

Kevin McGorty ruled the pole vault en route to a 1,000-pt. decathlon win

# McGorty wins decathlon, qualifies for NCAA meet

By BOB YOUNG  
Assistant Sports Editor

For a very brief moment, there was a bit of doubt as to whether Kevin McGorty would win the 1986 ACC decathlon. In the seventh event of the two-day competition, the discus, McGorty fouled on his first two throws and needed one legal throw just to get any points for the event.

Then, on his last attempt, he heaved the discus a far-below-average distance of 114.9. The throw earned him 563 points and kept him comfortably in the lead.

But to give an idea of just how thoroughly UNC's McGorty dominated the competition, he could have scratched the discus and axed another 501 points off his final score and still have claimed the conference title. He scored the most points in Thursday's four non-discus events on his way to a total of 7520 points, setting a new Fetzer Field record and qualifying him for the NCAA Championships.

"I was very pleased with my score considering the conditions," McGorty said. "And after the discus I was just pleased to qualify for nationals."

McGorty got off to a quick start by flying over the 110-meter hurdles in a time of 14.78 seconds. And after the near-disaster in the discus, the UNC redshirt sophomore used the pole vault to leave the rest of the competitors eating his dust.

Six of the eight decathletes struggled through the lower heights of the event while the best vaulters in the field, McGorty and Maryland's John Perry, didn't begin jumping until the height had reached over 12½ feet. At the first height the pair attempted, about 12-9, McGorty soared over with a couple feet to spare. But Perry, who is usually a 15-foot vaulter, failed to clear the bar

in his three attempts.

With Perry out of the event, McGorty, as was typical over the two days of the event, was competing against himself. After a couple of near-misses at 15-5, he finished with a measure of 15-1¼, nearly three feet ahead of the next-best performer.

He swept up by winning the javelin by over 15 feet (with a throw of 178-10½) and the 1,500-meters by five seconds (in 4:24.57).

"I really had to do a lot mentally today," McGorty said. "I really had to do a lot to push myself."

McGorty said he would hope for some better weather and better competition at his next decathlon, probably in Florida. He plans to compete just once more before the NCAA Championships, which will be held June 3-7 in Indianapolis. Last year, McGorty finished 11th at nationals with a score of 7514.

In the women's heptathlon, the other event finished Thursday, Virginia's Beth Sheehan made a spectacular charge in the final day to overtake and blow away N.C. State's Natalie Lew. Sheehan finished with 5278 points to Lew's 4992.

Sheehan won each of Thursday's three events — the long jump, javelin and 800-meters — in devastating fashion. But the javelin was the key to her victory, as she buried any of Lew's hopes by out-tossing the Wolfpack star 134-2 to 106.

For North Carolina, Diane Thomas finished in fourth place with 3979 points and Michelle Cashwell finished seventh with 3450 points.

The ACC Track and Field Championships continue through Saturday at Fetzer Field. Today's action gets underway at 12:30 p.m. with the men's and women's long jumps (see schedule below).

# Sports

## Beck trying to stay hot as ACC Tournament begins

By MIKE BERARDINO  
Staff Writer

Potential.

In the world of collegiate golf, just a select few have the special natural ability that makes opponents take notice, teammates pay respect and coaches drool. But woe to the talented golfer who disappoints the expectation-builders, who doesn't set the world on fire and settles back into the comfort of mediocrity. For him, the word "potential" becomes a relentless curse, ranking right up there with terms like quadruple-bogey and duck hook and three-putt.

Until last weekend, the above description fit North Carolina golfer Kurt Beck to a tee (pardon the pun). But with his first collegiate win five days ago at the Tar Heel Invitational, the 6-0 senior from Pittsburgh, Pa., may have rid himself of the underachiever label once and for all.

"(Last) weekend could have been a real turning point for Kurt," UNC coach Devon Brouse said. "He's always had tremendous talent but has never really fulfilled his potential. Now that he's got a reason to believe in himself, he could be off to the races."

Ever since arriving in Chapel Hill from Upper St. Clair High School, Beck's career has been marked by consistency. A starter since his freshman year, Beck's consistency helped the Tar Heels garner two ACC championships and a fourth-place NCAA finish in 1984. Yet, despite the team's success, something was missing for Beck — personal accomplishments. His convincing win last weekend finally provided the individual medalist honors that had been missing from Beck's portfolio for too long.

Following rounds of 71 and 69 with an eye-opening 65 on Sunday, Beck served notice that he's ready for the 33rd annual ACC tournament that starts today in Greensboro. But the 54-hole event at the par-72 Bryan Park Golf Club holds added significance for the Tar Heels' No. 3 player. Beyond the last-chance-for-the-senior angle, there's also the make-up-for-last-year one as well.

One hundred percent healthy now, Beck reflected on torn ligaments in his

right ankle that forced him to miss the 1985 ACC tourney: "It was tougher mentally than it was physically at first because I really wanted to play," he said. "I hope this year I can get back a little of what I lost last year."

The same can be said for Brouse's 11th-ranked Tar Heels. After a disappointing third-place ACC finish a year ago, UNC must play extremely well to overcome the considerable talents of fourth-ranked Wake Forest and the sixth-ranked defending champion, Georgia Tech. Along with teammates John Hughes, Bryan Sullivan, Greg Parker and Brendan Kennedy, Beck is hoping to recreate the devastation of the Tar Heel Invitational win.

When his father Charles "pushed the club" into his hands when Beck was eight, the youngster was one reluctant golfer. "He wanted me to get out there and hit that little ball," Beck said. "And I said I wanted to play football, baseball ... everything else."

Eventually, though, the old adage that father knows best proved true. "When I first reached competition at 12 and played in my first tournament, I was excited," Beck recalled. "I said 'this is where I'd like to be' and ever since (golf) has been my love."

At the age of 15, Beck started playing in national junior tournaments and soon was attracting recruiters from near and far. Among the interested colleges was Wake Forest, alma mater of a legion of professional golfers including the legendary Arnold Palmer. Beck was impressed.

"My hero is Palmer. Growing up in Western Pennsylvania, my grandfather always talked about him," Beck said. "I dreamed of doing what he did: playing in The Masters and winning The Masters someday."

After Beck visited Palmer's home during recruiting, one would have expected him to belong to Wake Forest — lock, stock and barrel. Not so. At his father's urging, Beck turned down his hero and decided to play for the Deacons' rival, North Carolina.

"It was really hard," Beck said. "But I'm definitely happy with my decision." So are your teammates, Kurt. So are your teammates.

## ACC Track & Field Schedule

Today		Saturday, April 19	
12:30	Women's Long Jump (Trials and Finals)	1:30	Men's Triple Jump (T & F)
12:30	Men's Long Jump (T & F)		Men's Pole Vault Final
1:00	Women's 5000 Meter Final		Men's Javelin (T & F)
1:15	Women's Discus (T & F)	2:00	Women's Shot Put (T & F)
1:25	Women's 400 Meter Trials		Men's 400 Meter Relay Final
1:40	Women's 100 Meter Trials	2:05	Women's 400 Meter Final
1:50	Women's 1500 Meter Trials	2:10	Men's 1500 Meter Final
2:00	Men's High Jump (T & F)	2:15	Women's High Jump Final
2:15	200 Meter Trials	2:17	Women's 1500 Meter Final
2:30	Men's 3000 Steeplechase Final	2:30	Men's 110m High Hurdles Final
2:45	Men's 110m High Hurdles Trials	2:38	Women's 100m Low Hurdles Final
3:00	Women's 100m Low Hurdles Trials	2:45	Men's 400 Meter Final
3:10	Men's 400 Meter Trials	2:50	Women's 400 Meter Final
	Men's Shot Put Trials	2:55	Men's 100 Meter Final
3:25	Men's 100 Meter Trials	3:00	Men's Discus (T & F)
3:40	Men's 800 Meter Trials		Women's Triple Jump (T & F)
3:55	Men's 200 Meter Trials		Women's 100 Meter Final
4:15	Women's Javelin (T & F)	3:05	Men's 800 Meter Final
	Women's 400m Hurdles Trials	3:10	Women's 800 Meter Final
4:25	Men's 400m Hurdles Trials	3:25	Men's 400m Hurdles Final
4:40	Men's 1500 Meter Trials	3:37	Women's 400m Hurdles Final
5:00	Women's 800 Meter Trials	3:45	Men's 200 Meter Final
5:15	Men's 10,000 Meter Final	3:55	Men's 5000 Meter Final
6:00	Women's 10,000 Meter Final	4:15	Women's 3000 Meter Final
		4:30	Men's 1600m Relay Final

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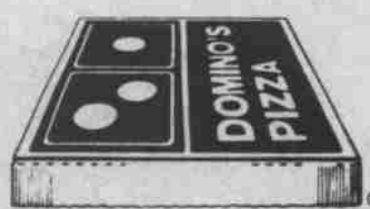
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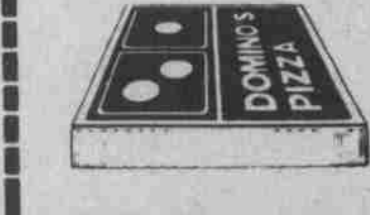
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