

Eagle Sports

Track and Field

NCCU shines at Walker Meet

By Carey D. Johnson
Echo Sports Editor

On a brisk and beautiful Saturday afternoon, while most NCCU students enjoyed the last few days of spring break, the Eagles' track team was busy hosting the LeRoy T. Walker Olympic Development Meet.

The meet was started in 1991 by NCCU track coach Mike Lawson as a tribute to the "living legend."

Walker, who now serves as President of the U.S. Olympic Committee, spoke at the first opening of the event.

The meet serves to kick off the outdoor season for the track team as well as provide an eventful package for many participants outside of North Carolina.

"There is an expressed interest from out-of-state teams," NCCU coach Mike Lawson said. "Many of them use it as part of their spring break activities."

Lawson, a Durham High School graduate, had watched LeRoy T. Walker, then track coach for NCCU, mold his athletes into Olympians and became an admirer.

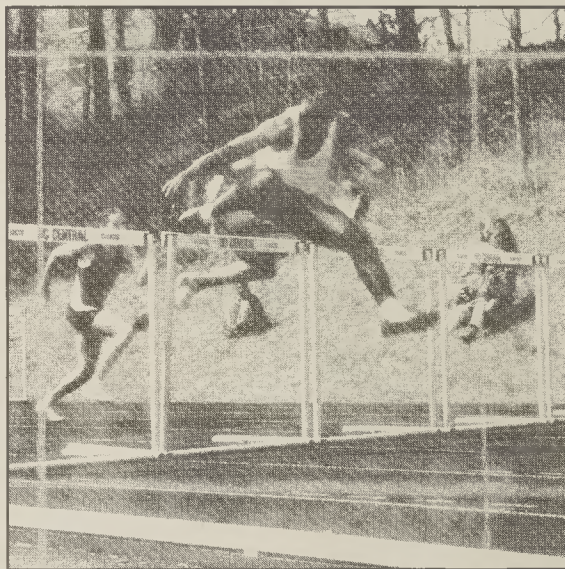
Walker offered Lawson his first experience in coaching by tagging him to take over the NCCU track team in 1989.

Lawson has not disappointed anyone in his six-year stint as the track program has taken off once again.

The NCCU women dominated the field Saturday in the 100, 200, and 300 meter dash competitions, placing first in all three events.

Lynetta Golden, Elisha Marshall and Jacklyn Jackson finished one-two-three in the 100 meter dash.

Golden also finished first in the 200 and Pathereka Miller finished



(above) Out of state participants take part in the competitive atmosphere of the LeRoy T. Walker Meet in March.

(above right) NCCU's Bryan Taylor soars like an Eagle during the long jump competition.

(right) NCCU's Lynetta Golden leads the field in the 100 meter dash. NCCU won first, second and third places in the race.



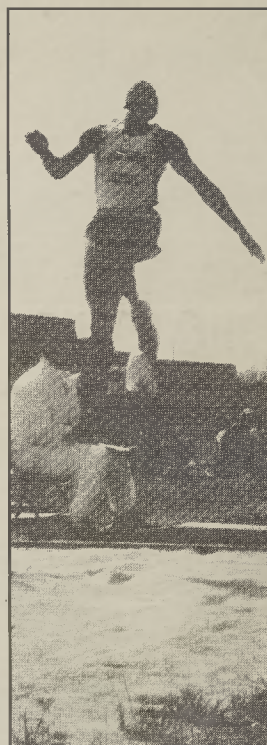
first in the 400 meter dash. NCCU performs well in these events normally but they also had an added interest. "You always want to do well in your own invitational meets,"

Lawson said. They did well indeed.

Rounding out the womens' events was the 4x100 meter dash in which NCCU placed second.

The Eagles placed first in the 4x400. Tamica Burnett finished second in the 400 meter hurdles and freshman Kimberly McPhatter won the high jump.

Nzinga Poteat finished fourth in the 400 meter dash.



The men were not to be outdone on this fine afternoon, either.

Danny Williams finished second in the 800 meter dash and Chris Ross placed third in the 400. Brian Gore placed second in the high jump and Tyrone Fox landed a third place spot in the triple jump.

In the field competitions football transplant James Grant finished third in the shot put and Merryll Phifer finished fifth.

March Mayhem

By Carey D. Johnson
Echo Sports Editor

The NCAA tournament known as March Madness once again covers the triangle area in a din of pandemonium.

Intense arguments over which teams will advance and which ones become first round road kill have become everyday banter among basketball fans.

Office pools and sportsbars have become sanctuaries for basketball fans all over the Carolinas.

Most basketball fans revel in the opportunity to fill out those NCAA tournament brackets at the beginning of March, but filling them out this year has been truly eventful.

Take for instance the flip flopping first round. The Arizona Wildcats led by All-American guard Damon Staudomire was ousted in the first round by upstart Miami of Ohio. Indiana, a tournament mainstay, was leveled in the first round by the Minnesota Golden Gophers.

"The top teams are not really handling the more aggressive underdogs," basketball fan Aaron McRae said, adding some insight into the first round action. "It has led to more excitement."

The second round proved even more eventful. The Big 10 conference which sent a league leading six teams into the tournament, (Michigan, Indiana, Purdue, Illinois, Minnesota and Missouri) had no representatives after the second round, going 1-6 combined with the only win coming from a 2-point squeaker by Perdue.

Throw in the fact that the only team remaining from last years final four is a sporadic Arkansas team, and perennial power Duke is watching this years tournament on television, you can pretty much imagine the scramble to predict this years final four.

The tournament for the first time in years truly lives up to its March Madness billing.

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