

Dave Hamilton fills leadership role

by Bill Moss
Staff Writer

UNC cross country captain Dave Hamilton has come back many times in his career. When he ran high school cross country he felt, one time, that he had let his team down in a big meet. When the spring track season arrived, he got down, worked hard and won the state title in the mile, saying he had something to prove.

Seems Hamilton is always doing things like that. Last year after hobbling through practically the entire cross country season with injuries, the iron-willed runner stepped up to the line at the ACC championships. Out of shape as he was, he ran the six miles, burned himself out but finished the race. Then he collapsed after pushing himself to the limit.

With his wide, bronze chest, 6-1 frame and blond wavy hair, Hamilton looks something like a West Coast surfer. That impression does not last long, though. The senior from New Castle, Pennsylvania is always humble and when he talks about such things as individual goals he only speaks in terms of the team. Being captain of the team implies responsibilities that Hamilton knows he must pick up.

"I'm not worried about being number one or always running first in practice this year," he said as he relaxed after a day's workout. "My concern is that I do my best and that I keep everyone else doing their best. I want to win that conference this year. We've had chances every year I've been here but different things have gone wrong. If everybody puts it together we have a team that can do it this year."

For Hamilton, the times when he was down on himself for not being number one or losing in a meet are past. A talk

with UNC track coach Joe Hilton this summer helped him realize his present role, and get his head right for it. "When you're captain, your job isn't to run first all the time. You do your best on any given day and you either win or lose," Hamilton said.

"I can't get down if the guys on the team are beating me when I'm doing my best because they'll have to be running really good. I like running too much to have added pressures like that, that's taking away the fun."

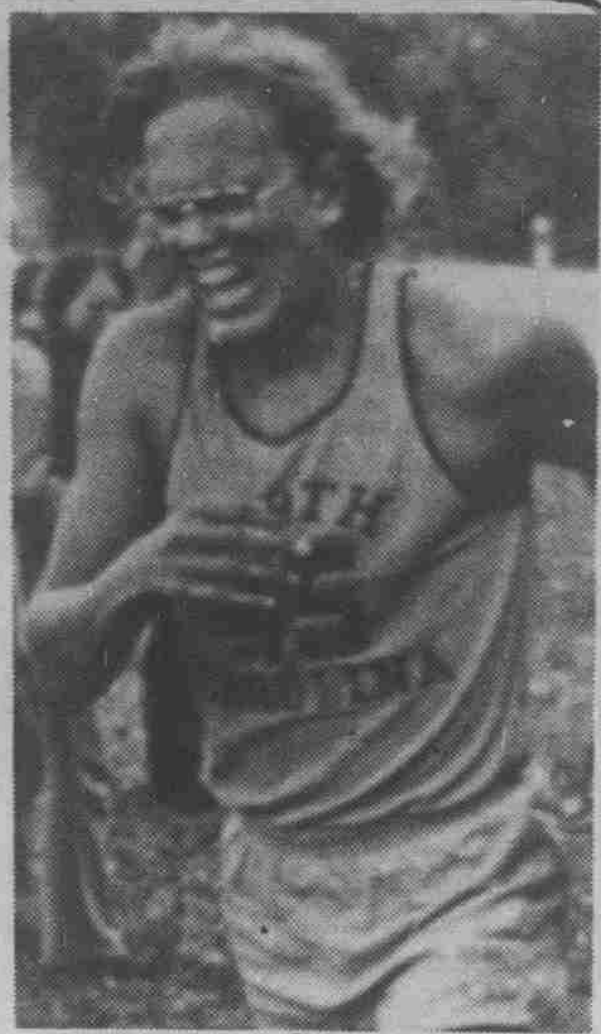
When coach Bill Lamm talks about his team's captain he calls him "an excellent leader. All the guys respect him and I think that's why they elected him captain. They know he's always gonna give everything he's got."

Hamilton scoffs at the idea of giving anything less than 110 per cent and freely admits that he would rather pass out from exhaustion than let up in a race. In fact that is exactly what he did on that warm autumn day last year. "When I step up to that line I'm in there to do my absolute best. If I were to let up in a race I would feel terrible when I finished; it would be a total loss."

"It's not hard to come back from losing when you know you've done your best, but to do badly and have given up to . . ." and he trails off, considering the unthinkable personal torture that this means. "When you know that there's six other guys runnin' that race too and you know they are not giving up, damn if you're gonna give up anyway."

"That's the difference between cross country and track. In cross country you're lettin' up on the team too. You know you're all running the same race under the same conditions."

When he runs, Hamilton puts his total self into it, but cross country and track



Staff photo by Charles Hardy

Cross country captain Dave Hamilton have their own place in his life; they do not crowd other interests into a corner. "I know there are times when I have to relax. I study what I have to, but school isn't just study and running isn't everything either. I go to plays and concerts and even things that I don't particularly like to give myself a chance to like them. I miss very few lectures."

Hamilton is a chemistry major with aspirations of dental school next year. He values time alone when he can think about things, a fitting pastime for the long distance runner.

In all phases of cross country and track Hamilton has been a valuable asset to Carolina's program. Remembering Hamilton in the ACC championships Coach Lamm said, "Well he was like that good old horse: he ran 'til he dropped." So even if Dave Hamilton does not win the race, he's still a mighty good "horse" to have on the farm.

Collins contributes skill catalog

by Tom Ward
Staff Writer

"Everybody's talking about James Betterson and Mike Voight . . . What they don't realize is that our best tailback is on the bench. Keep your eye on this freshman, Mel Collins. I wouldn't be surprised to see him break a punt return tomorrow."

— UNC Offensive Backfield Coach Vito Ragazzo before the UNC-Wake Forest game last fall

The talented number 21, Mel Collins, fulfilled Ragazzo's prediction with a 43-yard punt return for a touchdown in 1974's 31-0 Carolina win over Wake Forest. It was the only such return in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) last year.

And if Collins continues to live up to expectations, the Fairfax, Va. native might rewrite the Carolina offensive record books before he ends his college career. Already his credentials are impressive.

While earning All-America honors in his senior year in high school, he gained 1886 yards and averaged almost nine yards per carry. Last year, he was fourth in punt returns and sixth in kickoff returns in the ACC.

Collins' value to the team, however, cannot be measured exclusively with statistics. He adds depth at several positions.

He is the second string wingback and wide receiver and is expected to see some action at tailback if Voight and Betterson get bored producing 1,000-yard seasons. Overall, his versatility is invaluable to a young Tar Heel football team lacking experience.

Collins' gridiron success lies in his quickness. What Phil Ford is to Carmichael Auditorium, the 5-9, 170-pound Mel Collins is to Kenan Stadium. The sleek, racehorse-type build indicates something exciting will happen when Collins touches the football. His quick feet and agility electrify Carolina fans and give nightmares to opposing coaches. No textbook defense can stop a natural runner like Collins.

The 1975 season presents a formidable challenge to Collins and his teammates.

"Our schedule will make this season an experience," Collins said. "We are going to be tested early. These first games will be crucial to see how well we will do."

As one of the few veterans, Collins said, "I know the coaches expect more out of me this year, and with our young team everyone feels the pressure just a little bit more."

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Rhodes returns to soccer

by Mike Egan
Staff Writer

It is easy for a team to feel optimistic before playing a single game. But for a UNC soccer team that must face powerful Clemson, Maryland and Virginia, this enthusiasm might not be so automatic. It is there however, and one big reason is the return of fullback John Rhodes.

Rhodes was a defensive stalwart for the team in 1972 and 1973 as a sophomore and a junior. Last season he did not play and took the second semester off from school.

"After prep school (Deerfield Academy), college was just more of the same," says Rhodes. "I couldn't appreciate it for this reason. My grades were slipping and I was unhappy."

"Time off for travel in Mexico and the western United States really helped me. I came back here setting myself goals and, more importantly, reaching them," he says.

Rhodes is a rarity on the soccer team—he did not play for his high school. He kept his game in shape by participating in the

summer leagues around his hometown, Westport, Conn.

"When I first came to school here, I wasn't even planning on playing soccer. A friend from Deerfield was going out, though, and talked me into giving it a try. I sure am glad he did."

When discussing last year's team and its mediocre season, Rhodes picks his words carefully.

"I wasn't playing, of course, but viewed the team as an outsider with close friends who played. We all know last year was a bad year, but you can't pin the blame on a few people, coaches or players. It was everybody's fault."

The confidence of this year's team is shared by Rhodes. With a strenuous program of cross-country running, Assistant

Swim meeting

There will be a meeting today at 4:30 p.m. in 304 Woollen Gym for all persons interested in trying out for the women's swim team.

Coach Paul Doty has whipped the players into excellent shape. Clemson (ACC favorite) and Maryland must face the Heels on Fetzer Field.

"We can even beat Clemson," insists Rhodes.

An English major, Rhodes graduates in December. His loss, along with that of fellow senior fullback, Rob Hassold, will leave a serious gap in next year's team.

CREEK WEEK

Getting Together

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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

The Board of Aldermen and the Planning Board of the Town of Chapel Hill will meet at 7:30 p.m., Monday, September 22, 1975, in the Meeting Room at the Municipal Building, 306 North Columbia Street, for the following purposes:

- To consider rezoning to R-10 the two tracts of land presently zoned R-10A abutting the northeast and southeast corners of the intersection of Hillsborough Street and East Rosemary Street. The above tracts of land extend east from the eastern Hillsborough Street right-of-way for a distance of 300 feet, and extend north of the northern Rosemary Street right-of-way for a distance of 200 feet and extend south of the southern Rosemary Street right-of-way for a distance of 300 feet. Properties located north of Rosemary Street are identified as Orange County Tax Map 79, Block E, all of lots 20 and 21, and part of lots 18, 19 and 22. Properties located south of Rosemary Street are identified as Orange County Tax Map 74, Block A, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16.
- To consider rezoning to either R-6 or R-10 the tract of land presently zoned R-10A located on the north side of East Rosemary Street between Spring Lane and Hillsborough Street. The properties in such tract are identified as Orange County Tax Map 80, Block B, all of Lots 31, 32, 33, 39, 40, 41, 43 and 44, and part of Lot 38A.

A map delineating the proposed areas for rezoning is available for public review in the office of the Chapel Hill Planning Department, 306 North Columbia Street. For additional information call the Zoning Administrator at 929-1111.

Kurt J. Jenne
Interim Town Manager
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