

The best team without a chance to prove it

Not many people know what school North Carolina passed this season to lay claim to the best winning percentage in college basketball since 1976. Maybe it's the institution's size, or lack thereof: enrollment hovers around 1,600, occasionally ballooning to a whopping 1,700. But probably it's the team's virtually nonexistent postseason: conference rules forbid a member school's participation in the NCAA Division III Tournament.

Hamilton College, a tiny liberal arts school in the Adirondack foothills of Clinton, N.Y., has won 81.1 percent of its games the past nine seasons — a figure second only to the Tar Heels' 82 percent. And yet coach Tom Murphy's Continentals have never won a national championship. The New England Small College Athletic Conference won't allow them to try.

In what seems like an immoderate effort to keep athletics in perspective, the NESCAC, of which Hamilton is one of 11 members, prohibits team competition more than seven days beyond the Saturday of the final week of the regular season. Since the regular season can't extend past the first Saturday in March, the NCAA Tournament is too late in the month to facilitate a NESCAC team's participation. Even if the tournament were sooner, teams would still be prohibited from playing because NESCAC rules prevent members from competing in any games that lead to further competition.

"They just feel like it takes too much time away from classes at the end of the season, and the kids are here to get an education," Murphy said. "I argue the other side of the coin; I think it's a great educational experience."

Most any coach could stand to learn a lesson or two from Murphy. Beginning his coaching career with a national high school record of 83 consecutive victories at Belleville (N.Y.) High, Murphy has since put together seven 20-game winners in 14 years at Hamilton. This despite a NESCAC-mandated maximum of 26 games per season.

Michael DeSisti

What makes Murphy's success rate most impressive are the recruiting obstacles he's had to overcome along the way. As a Division III school, Hamilton can offer no athletic scholarships, which is not the case with some of the teams on its schedule. The NESCAC also imposes a number of unusual recruiting restrictions on member institutions, including disallowing coaches to visit recruits off campus. That Hamilton is one of the nation's best liberal arts schools — it sends most every graduate to a first-rate medical or law school — and has the entrance requirements to match further handcuffs Murphy.

"If we find a player that's a good student, right away we're banging heads with the Ivy League," he said. "If he's not a good student, then he's not going to get in anyway."

Six eventual All-Americans have got in since Murphy has been at Hamilton, including Cedric Oliver, two-time Division III player of the year. Oliver was drafted by the Atlanta Hawks in the seventh round of the 1979 NBA draft and lasted through the final cut before being released. Players of Oliver's caliber are rare at Hamilton, however, where Murphy makes the most of "in-between sizers," major college oversights and rejects.

The Continentals started a 6-5 junior, Larry Kollath, at center in 1984. The Camillus, N.Y., native said that Hamilton attracted the borderline Division I player who didn't want to spend his games on the bench, and that though there were Hamilton players who could make the team at a small Division I school, big-time college ball was a pipedream.

"At a North Carolina, I'd be shaking pom poms on the sidelines with everybody else," said Kollath, who led the Continentals in scoring and rebounding.

With postseason play limited to a four-team Eastern College Athletic Conference tournament for upstate New York schools, Kollath said Hamilton played in a game of the year 26 times over every season. In 1980, the Continentals beat eventual Division III national champion Scranton (Pa.) by 18 points during the regular season; the year before it had toppled runnerup Potsdam (N.Y.) State by the same margin.

"Every game is that much more important to us, because we don't have any postseason," Kollath said. "We're out for blood every game."

And in to study as soon as they shower, except for Murphy. He goes home to dream about the test his team never gets to take — and could probably ace more times than not.

Nesbit beats the clock, stiff wind to shatter track record

By BOB YOUNG
Staff Writer

Joan Nesbit was a little over 30 seconds into the 5,000 meter race at the Carolina-Duke Track Carnival before she took the lead. From that moment on, her enemies were the clock and a stiff wind at Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham.

Instead of using these factors for excuses, the UNC senior considered them challenges and mastered them impressively as she went on to win the event in a time of 15:52.9, just one of the solid performances put in by the Tar Heels Friday and Saturday.

Nesbit's time is the fastest so far this year by an American woman and shattered the Olympic qualifying standard of 16:31 in the event. Before the race, Nesbit had a goal of bettering her best time from last year, a 16:32.87 clocking, and had a "radical" goal of running near

16 minutes.

"I like running by myself and I'm usually a pretty good front-runner," Nesbit said. "People are telling me that I could have had a super time if it wasn't for the wind, but I just considered it a challenge and concentrated harder when I was running into it."

Nesbit said she is planning to run the 10,000 meter event at the ACC championships in two weeks. After that, she'll decide which of the two races she wants to run at the NCAA championships.

Nesbit wasn't the only Tar Heel to have an impressive meet, as four other North Carolina competitors won their events.

Among the women, freshman Sherrie MacKinney won the women's javelin with a toss of 151-2, which set a meet record by nearly 10 feet. Her teammate Katy Howard was fifth in the event with a throw of 118-2.

Shunta Robinson also set a meet record by winning the shot put with a throw of 46-2, bettering the old mark by six inches.

Madlyn Morreale was the victor in the women's 10,000 meter with a time of 36:08.3. In the same event, Kathy Norcross came in third in 37:34.5.

UNC had second place finishers in the high jump and discus as Janet Bean cleared 5-4, and Connie Price tossed the disc 119-4.

Third place finishes for the Tar Heels were locked up by Diane Thomas in the 100 meter hurdles (14.27), and Alisa Murray in the 400 meters (57.98).

Meanwhile, the UNC men's team had one individual victor in the javelin as Curt Sheaffer unlocked a toss of 237-10 to take the event.

In the pole vault, two North Carolina competitors finished in a tie for second place. Kimmy Seymour and David Beck both finished with a height of 14-6.

The team's other second place finish was claimed by Nate Sheaffer in the shot put, with a throw of 48-7/4.

The discus and high jump competitions gave UNC fourth place finishes as Mel Landis threw 147-10 and Mark Schaller cleared a height of 6-8.

In the distance events, Tom Bobrowski finished in fifth place in the steeplechase with a clocking of 9:23.1. The Tar Heels' David Schnorrenberg took fifth in the 10,000 meters with a time of 32:27.8.

The most outstanding individual performance in the meet was turned in by Villanova's Patty Bradley. Bradley won the 400 meter hurdles in meet record time and finished second in the 100 meter hurdles. She also won the 800 meter run and helped Villanova to a victory in the 1,600 meter relay.

For Thomas, wins were as easy as stepping on a track

By SCOTT SMITH
Staff Writer

When North Carolina freshman hurdler Diane Thomas was in high school, winning races was as easy as stepping on the track.

From the time she was 11, Thomas piled up credentials that would make any athlete proud. Some of those achievements included being a three-time Maryland state champion, runner-up in the 1982 Junior Olympic 100-meter hurdles (a race in which she ran under the Olympic trial qualifying standards), 1982 TAC 17-18 national 100-meter hurdles champion and seven age-group national titles.

It was apparent that she was the premier prep hurdler in the country when recruiters began knocking on her door during her senior year. Thomas' hurdling abilities were sought by more than 40 major college track programs across the nation.

Thomas said that becoming a Tar Heel was a last-second decision and that an outstanding track program was not the only criterion considered in making her decision.

"Academically, and in a lot of other ways, I liked Carolina much better than others after my visit," Thomas said. "I didn't want to go to those other schools just because they had a great track team."

When Thomas entered UNC and started running during the indoor season, she found that victories were not as easy to come by on the major college level as they had been in high school. Although she placed well in several races and missed qualifying for the NCAA indoor nationals by only 0.01 of a second, Thomas said she got down on herself.

"When I first started running indoor here I was really gung-ho and ready to set the world on fire," Thomas said. "Coming out of high school I never got beat in anything, and it sort of devastated me. I was getting so intense and expecting so much of myself, that, when it wasn't happening (winning), I got distressed."

However, after talking with coach Skip

Miller and re-evaluating her attitude, she changed her mental stance.

"I talked to Skip and he said I was wanting too much, too soon and that it was going to take time," she said. "I soon realized it was not going to happen every time out (winning) and that it was just going to be a matter of adjusting."

Adjustment seems to be a major theme in Thomas' first year. She admits that the transition, both athletically and academically, to college has been a trying one.

"On the track it's been pretty hard," Thomas said. "I had one coach for nine years (Olympic hurdle coach Jack Griffin) and getting used to a new coach was really different. Academically it is really tough because I'm trying to get into business school and the hours I put in at the track, which is a lot, take time away from my studying."

No matter how difficult the transition to college has been for Thomas, the future still looks bright for her. UNC coaches said her potential is enormous.

The 1988 Olympics would seem to be a realistic goal for Thomas. By that time, if everything goes according to plan, she should be ready to compete with the best hurdlers in the world.

Thomas said her biggest sports thrill to date was competing in the Vitalis Invitational Track Meet at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J. In that meet she went up against world-class 100-meter hurdlers Benita Fitzgerald, Candy Young and Stephanie Hightower.

"Just standing on the line next to them was thrilling," Thomas said. "I was so nervous when the race started that it affected my performance and I didn't do too well."

"One can hazard a guess that if Thomas faces Fitzgerald, Young and Hightower again in a few years she will not be nervous and she will not be satisfied with just competing against them. She will be satisfied with only one thing — a win.



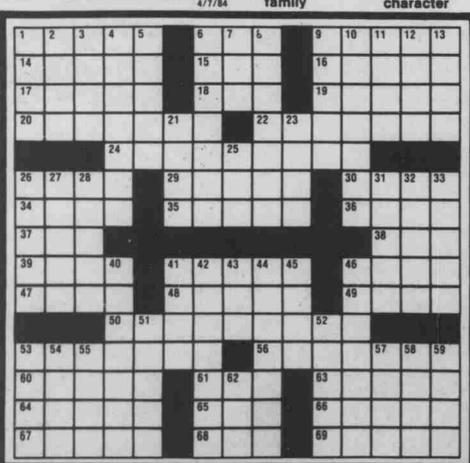
Diane Thomas has changed her mental attitude since coming to UNC ...the freshman hurdler was one of the nation's top prep recruits

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ACROSS | 30 Nelson or | 56 Sweet- | 25 Stickum |
| 1 Fume | 34 Beverages | smelling | 26 Agreeably |
| 6 Grimalkin | 35 Places for | 60 S.A. tim- | flavored |
| 9 Suit | coins | ber tree | 27 Locust |
| material | 36 Terrible | 61 Boatman's | 28 Mosquito |
| 14 Roof edges | 37 Launch site | item | family |
| 15 Mine output | 38 Great | 63 Disposed | 31 Modern |
| 16 Lend — | amount | 64 Secure | dance scene |
| 17 Banyan and | 39 Frozen | 65 Great | 32 Bleak |
| birch | desserts | power: abbr. | 33 Pine |
| 18 Bus. grp. | 41 Ninnies | 66 Rich brown | 40 Lacking |
| 19 Peruvian | 46 Cicatrix | 67 Kills | complete- |
| ruminant | 47 Office | 68 — Aviv | ness |
| 20 Ophidian | furniture | 69 Automotive | 41 Br. hoose- |
| 22 Hair | 48 Hank of | lemon | gow |
| dressings | baseball | DOWN | 42 Patronizes |
| 24 Full of | 49 Lacerated | 1 Matched | a restau- |
| vim | 50 Inside | groups | rant |
| 26 Ship | stuff? | 2 Horse | 43 Before |
| component | 53 Certain | 3 Finished | 44 Sisterly |
| 29 Helpful | colors | 4 Certain zoo | 45 Tennysonian |
| | | employees | lady |
| | | 5 Ger. indus- | 46 Played |
| | | trial city | the lead |
| | | 6 Regulate | 51 Chairs |
| | | 7 Brazilian | 52 Shrubby |
| | | bird | undergrowth |
| | | 8 Storm | 53 Touches |
| | | 9 Fancy game | gently |
| | | dish | 54 Seed |
| | | 10 Intertwined | covering |
| | | 11 Peruse | 55 Legendary |
| | | 12 Athletic | account |
| | | contest | 57 Sorry! |
| | | 13 Notable | 58 Unicorn |
| | | periods | fish |
| | | 21 Bird beaks | 59 Close |
| | | 23 Mel's | tightly |
| | | family | 62 "Peer Gynt" |
| | | | character |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

TABU RANAS ASIA
OLEG ALLIST BING
WISHY WASHY OILGA
NAT FERIE TOLLER
BIARM TREY
DEBAR STARK BOB
ATLAST IDES LIVE
COAL ROGET SLOG
TING FINE STELLA
ASK ACERB BAYON
JUNK ARUM
PEAKS HAREM SPA
ARCA HOKEY POKEY
ROKS ANISC TUNA
ESSE DIENTS OATH



© 1984 Tribune Company Syndicate, Inc.
All Rights Reserved

Support the
March of Dimes
BIRTH DEFECTS FOUNDATION

April Lunch Special
(11 am-3 pm)
Beef, Pork, Chicken
Specials or
Beans-n-Franks
\$2.99

Sunday & Monday
All-You-Can-Eat
BAR-B-Q \$4.99
CHICKEN
INCLUDES FRENCH FRIES,
COLE SLAW, AND GARLIC BREAD.
DINING ROOM ONLY!

Sonny's
Real Pit
Bar B Q
15-501 Bypass
at Elliott Road
933-9248
Dine In - Take Out

Notice!

We have been entrusted by Village Opticians to continue their tradition of quality eye care service at our location in University Square. As a member of the Guild of Prescription Opticians, we feel well qualified to satisfy the optical needs of their former customers. All optical records held by Village Opticians are now on file at University Opticians for the convenience of their former patrons. We congratulate John and Lib Southern for their quality service to the Chapel Hill community and extend a warm welcome to all our new patrons.

Pat & Don
Register



University Opticians
University Square, 942-8711

All Sunglasses
20% OFF

includes Carreras, Cats,
and Ray-Ban

All this and more
for only \$13.79 per day
this fall



- Downtown and adjacent to campus
- 19 great meals per week while classes are in session
- Furnished
- ALL utilities with AC included
- VCRs, weight room, pool and sundeck
- Weekly maid service

Add it up and compare us to anyone!

Don't waste time or money

Come let us show you Granville Towers
Applications still available for fall
University Square 929-7143

Applications for summer housing are
now available