

UNC Seeks Repeat of '99 Surprise Victory

Standouts Terrance Wilson, Omar Clinton and Jeff Ellis form one of the nation's best group of hurdlers.

By T. NOLAN HAYES
Sports Editor

The North Carolina men's track and field team is out to prove that last year was no fluke.

The Tar Heels have been an ACC power for the past decade, but they were supposed to be competing for second place behind Clemson at last year's outdoor conference meet.

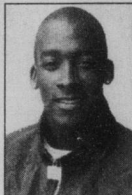
UNC instead ended the Tigers' two-year hold on the crown and took its first outdoor ACC title since 1995.

The situation is the same for 2000. Clemson is the heavy favorite, perhaps even more so than last year. The difference is that this year the Tar Heels know they won't be able to sneak up on anyone.

"Now everybody's probably kind of looking at us to surprise a couple people again, but it won't be a surprise to us because we know what we can do," sophomore sprinter and jumper Marcus O'Neal said. "We feel like we can beat anybody in the conference, and we're going to go out and prove it."

Leading the charge for the Tar Heels is one of the nation's best groups of hurdlers. Terrance Wilson, last year's ACC champ in the 400-meter hurdles, returns for his junior season with the second-fastest time in school history in that event.

Senior Omar Clinton and junior trans-



UNC junior **Terrance Wilson** won the ACC outdoor title last year in the 400-meter hurdles in 50.89 seconds.

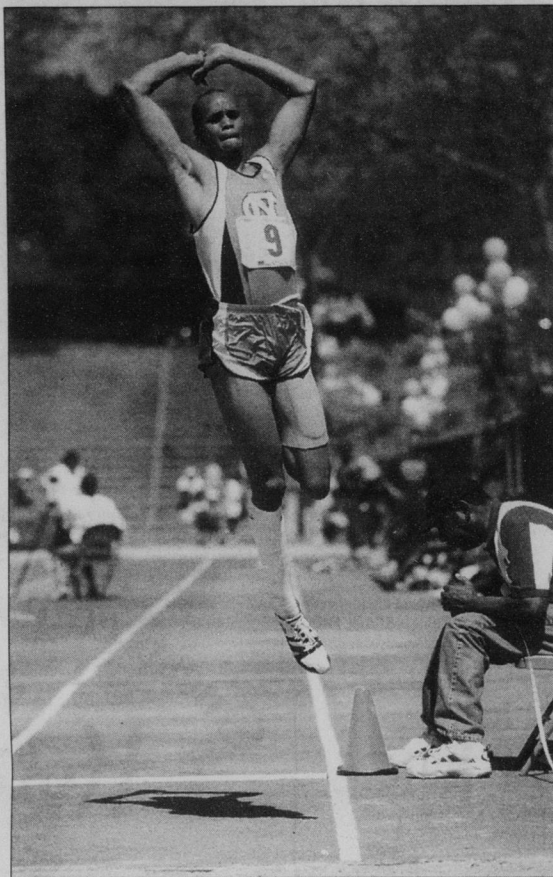


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNC SPORTS INFORMATION

UNC senior Kevin Crittendon has won the outdoor triple jump at the ACC Championships for the past three years.

fer Jeff Ellis, an Orangeville, Ontario, native who competed for Canada in the 1999 World Championships, complete UNC's hurdling trio.

Clinton has run the third-fastest time in UNC history in the 400 hurdles, and Ellis won the event at last year's SEC Championships for Kentucky.

"It's funny," UNC coach Dennis Craddock said. "We had four women last year who were just as good as anybody in the country in the jumps. Now we've got three men this year, and all three of them are in the same events."

"All three of them could potentially score at nationals."

The Tar Heels aren't nearly as deep in the sprints, having lost three-fourths of their NCAA fourth-place 4-X-100-meter relay team from last year.

But O'Neal, the lone relay member returning, is young and improving. He finished third in the ACC in the indoor 60-meter dash last year and placed eighth in the outdoor 100.

Where O'Neal does most of his damage – at least at this point in his career – is the long jump. He finished second in the conference indoors and outdoors in that event last year.

UNC is also strong in the triple jump. Senior captain Kevin Crittendon won ACC outdoor titles in the event each of his first three years and worked on strength training this summer to prepare

for title run No. 4.

"That's one of my goals for the season – I want to go out and win it four straight years," Crittendon said. "It's an excellent opportunity that I have to take advantage of."

The Tar Heels should be strong in other field events as well. Sophomores Ian Douglas, Sal Gigante, junior transfer John Ridgway and football players Alge Crumpler and James Wagstaff give

UNC a deep group for throws.

Kestutis Celiesius, a junior transfer from Vilnius, Lithuania, provides the Tar Heels with an All-American candidate in the javelin.

Add ACC pole vault champ Brent

Callaway to the mix along with solid high jumpers Jonathan Dean and Jim Thomas, and UNC should be in the top two or three in the ACC again this season.

Who knows? The Tar Heels might even be able to knock off Clemson one more time.

"They're tough," O'Neal said, "but we should be able to beat them just like we did last year."

"We feel like we can beat anybody in the conference, and we're going to go out and prove it."

MARCUS O'NEAL
Sophomore Sprinter and Jumper

Men's and Women's Track and Field



North Carolina track and field coach **Dennis Craddock**

March 17-18
March 25

UNC Charlotte Invitational
N.C. State, William & Mary,
Akron

March 31-April 1
April 1

at N.C. State Relays
USC, Nebraska, LSU in Los Angeles, Calif.

April 7-8

at Texas Relays, at Duke Relays

April 15

UConn, St. Augustines, Georgetown

April 21-22

ACC Championships in Durham

April 27-29

at Penn Relays

May 13

Carolina Classic

May 20

at Georgia Tech Reebok Invitational

May 31-June 3

NCAA Championships in Durham

June 16 & 19

Olympic Trials Qualifying in Chapel Hill

July 14-23

U.S. Olympic Trials in Sacramento, Calif.

INSIDE SCOOP

NOT YOUR
ORDINARY
ICE CREAM
SHOP!

Crazy Hats!

Coffee Bar

OPEN
LATE...

7 Days a week.

764 Airport Road
Next to Flying Burrito
Chapel Hill, 933-6366

Photo Booth

Take wild and crazy pictures

The Princeton Review

The all time assist leader in test prep



**Slam
the LSAT**

CALL 1-800-2REVIEW

THE Hideaway
restaurant & bar

Our great menu includes... steaks, salads, burgers, fajitas, meatloaf, quesadillas, nachos, wings, country fried steak, sandwiches, desserts...

\$2.00
Margarita Mondays
\$10.00 Pitchers
ON THE ROCKS

Thursdays
LIVE BANDS

Fridays & Saturdays
SALSA DANCING 10:30PM
NO COVER FOR LADIES UNTIL 11:30PM

FREE LUNCH OR DINNER!

Buy any lunch or dinner and two beverages at the regular price and receive the second meal of equal or lesser value **FREE of charge!**

Valid anytime. EXPIRES 2/26/00

THE Hideaway
RESTAURANT & BAR

137 E. Franklin St. (Bank of America Building) Chapel Hill - 933-6133 (Former Havana Location)