Freshman runners adjusting well

By RICK SCOPPE Staff Writer

One is a second-degree black belt in Karate. Another is from New York and has written a play. The third loves motorcycling and was All-East in wrestling his junior year in high school. But they have a common

All are freshman indoor-track runners for UNC and members of the Tar Heels' mile-relay team.

Broderick Bennett is the Karate expert, Kevin Lockerbie, the amateur playwright, and Wayne Miller, the motorcycle enthusiast and All-East wrestler.

This season, they have traveled to New York and Richmond and Saturday will go to Lexington, Va., to compete against Virginia Military Institute.

It is difficult to come out of high school and be able to deal with the pressures not only of being a freshman but also of performing in a varsity sport. If you add the fact that two of the three runners have never run on an indoor track and are now unable to practice on one because of a lack of facilities at UNC, the transition is all the more painful.

But they made it and are adjusting well to life at UNC.

The three were recruited by more universities than just UNC but each stressed the fact about coaches Joe Hilton and Hubert Wise - that they are personable

"Coach Hilton laid it on the line," Bennett said. "He wanted 100 percent of you. That was 50 percent in the classroom and 50 percent on the track.

"I had a couple of schools offer me things; one even said if I could get my time under a certain point they'd take me to a car dealer. Coach Hilton didn't work that way. He was completely above board with me."

'The coaches were really personal guys," Lockerbie said. "When they came around to talk to me they acted

as if they were interested in me as a person. Of course it didn't hurt that my brother was already here at UNC running track."

"The coaches really buttered up my mother," Bennett said. "They told her that UNC was close to our home in Charlotte and it'd be better for me. My mother wanted me to stay close to home and she had as much to do with my coming here as anyone."

One of the biggest problems all three have had to face is the lack of indoor facilities at UNC. Neither Bennett nor Miller had ever run indoors before coming to UNC, and Lockerbie had very limited experience.

"The athletic department is keeping us in the dark," Bennett said. "We keep getting the runaround over there. We may have the potential (in the mile-relay) to go to the nationals but only if we can get the proper facilities."

"UNC puts it (indoor track) aside," Lockerbie said, "saying it isn't that important. But to the athlete it is, and he wants to do well, but if he can't get the proper place to work out, then there is no way he can do well.

"We've got to make the best with what we have and try. It's the effort that counts anyway. If we can say we tried our hardest, then we're all right.'

"Every athlete wants to win," Miller added, "but if he can't get the facilities to practice in, it's hard. We need the experience of running on the boards, and we aren't getting it."

All three said indoor running and outdoor running are vastly different.

"When you come around the curve, and you know you have three laps left, you ask yourself what in the hell is that. How many yards is that?" Lockerbie said. "Outdoors you know, but if you haven't had the indoor experience, it's totally different."

Miller said he hasn't had that much trouble running indoors but that it would help if he and the rest of the team could get some work on the boards.

Other than being introduced as "that guy who runs

track," each of the three continues to live a normal freshman's existence at Carolina with only a few differences.

One difference is they travel more.

"When we went up to New York, I got talking to some girls and got their addresses and if we go back up there sometime, I'm going to look them up," Bennett

"I think the traveling is great," Lockerbie said. "I was able to see my parents while I was up in New York. and I guess I'll have to get used to the traveling, at least for the indoor season.'

Miller, from Mt. Olive and the quietest of the three. said what he enjoyed most about Carolina is the feeling that he is accomplishing something academically.

"I really enjoy learning, and I feel I've already learned a lot. It's really helping me," Miller said.

Miller, who ran this past summer in the National Junior Olympics and also for the Durham Striders, was plagued throughout his high school career with injuries, and said if it hadn't been for injuries, he might have made a go at the state championship in the 440. Lockerbie finished second in the 440 in New York

state, but says he blew it, and it bothers him to this day. "This guy I ran against in the state meet had never posted a time as fast as mine, but I was nervous before

the meet and ran a bad race, and he outstretched me at the tape," Lockerbie said. Bennett was North Carolina's state champion in the

440 last year and said that from his junior year on he had schools approaching him.

"I'm going to try my best this year, but I think all of us will be better next year with a little experience," Bennett said.

"My goal this year is to make it to the finals of the ACC. We have three or four guys who can make it to the finals in the 440, if we work at it.

"But if I lose, and don't make it, at least I tried. At least I can say that."



Kevin Lockerbie (left), Broderick Bennett and Wayne Miller are three freshmen running on Carolina's mile relay team. They are shown here practicing in Carmichael Auditorium for the meet at VMI this weekend. Staff photo by Scott Johnson.



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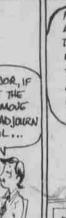
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Tar Heel women withstand ECU rallies to conquer second-place Pirates, 72-64 Thompson follow shot with 2:03 left made it The margin remained about the same until

By WILL WILSON

After losing a 14-point first-half lead and nearly losing a 18-point second-half spread, the UNC women's basketball team came away with a 72-64 win over East Carolina in an important North Carolina AlAW Division I game in Carmichael Auditorium Thursday night

The win moved the Tar Heels within onehalf of the second-place Pirates in the Division 1 standings. Carolina is 3-2, behind

ECU at 4-2 and first-place N.C. State at 7-0. Poor shooting by ECU's usually highscoring duo of Rosie Thompson and Debbie Freeman helped the Tar Heels considerably.

Thompson, wearing a face mask over a broken nose sustained Tuesday against Campbell, was eight for 28 from the floor. while Freeman was four for 11.

Nevertheless, the Pirates made a couple of solid runs at Carolina after the Tar Heels jumped off to a 21-7 lead midway the first

Relying on good free-throw shooting, the Pirates tied the game at 25 with 3:18 left, but Carolina, playing with all reserves, spurted back out to a 37-27 lead at halftime.

SUPPER FAMILY STYLE

Bowman Gray Pool. this season to win the NCAA crown in late

Members of the UNC Crew Club will take orders for red Valentine's Day carnations in the Pit next Tuesday through Thursday. The flowers, which will cost \$1, will be delivered to the Carolina Union Feb. 14.

New shipment

CLOGS by Olof Daughters

Tar Heel swimmers battle

67-62. A few seconds later, a Gail Kerbaugh

shot which would have cut it to three hung

on the rim before finally falling off into the

hands of UNC's Rochelle Small. The next

time it got to five was with just six seconds to

UNC coach Jennifer Alley was especially

"Our defense is our whole ball game," she

said. "We play the best defense I've seen any

pleased with her team's defensive play.

mighty Auburn, weak UVa

By KEN ROBERTS

a 12-point UNC streak built it to 51-33 with

Carolina still held a 63-47 lead with 6:49

left, but by that time three of UNC's starters

had four fouls, and a fourth got hers a

survived by making the first shot of five one-

and-one opportunities, although they missed

From that point on, the Tar Heels

ECU cut the margin to five twice. A

minute later.

all five second shots.

The foremost concern of the UNC swim team this weekend is not the meet with conference-foe Virginia Sunday in Charlottesville. Not that it should be. A running back doesn't worry a whole lot about being ridden down by the diminutive 160-pound free safety standing 15 yards down the field when a snarling 250-pound left guard is swelling with anticipation only a few feet away.

Likewise, the UNC swimmers cannot afford to worry about the meet Sunday with a weak Cavalier team when they face a very strong Auburn team at 3 p.m. today in

Carolina swim coach Frank Comfort ranks Auburn as one of the strongest teams ever to swim in Chapel Hill. Its only loss this season was to Tennessee, one of the favorites

Sports shorts

Anyone interested in joining the Carolina Rugby Club is invited to attend a practice session any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at 4:45 p.m. on Eagle Field. The club's spring season opens Feb. 11 at Duke.

March. The Tigers' win over Alabama, the No. 2 finisher last year, is a good measure of their strength

'We'll go after them. We want to do the best we possibly can," Comfort said. "Our kids are real anxious to swim Auburn."

Scott Spenn, an Auburn sophomore, could pose the biggest problem to the Heels. Spenn was voted the top freshman athlete in the Southeastern Conference last year after claiming a first in the 200-yard individual medley and high finishes in the 100- and 200vard breaststroke events in the NCAAs.

While some of Auburn's times far outdistance those of UNC swimmers, some events could go either way. In the 400-yard medley relay Carolina's time is only 1.3 seconds slower.

"But it's not like that in every event," Comfort said.

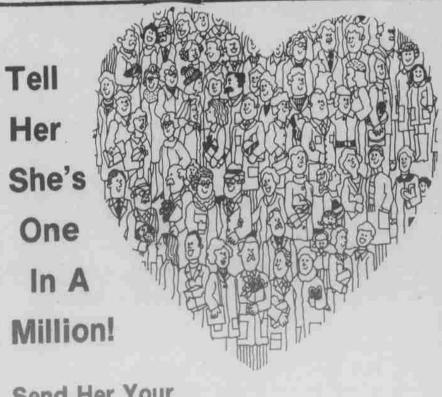
Auburn will swim N.C. State Saturday in

Raleigh as part of its road trip. The women should have an easier time

against Auburn. Carolina is 3-1 after a loss to South Carolina Saturday.

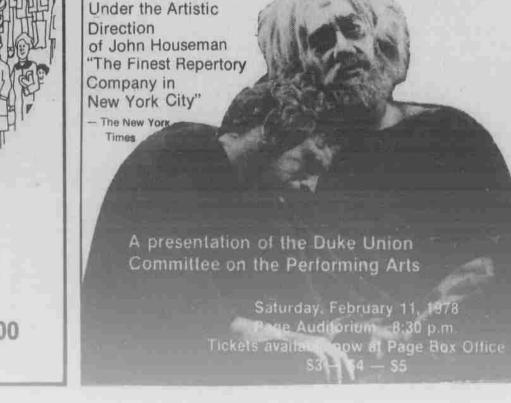
"I wouldn't bet against our women," Comfort said. "I know they're (Auburn) a very strong team, but I think we'll win it." If UNC's women can get past Auburn, they should have little trouble polishing off a hurting Virginia team. The one Cavalier of merit, Wendy Weinberg, will be nursing a

broken leg. "Their men are having ...," Comfort began, then hesitated. "Their men are weaker (than UNC's men). That's the polite way to say it."



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