

Dobson aims to recover in time for ACC meet

BY KATHRYN GRIM
SENIOR WRITER

North Carolina runner Porscha Dobson would rather be clearing hurdles at the ACC Outdoor Championship than watching from the sidelines.

Despite a persistent hamstring injury, the freshman hurdler is determined to participate at the conference meet in two weeks as one of the 28 Tar Heel women who will be chosen to compete.

This is the last time UNC will host the ACC outdoor track championship for at least a decade as well as the last ACC championship before Miami and Virginia Tech join the conference.

UNC track and field coach Dennis Craddock will finalize decisions about who to bring to the meet after he gauges team members' performances Friday at the Carolina Fast Times meet, also held at UNC.

Whomever he chooses to chase the title, Craddock said the team is in a position to perform well.

"I think we're right where we should be," he said.

Dobson said she believes she is at the right stage of her recovery to run Friday.

The meet is her last chance to prove her mettle in competition

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PORSCHA DOBSON, UNC RUNNER

before the championship.

Dobson has had problems with her left hamstring all season. But she was forced out of competition in the past three meets after her injury prevented her from finishing the 100-meter hurdles race at the Tar Heels Opener March 20.

"After I did it I could walk, but barely," Dobson said. "That weekend, I couldn't do anything."

Since then, Dobson has worked her way from jogging to sprinting at almost full speed. Dobson works out every morning, visits the trainers before practice and runs with the team in the afternoon.

Dobson said she hopes to increase her visibility as a competitor at the Fast Times meet.

"My competition has been running," she said. "They've posted some good times. People know I'm out there, but I'm praying that everything goes well."

Her progression has been on target to allow her to perform well in the championship.

"We want to win, so I want to be a contributing factor to that," Dobson said.

Dobson's contribution to the UNC women's track and field team was evident in its 15th first-place finish at the ACC indoor competition in February at Clemson. She took the bronze in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8 minutes, 47 seconds.

Dobson said she looks forward to participating in a championship meet with the benefit of home-field advantage.

But she said that after witnessing UNC's victory on Clemson's turf at the indoor championship, other teams are hungry to defeat UNC at the Irwin Belk Track.

"We won in Clemson's home," Dobson said. "Now that it's at our house, they're going to try to do the same thing. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Tar Heels successful at Duke, Texas meets

BY ALICIA JONES
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — Wallace Wade Stadium was swarming with team colors as about 50 teams competed at the Duke Invitational.

North Carolina's baby blue was slightly less prominent since part of the UNC track and field team traveled to Austin for competition in the Texas Relays.

The team fared well at both meets, with five individuals receiving their first bids to the NCAA Regionals this season and several other qualifiers repeating.

Junior Laura Gerraughty placed second in the discus in Texas with a personal record of 174 feet, 4 inches and third in the hammer throw.

The distance was enough to qualify her for regionals although Gerraughty had already received a bid at a previous meet.

Sophomore Marija Kurtovic also competed in the discus. Like Gerraughty, she had qualified previously, and she placed fourth with another qualifying throw of 170 feet Friday.

UNC coach Dennis Craddock chose to send certain athletes to Texas based on the level of competition for the throwers.

"There was going to be real good national competition in Texas," Craddock said. "We wanted to get the throwers in the same circles

they would be in for the national championship."

Back in Durham, Karen Wyzkowski won the discus event with a qualifying mark of 15-3. She also had a throw of 137 feet in the javelin, which earned her fifth place.

Olympic hopeful Shalane Flanagan, who is not competing as a Tar Heel this season, took a break from her rigorous national competitions and used the Duke Invitational as part of her training for the Olympic Trials.

She competed unattached in the 3,000-meter run, finishing with a time of 8 minutes, 55:05 seconds, a personal record.

"I thought that Shalane, even though she's running as a red-shirt, had a great time," Craddock said.

Tiffany Flomo qualified in the 400 hurdles with a time of 58.20, joining the many Tar Heels who set personal records at the meet. Flomo's time was the best in the ACC this year.

Juniors Erin Donohue and Carol Henry both qualified for regionals in the 1,500-meter run with times of 4:23.46 and 4:27.52, respectively.

Larger meets often yield faster times and farther distances because of the variety of competition, and for that reason Craddock sees competing at them as an

advantage.

"We don't get to see the Rutgers and the Seton Halls," Craddock said. "We only see the ACC people like Virginia and Duke and so forth."

"That's another reason we go out to Texas with our throwers. We get to see all those great throwers and compete against them."

The challenge will help the Tar Heels as they prepare for the ACC Championships, which will take place after only one more regular-season meet.

"I think we're always a favorite to win it for girls because we've always done so well as far as the other schools are concerned," Craddock said.

Depth will continue to be a deciding factor in the men's success, but Craddock said he feels more confident about his team's chances of placing higher than the fourth place they earned at the ACC Indoor Championships.

"I'm hoping we can get third in the ACC for men," he said. "We're red-shirting a few of our key athletes like Nick Owens to give them an extra year of eligibility, but we have others stepping up and coming together."

"I always expect us to finish in the top half, no matter what."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

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Johns Hopkins edges UNC

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BALTIMORE — Peter LeSueur scored with 56 seconds remaining to lift No. 2 Johns Hopkins to a 10-9 victory against the No. 5 North Carolina men's lacrosse on Saturday.

The Blue Jays (6-1) have won 10 in a row with North Carolina (5-3).

The Tar Heels outshot the Blue Jays 45-37 and won the faceoff battle 13-10 but could never get a comfortable lead in the game.

Jed Prossner led UNC with three goals and an assist while

Mike McCall scored twice for UNC, and Lance Zimmerman had a goal and two assists at Homewood Field.

Hopkins jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead, but a goals by Prossner and McCall with 10 seconds left in the first quarter tied the game.

UNC and Hopkins traded goals in the second quarter, but a tally by Zimmerman 2:17 before halftime put the Tar Heels up 5-4.

When McCall scored his second goal into the third, the Tar Heels had their first two-goal lead of the

contest. It was short-lived as the Blue Jays scored back-to-back goals.

UNC retook a two-goal cushion on goals by Prossner and Stephen McElduff. But again JHU quickly tied before the end of the third.

Hopkins took a 9-8 lead on a goal by Conor Ford with 9:53 to play, but UNC got an equalizer on an individual play by Prossner.

UNC had several shots to take the lead but could not find the back of the goal. Eventually the Blue Jays won possession and set up with the winning play for LeSueur.

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To be considered for this pictorial and to qualify for an interview, candidates must be at least 18 years of age and registered as a full- or part-time student at an ACC university. Clear copies of identification—one verifying enrollment in school and one a photo ID that shows date of birth—must be brought to the interview. All photos become property of **PLAYBOY** and cannot be returned.

Interview sessions are being held **MONDAY, APRIL 5 & TUESDAY, APRIL 6.**

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