

UNC to send 10 athletes to NCAA championship

BY DANIEL BLANK
SPORTS EDITOR

As North Carolina triple jumper Daniel Harris progressed through the second day of the NCAA Regionals on Saturday, he was out of position to qualify for the NCAA Championships and his allergies were acting up.

But Harris fought through the sinus attack to stick a jump of 51 feet, 11 3/4 inches — good enough for third place and a spot in the NCAA Championships on June 9 through June 12 in Austin, Texas.

Although Harris was the only Tar Heel to qualify for the championships on the men's side, nine UNC women will make the trip to Austin.

The women's team finished sixth overall at regionals, led by junior Laura Gerraughty, who won in shot put.

Gerraughty broke her own regional record with a heave of 60-10. Gerraughty was the national champion in 2003.

Senior Alice Schmidt will also be looking to hold her title in the 800-meter. Schmidt, the two-time defending champion in the event,

finished third at the regionals with a time of 2 minutes, 05.51 seconds, which were held in Gainesville, Fla.

Other UNC qualifiers are Erin Donohue in the 1,500, Anissa Gainey in the 400, Tiffany Flomo in the 400-m hurdles, Carol Henry in the 3,000-m steeplechase, Marija Kurtovic in the discus, Amy Paroulis in the hammer and Jessica Perry in the 10,000.

Henry finished second with a time of 10:12.91 and Kurtovic came in third with a throw of 173-2.

Paroulis and Perry weren't automatic qualifiers but made the cut for the championships on Tuesday because of the marks they recorded at regionals.

Nick Owens placed seventh in the hammer throw to be the only Tar Heel to score for the men besides Harris.

It is Harris who might have come the furthest to make it to the championships.

Harris was forced to redshirt for the 2003 outdoor season after undergoing surgery to repair a herniated muscle in his lower leg.

But Harris moved through the rehabilitation process quickly,

qualifying for the NCAA Championships in the fall, where he placed 13th.

"The type of person I am, I don't like to sit around, I probably threw away the crutches sooner than I should have," Harris said. "I probably recovered faster than most people."

Unlike the UNC women who will have the dual motivation of competing for team scores as well as individual honors, Harris will only be competing for himself.

"It'll be purely individual for Daniel," said UNC coach Dennis Craddock. "Great athletes want to compete against great athletes."

Craddock said he is aiming for a top 10 finish on the women's side to prove that the program is among the nation's elite.

"We had the largest region, and to be the sixth best team is very good. It shows people we're a very good program regardless of conference," Craddock said. "Now we're at the next level and we want to prove we belong."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Bray's birdie saves Tar Heels

UNC tees off at NCAA Championship

BY DANIEL BLANK
SPORTS EDITOR

By the time the North Carolina men's golf team had finished their final round at the NCAA Regionals on May 22, they had gone from being sure they would qualify for the NCAA Championship to being sure the season was over.

The Tar Heels entered the day in third place, just two shots off the lead, but shot an abysmal 25-over-par 305 to slip in the standings.

"When we left the golf course, in everybody's mind, we thought the season was over," said senior Dustin Bray. "We were all really down and mad at ourselves and each other."

While at the team hotel, the Tar Heels learned they would face N.C. State in a playoff to decide which team would qualify for the NCAA Championships, which started Tuesday in Blacksburg, Va.

The extra hole played out just like the Tar Heels would have hoped with Bray staring down a 12-foot putt for a birdie and a likely victory.

"I pretty much told myself that if I made the putt that we would win, and if I missed it we would lose," Bray said.

"When you're in a playoff, if you don't jump up and grab an opportunity, the other guy will."

Early on, it seemed like UNC would cruise to a top 10 finish and a spot in the championship.

The Tar Heels shot a 283 on the second day to move from eighth place to third.

But on the third day, the team unraveled. UNC struggled early and was never able to regain its form from the previous two days.

"It was like basketball, after about four or five holes, I was looking for a timeout," said UNC coach John Inman. "We didn't get off to a good start and, I don't know what happened, it just continued."

But once the players found out they had a second chance to continue their season, Inman said their confidence was restored.

"It's nerve-wracking because you know only one team is going to

come out," Inman said. "I think they were all confident."

Inman said it also helped that they had someone like Bray to fall back on in the playoff.

"Dustin Bray, everyone knows the career he's had," Inman said. "That's a great asset to have. And then for him to go out there and make the putt, it was just like it was scripted."

The putt, which he sank, advanced UNC into the 30-team field competing at the NCAA Championship.

Despite the close call at regionals, the team still enters the championship with the goal of winning the national championship.

To accomplish that, UNC will need to show the form it had the first two days of regionals and not repeat its play from the last day.

"We have the ability, now it's just a matter of getting the job done," Inman said.

"Now we've got that chance. We're even with every team in the tournament."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

Prange, Francella honored

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Two North Carolina women's golfers, Meaghan Francella and Ashley Prange, have been named to the 2004 National Golf Coaches Association (NGCA) Division I All-America team.

Prange was an honorable mention selection last year while this is Francella's first appearance on the squad. Both players earlier received All-ACC accolades.

Joining Francella and Prange, both seniors, on the first team are Duke's Elizabeth Janangelo, Brittany Lang and Virada Nirapathpongorn; UCLA's Susie Mathews and Charlotte Mayorkas; Arizona's Erica Blasberg; Ohio State's Allison Hanna; California Berkeley's Sarah Huarte; Washington State's Kim Welch and Vanderbilt's May Wood.

Francella captured the NCAA East Regional Championship after firing a seven-under-par 209. She was the runner-up at the ACC

Championship finishing just two strokes behind the champion.

Prange won two tournaments this spring — the LSU/Cleveland Golf Classic and the Lady Gamecock Classic. She was also the runner-up at the NCAA East Regional, finishing five strokes behind Francella. In addition to her two wins and runner-up finish at the East Regional this spring, Prange finished in third at the ACC Championship.

Lax stars earn accolades

Junior attackman Jed Prossner and senior defenseman Ronnie Staines were named Monday as first-team All-Americans by the United States Interscholastic Lacrosse Association, the first Tar Heels named to the first team All-

America since 1996.

Junior Bryant Will was named a second-team All-American and three more Tar Heels were named honorable mention choices.

The honorable mention selections were senior midfielder Kevin Frew, sophomore defenseman Stephen McElduff and junior goalkeeper Paul Spellman.

Prossner led the Tar Heels in scoring for the third straight year and he ranked in the top 10 in the nation in both goals and points per game. He had 41 goals and 15 assists for 56 points. The 41 goals were the fifth-most in a season in Tar Heel history.

Staines, one of the standout defensemen in Tar Heel history, captained the North Carolina team and led a defense that allowed only 8.78 goals per game in 2004.

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Senior Nick Monroe has had an accomplished tennis career at North Carolina.

But entering the individual NCAA Championship, Monroe still had one goal he had yet to accomplish — making the all-American team.

Monroe did just that last week, advancing to the quarterfinals, earning all-American status in the process.

Monroe, the 29th-ranked player in the country, earned his 100th career victory in the round of 16 in which he defeated Stanford's K.C. Corkery 6-4, 6-3 on Friday.

The 100 wins is good for second place all-time at North Carolina behind David Caldwell's 116.

"We've had a number of great student-athletes at North Carolina, and he's certainly one of them," said UNC coach Sam Paul. "He's done everything we've ever asked of him."

Paul said Monroe steadily

improved throughout his four years at UNC.

"He just kept to continue to get better in every aspect of the game," Paul said. "He's learned how to work even harder. He just kept taking everything we gave him and ate it up like a sponge."

Monroe's run ended when he lost in straight sets to Franticek Bajet of South Alabama, 6-2, 6-4.

Although becoming an all-American had been a goal of Monroe's, he said he was a little surprised by how deep into the tournament he went.

"When you go into the tournament, you just want to play your best tennis," Monroe said. "I probably didn't expect to get to the quarterfinals."

Now that his college career is complete, Monroe will now turn toward his aspirations to become a

professional tennis player.

On May 26, Monroe was awarded the John Van Nostrand Memorial Award by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

The award is given to a senior who will pursue a career in professional tennis.

Monroe said practicing with assistant coach Don Johnson, a Wimbledon champion, will help him break the professional ranks.

Paul thinks Monroe's superior drive to reach his potential will help Monroe achieve his future goals.

"He has the work ethic and the desire," Paul said. "He's had the best work ethic of any player I've ever worked with. He's going to have a very good shot because he wants it so badly."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

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For more info, call the Department of Public Safety at (919) 962-3951.

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