put this year to increase his overall score by 100. However, McGorty will have to wait until the outdoor track season begins before he will know exactly how much he has improved.

Both McGorty and Gorski think qualifying for the trials is not such a difficult task, but neither is expecting McGorty to make the three-man team the U.S. will send to this summer's games in Los Angeles. There are presently three ex-

perienced decathletes who consistently score over 8,000 points an outing.

"I just want to qualify for the (NCAAs) and the Olympic Trials this year," McGorty says. "In the long run, I want to make it to the 1988 Olympic Games."

Gorski says McGorty has already been tabbed the man to beat in 1988 by some track experts.

Meanwhile, McGorty is busy training on a schedule that has been set a year in advance by North Carolina's four-man coaching staff. Gorski is in charge of McGorty's training in the weight events (javelin, shot and discus), where McGorty admits he needs work.

Gorski, a member of the 1982 U.S. National Team as a javelin thrower, says McGorty is 25-30 pounds lighter than most of the guys he competes with right now, so weight training will be pivotal to his success as a decathlete.

Coach Don Lockerbie coordinates McGorty's overall training program as well as working closely with his distance running. Assistant coaches Skip Miller and Hubert West handle McGorty's training in the sprinting and jumping events, respectively.

McGorty was "offered everything but the moon" from other schools bidding for his services, according to Gorski, whose brother was the freshman track coach at Westfield. "I think Kevin chose UNC in the end because he appreciated the honesty of the coaching staff here," Gorski says.

McGorty says he feels good about the way he has fit in with the team.

"I really like it because we have a good time in practice and still get the job done," he says. "I think that's really important."



Jeff Gorski (left) works with decathlete Kevin McGorty.

He says, though, that he gets tired of practicing day in and day out.

"Sometimes I really get down in the dumps. When I do, I just think it'll have to pass. The team really helps because we joke around when someone has a bad day."

His teammates probably don't get too many opportunities to joke around with him, because a guy who's regarded by some as the man to beat in the 1988

Olympics can't have too many bad days.

McGorty's idol is Bruce Jenner, the 1976 Olympic decathlon champion who is now to Wheaties ("The Breakfast of Champions") what the Captain is to Crunch.

He hasn't ruled out the possibility of being honored with the unofficial but all-prestigious title of World's Greatest Athlete that Jenner lay claim to not long ago.

Fuller signs with USFL

From staff and wire reports

North Carolina defensive tackle and two-time All-American William Fuller signed a four-year contract with the USFL's Philadelphia Stars Monday.

Fuller, the team's second territorial draft pick last month, appeared at a Veterans Stadium news conference with his parents three days after he originally was scheduled to sign the contract.

Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Fuller, who spent the weekend in New Haven, Conn., with members of the Walter Camp Foundation All-America team, had been scheduled to appear at a news conference Friday, but backed out at the last minute.

"I thought about this a long time and I wanted to make sure," he said Monday. "I needed more time to think about it. It was the biggest decision of my life."

While in New Haven, Fuller said he was contacted by some officials of NFL teams, including Washington Redskins general manager Bobby Beathard and Dallas Cowboys vice president Gil Brandt, in an effort to get him to wait until the NFL draft before signing a contract.

"I talked to Mr. Beathard and Mr. Brandt. I talked to a lot of people."

Fuller said. "They didn't knock the USFL. They talked about the good side of the NFL. With the USFL, they talked about the unknown, that they weren't sure if the league could survive. I believe it will survive."

The 6-foot-4, 250-pound Fuller, from Chesapeake, Va., is expected to move into a starting spot right away to beef up the Stars' pass rush. He led the Tar Heels in 1983 with five sacks and 12 other tackles for losses, and was named to several All-America teams.

Fuller was expected to report Tuesday night to the Stars' pre-season camp in Deland, Fla. He will be rejoining an old friend, former college teammate and 1983 USFL Most Valuable Player Kelvin Bryant, with the Stars.

"Kelvin told me if I got a good deal, that this would be a great place to play football," he said. "A lot of factors came into play. I'd like to play in a hurry. I'm not the type to sit on the bench and watch no matter how much money I'm making. I want to be part of something."

Fuller was an anchor for a Tar Heel defense that was regularly ranked among the ten best in the country during his junior and senior seasons. He will be joining the team that led the USFL in total defense in 1983.

UPI Men's Poll

1. North Carolina (41)	20-0	629
2. DePaul	17-0	587
3. Georgetown	19-2	521
4. Houston	19-3	467
5. Nev.-Las Vegas	20-1	428
6. (tie) Texas-El Paso	20-1	393
(tie) Illinois	17-2	393
8. Kentucky (1)	16-3	349
9. Memphis St.	16-3	228
10. Oklahoma	18-3	176
11. Purdue	15-4	174
12. Tulsa	18-2	135
13. Maryland	14-4	83
14. Auburn	14-5	82
15. Louisville	15-5	79
16. Washington	15-4	61
17. Wake Forest	15-4	59
18. Syracuse	14-5	43
19. Arkansas	16-4	38
20. Temple	16-2	21

AP Women's Poll

1. Louisiana Tech (44)	19-1	1,169
2. Texas (12)	17-2	1,136
3. S. California (2)	17-3	1,074
4. Georgia (2)	20-2	1,032
5. Old Dominion	14-4	975
6. Long Beach State	13-4	848
7. Tennessee	16-6	792
8. Mississippi	19-3	776
9. Louisiana State	16-4	695
10. Kansas State	15-4	629
11. Cheyney	17-4	598
12. Missouri	16-3	510
13. Auburn	15-6	494
14. Virginia	17-3	398
15. North Carolina	17-3	329
16. N.C. State	16-5	279
17. Maryland	13-6	223
18. St. John's	18-2	199
19. Clemson	15-6	142
20. Northeast Louisiana	14-3	89

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THE Daily Crossword By Martha J. DeWitt

ACROSS

1 Menu	32 Poplar	52 Musical passage	25 Coos Bay's state: abbr.
6 More peculiar	33 Lucid	56 Inquire	26 Char
11 Joker	34 Switch sign	57 Describing a beauty part	27 Wag
14 Fugitive's name	37 Actor's	28 — da caccia	29 Polite in speech
15 Way	38 Prickly plant	60 Kind of dance	30 Sightless
16 Wind direction	39 On the deep	40 Where Dover is: abbr.	31 Hollow stem
17 Satisfied	41 Demon	62 An Astaire	33 Algonquian
19 Mauna —	42 Common contraction	63 Mass. cape	35 — off (repeal)
20 Vend	43 Harangue	64 Baking item	36 — Morgana
21 Sunrise locale	45 Jackson of films	65 City on the Meuse	38 Coffin platform
22 Kind of heater	46 Bilbo's relative	DOWN	39 Long distance starter
24 Amphibian	48 Nazimova	1 Crow calls	41 Certain road
26 Piles	49 Disintegrate	3 Stream	42 — or nothing
27 Poltroon	50 Wan	4 Embellished yam	44 Sp. hero
30 Slight indication		5 Sixth sense letters	45 Mountain valley
		6 Nymph of mountains	46 Rope
		7 "— the Romans..."	47 Felonious firing
		8 Pulverized earth	48 Wide awake
		9 Summer in Sevens	50 Entreaty
		10 Mars, for one	51 Too bad!
		11 Apt	53 Due
		12 Drenched	54 Rue — Paix
		13 Auto parts	55 Indian Ocean gulf ending
		18 Be in front	59 "— Kaptal"
		23 Grain	

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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