

# Track Team Has Good Year

by Tom Peacock

"We had a pretty good year when you consider everything," Carolina track coach Dake Ranson said about his team.

"I'm very proud of my boys for the showing they have made this year," Ranson continued. "We have a lot of young boys on the team, and we should have a fairly good season next year going by the performances turned in this year by returning men."

The Tar Heel track team proved itself at least a strong third in the conference, and with a host of outstanding boys coming back, Ranson can expect a good season next year. Carolina did as predicted in the Southern Conference Indoor Games, taking third place behind powerful Maryland and Duke to kick off the 52 season.

## Loss To Princeton

The Tar Heels lost to the finest team in the Ivy League, Princeton, to start their dual meet schedule, but Coach Ranson wasn't dismayed because the Tigers had beaten Duke by the same score, 81-50. Carolina track men had already put in a few outstanding individual perform-

ances two weeks prior to the Princeton meet, in the Carolina Relays.

In the relays, Bill Walker started "one of the finest and most amazing track careers in the history of Carolina," according to Ranson. Walker, a senior, threw and won the javelin for the first time in competition in the relays, and he won six more times in a row before losing. Walker had the enviable record of seven wins and two seconds at the end of the season.

"We had a lot of boys that didn't get much credit," said Ranson, "but a good deal of our team was built on them." Ranson cited such work horses as Bobby Bell, Sam Jordan, Bill Cornell, and others.

## Outlook Dims

Maryland University beat Carolina in a dual meet for the first time in history in the track team's second dual meet, and the outlook for 1952 dimmed a good deal. One bright spot in the meet was Carolina's Bobby Barden, who won the two-mile run. Barden was only a freshman, and has proven to be one of the best distance men in the Conference.

George Morris indicated things to come by giving Maryland's great shot-putter, Jim Unterkofler, a fit before barely losing. Later, in the Southern Conference Championships, Morris set a new Carolina record and beat Unterkofler, but he still didn't win, West Virginia's Larry Hunt throwing close to 50 feet.

The Tar Heels broke into the win column in its third meet, swamping State, and showing great power in the hurdles and dashes. Frank Scott, slowly recovering from a collapsed lung, was a standout, as was Sonny Beall, Harry Brown, and Bill Cornell. Beall had already fooled the experts by beating the Terps' great hurdler, Marty Cohen.

## Even Record

Carolina evened up the record against VPI a few days later, and the Tar Heels were exceptionally strong in the field events, with Barry Rizzo and Bell putting in fine performances.

Carolina opened the month of May by bowing to the arch-enemy Duke, always a tough one to lose. The Tar Heels first noticed Joel Shankle, a Duke freshman who nearly beat Carolina

singlehandedly, taking four first places in the high jump hurdles, and broad jump. Gene Brigham, a fine quarter miler, ran the half for the first time against Duke, and almost won in spite of a pulled muscle in his leg. Brigham practiced the half after that, and in the Conference Championships he won with the fourth best time in the 28 year history of the meet.

## Swamp Virginia

The track team pulled its average back up to .500 a few days later by swamping a weak University of Virginia squad. Romas White continued to be a pleasant surprise, and he did a fine job of pole vaulting against the Cavaliers.

In the final dual meet of the season, the Tar Heels were to face Pennsylvania, famous in the east for its powerful track teams. Carolina was on a strange track, and had a nine point handicap, because Penn insisted that the hammer throw be one of events. There was no Carolina entry to stop Penn from taking a clean sweep. The Tar Heels came through in fine style, though, to beat Penn and bring in a creditable, 4-3 dual meet record.

In the Conference Championships Carolina took third, but it wasn't a case of not improving. The Terps had too great a team for the Tar Heels to beat, and Duke's Shankle kept them in second place.

# Wheel Of Athletic Fortune Spins Right Numbers For UNC—Finally

by Jake Wade

That wheel of fortune we've been hearing so much about recently, with its eternal spinning, spinning, spinning, finally got around to turning out the right numbers for the Tar Heels last week. Consequently, great was the rejoicing in the sabbatical calm on the Raleigh highway sector of the campus, sometimes known as Sports avenue.

As you may have heard by this time, although tennis and golf do not capture too many headlines, Carolina teams in those sports made a clean sweep in the week end conference championship meets. Ironically, the Tar Heel stay-at-homes were unable to see the shows. Golf was at Winston-Salem, tennis at Davidson.

There was, indeed, a show here, too. That was the conference track meet, a very splendid and well conducted spectacle. The only trouble was, the Tar Heels had to be satisfied with third place in that one. Our side had to sit or stand in agony as both Maryland's champs and Duke's runners-up came out ahead of us. Not in 20 years had a Tar Heel track team failed to finish at least second. And there was Coach Bob Fetzer, the great winner of the past, on his last stand as Carolina track mentor, unable to do anything about it, a circumstance that made the occasion even more sombre.

## Brigham Sparkles

For Tar Heel supporters the most cheering spectacle at the track meet was Gene Brigham's scientific, picture-pretty win in the half mile. His time was a very good 1:54.7, the meet's best in 12 years, as he narrowly nosed champion Al Buehler of Maryland.

Gene wasn't meant to run in the 880. He has been troubled by a leg injury and at the last minute his coaches decided to scratch him from the 440, his favorite, because the 880 called for a little less exertion on his ailing leg. If the leg bothered him, it never was evident, with Gene

breathing on Buehler's neck and then shouldering him on the stretch until he crossed the finish line ahead by a whisker.

The 440 was Stu Johnson's race in a very large way, with that blonde speedster making the most of it with a 47.9 victory, as fast as it has been run in the nation this year, according to the latest NCAA stax. Johnson was running under V.P.I.'s spooky, Halloween colors. His team, incidentally, took more first places than any in the meet although it finished only fourth in the scoring.

West Virginia's Larry Hunt, dethroning the veteran Jack Unterkofler of Maryland in the shot put and also winning the discus, and more especially a strapping lad named Joel Shankle of Duke, who scored 16 points for high individual honors, were big shows. Shankle appears to be the closest thing to Bill Albans, who used to make these conference meets one-man spectacles, to appear on the local scene. Closest in talent, understand, and not temperament. Joel is a preacher's son and not given to those quaint Albanisms which always enlivened but too often embarrassed.

## Other Injuries

Brigham was not the only Tar Heel cripple to come through handsomely in the spring sports windups. Del Sylvia, in breezing through a passel of tennis matches at Davidson Friday, pulled up lame with an aggravation of an old wound he sustained months ago in a wrestling match.

It's one of those things that comes and goes and Coach John Kenfield was afraid it meant a finish to him in his bid for the Southern Conference singles crown.

As it turned out, Del woke up in good shape, the next day and disposed of Tommy Boys of William and Mary with a brilliant performance. This week the only tennis hand hereabouts hobbling on a cane has been Coach Kenfield, himself. He came back from Davidson with an attack of the gout or reasonable facsimile, right when he was celebrating Carolina's singles and doubles tennis win and rigging up the Vic Seixas dinner.

Then there were the Carolina golf victories, Tommy Langley's individual conquest and the team win, fashioned on Jim Ferree's papa's swank playground at Winston-Salem. All very, very nice, even if we didn't get invited to the baseball playoffs, which Duke handled so sensationally. We had to be satisfied with having our Walter Rabb reflected prey of the coaches as our part in the diamond jamboree.

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