

# Sports

## Charlotte wins bid for basketball tournament

By CHRIS SONTCHI  
Staff Writer

The ACC's premier sporting event, the men's basketball tournament, will be held in Charlotte in 1990 and 1991, the first time the city has been awarded the tournament in 20 years.

The new 23,300-seat Charlotte Coliseum, which officially opens Aug. 11, beat out opposing bids by the Omni in Atlanta, the Capital Centre in Landover, Md., and the 1988 host, the Greensboro Coliseum. The 1989 tournament will be held in the Omni.

ACC Commissioner Gene Corrigan said the size of the new arena was a key factor in awarding the tournament to Charlotte.

"The prospect of having 3,500 more tickets than we would have at Landover and at least 5,000 more than we would have at Atlanta or Greensboro was something the athletic directors just couldn't turn away from," Corrigan said.

The additional tickets will be given to the conference schools to award as they wish. No tickets will be made available to the general public.

The ACC considered proposals of awarding the tournament to Charlotte for one, two or four years. The decision to give the tournament for two years was motivated by a desire to "check out" Charlotte for a year before giving new bids and to allow for improvement, said John Swoford, UNC athletic director.

Steve Camp, the Charlotte Coliseum's managing director, said he couldn't be happier.

"We just like the opportunity to show what we can do for them. I'm sure we'll be better in the second year, but I really feel we can do the job right away," he said.

Corrigan said Charlotte will have a strong case for continuing to host the tournament after 1991, if all goes well with the first tournament it hosts.

"After the number of seats we will have in Charlotte, we'll have to ask, 'How can we go back?' But that doesn't mean we won't," he said.

Greensboro is considering enlarging its coliseum to 23,000 seats by 1992, Corrigan said.

The new Charlotte Coliseum will be the home court of the Charlotte

Hornets, one of the NBA's two expansion teams, as well as the UNC-Charlotte '49ers and the 1989 Sun Belt Conference men's basketball tournament. Davidson College will play four home games in the new coliseum, but Johnson C. Smith University, which has played home games in the old coliseum in the past,

will not be playing in the new facility.

Camp said Charlotte will also bid to host a 1990 NCAA regional of the men's basketball tournament. The 1989 East Regional will be held in The Meadowlands Sports Complex in East Rutherford, N.J., for the third straight year.

Charlotte hosted the ACC Tour-

namment on three other occasions, 1968 to 1970, in the old, 11,222-seat coliseum.

This December UNC will participate in the first annual Tournament of Champions in Charlotte's coliseum. The four-team tournament includes Temple, Arizona and Missouri.

## All-American Tar Heels honored after strong showing at NAAs

By PATRICK O'NEILL  
Correspondent

Three of the University's top track and field athletes received All-American honors at last weekend's NCAA championships in Eugene, Ore.

Jim Farmer of Raleigh, Sherrie MacKinney of Amity, Pa., and Kevin McGorty of Westfield, N.J. — all

fifth-year seniors — ended their collegiate careers on high notes by achieving the top national honor.

UNC coach Dennis Craddock had nothing but praise for his three All-Americans.

"We've talked so much about our freshmen and sophomores, but I wanted to make sure that people knew that we had some really good seniors, and I'm really proud of them," Craddock said. "These three athletes have meant a lot to Carolina during the years."

The trio was led by McGorty, who finished fourth in the decathlon, with a school record-setting performance of 7,588 points, breaking his own school record of 7,560.

The decathlon is contested over two days and includes 10 events. The 100 meters, long jump, shot-put, high jump and 400 meters are contested on the first day, while the second day's events are the pole vault, 110-meter hurdles, discus and javelin throws and 1,500-meter run.

McGorty's strongest performance was in the high jump, where he tied for first with a leap of 6-11. He received 906 points for the jump.

McGorty, who was also a decathlon All-American in 1986, had hoped to attain a score of 7,800, which would have qualified him for this summer's Olympic trials.

"I had a good first day, and I was expecting to repeat it (on Saturday)," said a disappointed McGorty. "Place-wise, I ended up pretty well, but as far as the score went, I had hoped to do better."

Farmer, a five-time All-American, finished fourth in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 13:58.12. He is the only athlete in the history of UNC track and field to attain All-American status during the cross-country and indoor and outdoor seasons.

Farmer will have to run 13:41.58 to qualify for the Olympic trials in the 5,000 meters.

MacKinney capped a stellar season with a fifth-place finish in the javelin with a throw of 172-9, the second-best throw of her career.

MacKinney's school record-setting throw of 174-8, set earlier this season, bettered the Olympic trials' qualifying standard of 174-6.

Craddock praised McGorty and MacKinney for their comeback performances after injuries forced both of them to sit out the last outdoor season.

The Olympic trials will be held July 15 to 23 at Indianapolis, Ind.

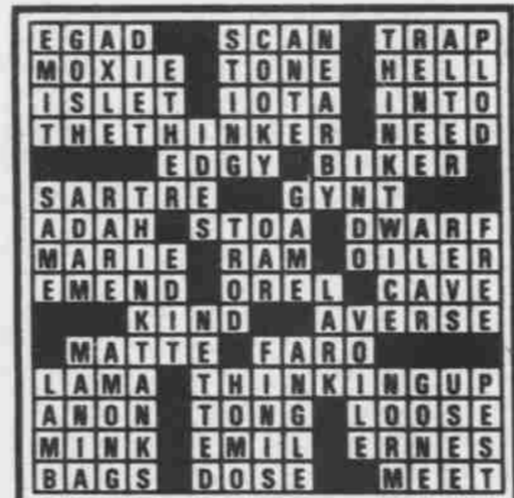
Four other UNC athletes competed in the NAAs but failed to reach the finals in their respective events.

Freshman Kendra Mackey ran 0:53.99 to finish sixth in her heat of the 400 meters.

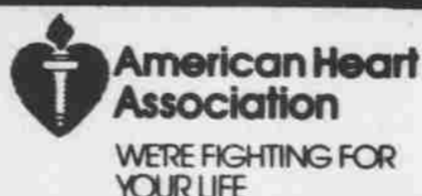
Freshman Sharon Couch leaped 19-3 in the long jump. Sophomore Mia Pollard finished sixth in her heat of the 800-meter run with a time of 2:07.8, and senior Jill Irizarry was fourth in her heat of the 400-meter hurdles in 0:58.65.

Irizarry has already qualified for the Olympic trials in the 400-meter hurdles. Mackey has qualified for the 100-meter dash.

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