

On track for success

Men, women make run for top spots in conference, country



DTH/Schuyler Brown

Junior Scott Morris won the hurdles title at the 1989 Maccabiah Games

By **ROBERT BROWN**
Staff Writer

With the indoor track season winding down, head coach Dennis Craddock can't help but look forward to spring and outdoor track.

After a successful indoor season, the men's and women's teams should both be in good shape as they prepare to line up and race for the ACC outdoor title. If all goes well, the men as well as the women may come out in front when all is said and done in the ACC.

For the women's team, being No. 1 is nothing new. It has become a way of life. Craddock has gradually turned the women's program into one of the finest in the country, leaving little room for improvement. After capturing five straight ACC track titles (three indoor, two outdoor), the Tar Heels are again loaded with talent and in a good position to continue their league dominance.

The men's team is young and on the move — in fact, it may just move to the top of the conference this spring. This year's crop of 15 freshmen led the team to a second-place finish at the ACC indoor championships, UNC's best finish in recent years.

Craddock says the outdoor season should bring a rise in performance as well as temperature. The move outdoors should help the track teams because the spring season is the time when many track athletes reach their peak. The change in events and scenery also helps the team's mental attitude.

"Indoors sometimes you get a little bit bored. All you see is the doors, the walls and the track," Craddock said. "In general, outdoors is mentally uplifting."

On the men's squad, all but 10 of the 36 members are freshmen or sophomores. Though the team may be young, talent is certainly not lack-



Dennis Craddock

ing. Harlis Meaders, a sophomore discus thrower and shot putter, should also make significant contributions in the throwing events.

Freshman William Darity and junior Scott Morris should lead the team in the high jump, and freshman Allen Johnson will be the Tar Heels' primary long jumper. Darity should also contribute in the triple jump.

Sophomore Dennis McGorty, last season's ACC decathlon champion, returns for his second season and will receive help from freshman Paul Foxson. McGorty will also pole vault for the Tar Heels.

Freshman Kevin Brown, the ACC indoor pole vault champion, along with senior Tim Swaim and sophomore Maxwell Thompson will lead the team's pole vaulting efforts. The team has six pole vaulters all together.

"We've got more depth in the pole vault than any event," Craddock said.

Depth may be a strength in the pole vault, but Craddock says it is also the team's biggest weakness overall. "We need more depth in all the events," he said. "From top to bottom we need more depth in the running events. We have one or two people, and we need three or four."

Harris is the team's top sprinter, making contributions in the 400, the 200 and the 100. He set three school records during the indoor season.

Seniors Donald Colson, last season's ACC outdoor champion in the 400, and Clive Harriot, the team's top middle distance runner, also return. Harriot runs the 800 meters and is a member of the mile relay team.

In longer distance races, Craddock will look to freshman Andre Williams and junior Eric Hichman, while Morris and freshman Scott Fletcher will jump the hurdles.

With eight All-Americans on this

ing.

Freshman Reggie Harris, who specializes in sprints and middle distance running, set three school records during the indoor season and won the 400 meters at the ACC championships. At that meet, the team's freshmen accounted for 69 of UNC's 96 points.

"I think this year's freshman group from top to bottom is the best group I've ever recruited," Craddock said. "I'm very impressed with our young people. They work very hard."

In addition to youth, the men's team will also rely on field events this season. "Our strongest suit for the men is definitely the field events," Craddock said.

One reason is Sean Murray.

The junior is an All-American javelin thrower and has been a major force for the Tar Heels. He won the ACC title last season with a school-record toss of 231'3" and placed 11th at the NCAA championships. He also throws the discus.

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