

New surface, same success

Slew of All-Americans put UNC in NCAA hunt

By A.J. Brown
Staff Writer

Home, Sweet Home. That seems a fitting theme for the women's track team as it heads outdoors for the 1991 season. After two years with nothing but away meets, the squad can finally strap on the spikes at the newly-renovated Irwin Belk Track at Fetzer Field and play host.

The \$1.6-million project includes a level field surface, a new running track, bleachers, lights, a scoreboard, throwing circles and jumping and throwing runways. The new track is equipped with an outside steeplechase barrier and sprint lanes that go in both directions on each side of the track. It also features four multi-directional runways for jumping, six throwing circles and two javelin runways.

Probably one of the most necessary details of the new facility is the Daktronic scoreboard, which records instantaneous results. The scoreboard is linked to the two Accutrak systems at the field that record the times of races so that the six best times appear on the scoreboard immediately after an event.

The new track will be the site of the ACC Outdoor Championships April 19-20, two weeks after it is officially dedicated to the track alumnus for whom it was named.

In the meantime, the lady tracksters remain dedicated to winning their fourth consecutive outdoor ACC championship. But that task may be a little tougher this time around because graduation took some of the Tar Heels' big scorers.

"We lost a lot of good people to graduation last year," head coach Dennis Craddock said, "and our freshman recruits can never replace them."

Among the stellar crop of irreplaceables are triple jumper, long jumper and hurdler Kim Austin, sprinters Cammie Putnam and Tracy Cooke, middle distance runners Kari Krehnbrink, Mia Pollard and Timika Shafeek, long distance runner Chrissy Nicholas and discus-thrower and shot-putter Kelly Joyce.

It's unthinkable to expect anyone to fill Austin's sizable shoes. During her career, the three-event All-American set a UNC record in the triple jump (43-foot-9 1/2) and held down the spot for third-best long jump (20-1/2). She won runner-up honors at the 1989 NCAA Indoors in the triple jump, and was once ranked 10th in the world in that event.

In losing Putnam, the Tar Heels find themselves without the lead-off runner on the 400-meter relay team that blazed into the school record books in 1990. Putnam also ran a leg on the mile relay team that took the conference crown at last year's outdoor championships. She also has the third- and fourth-best times in school history in the 400 hurdles and the 100, respectively.

Cooke's absence at the long jump pit decreases the team's depth in that event, where she landed in the record books at the No. 3 spot. She also owns that position in the 100 hurdles.

Krehnbrink, a middle-distance All-American, aided the tracksters to the top finishes in school history in the two-mile and four-mile relays, and has the fourth-fastest time in the 800. Two spots ahead of her in the books in that event is Pollard, who also ran on five of UNC's best relay teams — the 800, 1,600, sprint medley, two-mile and 6,000.

Nicholas has top-five school marks in the 10,000 and 5,000, as does Shafeek



Dennis Craddock

in the 400 hurdles and Joyce in the shot and discus.

"The athletes that we lost weren't just good athletes — they were good people. They contributed to the team with their spirit and cheering as well as with their outstanding performances, and they are going to be missed," Craddock said.

Good athletes and good people are rarely duplicated. However, their actions and accomplishments can be matched. And that's what this year's outdoor season is all about — matching the performances of seasons past and capturing another conference crown.

Returning seniors Kendra Mackey, Sonya Thomas, Sharon Couch and Jeanne Peterson, and juniors Rebecca Russell and Tisha Waller lead a star-studded group destined to sit atop the conference heap, but a lack of depth may tarnish the team's hopes.

"Up front, we've got as much firepower as we've ever had, but we need to have someone who can take care of the bottom places," Craddock said. "In conference and dual meets, it's important to have depth. Even if you get the 10 points for winning the event, another team can sweep second, third and fourth (place), and come out of it with 18 points."

Depth (or lack of it) being the problem that it is, the team has a better shot of winning a national meet because the talent is more evenly spread; the top competitors in each event are competing against each other.

Mackey is one of the top competitors for the Tar Heels, whether she's bursting out of the starting blocks for the sprint races, taking someone on the curve on the final leg of the mile relay or jumping 5-8 in the high jump. As the squad's only true sprinter, Mackey will be looked to for a show of strength in the weak sprint events.

The defending ACC champ in the 200, Mackey has UNC's fastest times recorded in the 100, 200 and 400 and four outdoor relays. In 1990, she earned All-American honors in the 200 (fifth place), 400 relay (fifth) and the 1,600 relay (third).

Also fortifying the sprinting events are Thomas and Couch. Thomas, who ran on four of UNC's record-setting relay teams, is looking to repeat as the conference's top 400 hurdler. The All-American will also be called on in the 100 hurdles, where she finished fifth in the ACC last year.

Couch found her niche in the 100 hurdles last year, and won the event at

Women's Track

Head Coach: Dennis Craddock (Lynchburg 1967)

Career Record: seven NCAA Top 20 finishes (15th year)

Record at School: three ACC titles, two NCAA Top 20 finishes (sixth year)

Assistant Coaches: Charles Foster, Jeff Ward, Jeff Gorski, Andrew Allden, Kevin McGorty

1990 Record: ACC champions, best dual-meet team nationally

Lettermen Returning/Lost: 15/9

Top Returnees: Kendra Mackey (Sr.), Sharon Couch (Sr.), Sonya Thomas (Sr.), Rebecca Russell (Jr.), Jeanne Peterson (Sr.), Linda Lipson (So.), Penny Blackwell (Jr.), Tisha Waller (Jr.), Nicky Hudson (Jr.)

Top Newcomers: Ayo Atterberry (New Rochelle, N.Y.), Judith McCullough (Atlanta), Ingrid Hantho (Ft. Hunter, N.Y.), Sarah Lynchner (White Plains, N.Y.), Angela Boice (Richmond, Va.), Nikki Berry (Durham), Tara Haggett (Wakefield, Mass.)

Facility: Irwin Belk Track (5,700)

the ACC Championships in a conference-record 13.4 seconds. A multi-event competitor, Couch will also be seen in the sandpit of the triple jump and the long jump, where she set a school record of 21-1 1/2 last season. She finished 10th in that event at the 1990 NCAA meet, and earned All-American honors.

In the distance events, the forerunner for the Tar Heels is Peterson, defending conference champion in the 10,000. She ran in the No. 1 spot for the cross country team most of the 1990 season, and has the third-best times in UNC history in the 5,000 and 10,000 races.

In the middle distances, Russell paces the Tar Heels as the record-holder in the 800. An outdoor captain with Mackey, the Fancy Gap, Va., native also ranks among UNC's top three runners in the 200 and the 400. Russell ran on the 1,600 relay team that earned All-American honors last season as well.

Adding to the string of All-Americans is Waller, who gained that status in the high jump in 1990.

"No track team is good if you don't have other people who assume their roles," Craddock said. "Even when they know they aren't the point-getters, they still practice hard. It's kind of like a scout team for a football team."

Proven scorers for the squad's scout team are heptathlete Nicky Hudson, the defending ACC champion in the heptathlon, and Penny Blackwell, who finished second in the long jump and third in the triple at the 1990 ACC meet. Middle-distance runner Michelle Faherty demonstrated her scoring ability as a member of two UNC record-setting relay teams (3,200 and 6,000), as did Lynda Lipson and Debbie Mann in the throwing events. Lipson earned All-ACC honors in the javelin, and Mann is the fourth-best discus-thrower in Tar Heel history.

Yet to leave a mark on the record books are the squad's freshmen. Hurdler and long jumper Ayo Atterberry, sprinter Tina Batie, heptathlete Nikki Berry, high jumper Angela Boice and middle distance runners Andrea Green, Trudy Stallings and Amy Neal have had a taste of ACC competition, but until they've experienced the outdoor season, their palates haven't been whetted.

1991 North Carolina Women's Outdoor Track

NAME	EVENT	HT	WT	YR.	HOMETOWN
Julie Armor	Distance	5-6	130	Fr.	Ports, R.I. (Ports)
Ayo Atterberry	Hurdles, Jumps	5-6	130	Fr.	New Rochelle, N.Y. (New Rochelle)
Tina Batie	Sprints	5-2	109	Fr.	New Bern, N.C. (New Bern)
Mel Benner	Middle Distance	5-5	115	Fr.	Norristown, Pa. (Mercy Academy)
Nikki Berry	Heptathlon	5-10	126	Fr.	Durham, N.C. (Northern)
Penny Blackwell	Jumps, Sprints	5-9	122	Jr.	Richmond, Va. (Highland Springs)
Angela Boice	High Jump	6-0	138	Fr.	Richmond, Va. (Godwin)
Jane Boulter	Distance	5-8	118	Sr.	Saverne, France (Lycee Gal Leclerc)
Sharon Couch	Hurdles, LJ, Sprints	5-7	138	Sr.	Rice, Va. (Amelia Co.)
Shannon Davenport	Javelin	5-7	142	Fr.	Rye, N.H. (Gov. Dummer [Mass.])
Mary Ann Edwards	Javelin	5-7	127	Fr.	Huntersville, N.C. (North Mecklenburg)
Michelle Faherty	Middle Distance	5-11	140	Sr.	Leeds, England (Notre Dame [Eng.])
Andrea Green	Middle Distance	5-7	126	Fr.	Etna, N.H. (Hanover)
Shannon Griffin	Throwing	5-5	135	Jr.	Durham, N.C. (Durham Academy)
Tara Haggett	Shot, Discus	5-8	165	So.	Wakefield, Mass. (Wakefield)
Ingrid Hantho	Shot, Discus	5-10	170	Fr.	Ft. Hunter, N.Y. (Fonda-Fultonville)
Tracie Housel	Sprints, Hurdles	5-4	127	So.	Radford, Va. (Radford)
Nicky Hudson	Heptathlon	5-10	136	Jr.	Angier, N.C. (Harnett Central)
Lynda Lipson	Shot, Javelin	5-9	170	So.	Lynn, Mass. (Bishop Fenwick)
Sarah Lynchner	Jumps	5-6	120	Jr.	White Plains, N.Y. (Lady Davis-Tel Aviv)
Kendra Mackey	Sprints, Jumps	5-10	120	Sr.	Catawba, S.C. (Rock Hill)
Debbie Mann	Shot, Discus	5-8	175	Sr.	Alexandria, Va. (Mt. Vernon)
Leslie McCaskill	Middle Distance	5-9	133	So.	Charlotte, N.C. (East Mecklenburg)
Judith McCullough	Distance	5-8	145	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga. (Westminster)
Jennifer McLaughlin	Distance	5-7	125	Jr.	Lilburn, Ga. (Saint Pius X)
Amy Neal	Middle Distance	5-5	130	Fr.	Kernersville, N.C. (East Forsyth)
Jeanne Peterson	Distance	5-4	95	Sr.	Massapequa, N.Y. (Massapequa)
Jen Ridgeway	Distance	5-7	120	Fr.	Monticello, Minn. (Monticello)
Rebecca Russell	Sprints, Middle Dis.	5-6	120	Jr.	Fancy Gap, Va. (Carroll Co.)
Karen Sahn	Distance	5-4	106	Sr.	Tucson, Ariz. (Ampitheater)
Trudy Stallings	Middle Distance	5-6	125	Fr.	Greensboro, N.C. (Dudley)
Sonya Thomas	Hurdles, Sprints	5-5	125	Sr.	Greensboro, N.C. (Dudley)
Tisha Waller	High Jump	6-0	133	Jr.	South Boston, Mass. (Halifax Co.)
Euba Wilkerson	Sprints	5-8	113	So.	Goldsboro, N.C. (Eastern Wayne)

1991 Women's Outdoor Track Schedule

Date	Event	Site	Time
March 20-21	Florida State Relays	Tallahassee, Fla.	1 p.m.
March 23	Tennessee, VPI, Yale, Penn State	Chapel Hill	1 p.m.
March 29-30	Florida Relays	Gainesville, Fla.	1 p.m.
March 29-30	North Carolina State Relays	Raleigh, N.C.	1 p.m.
April 6	vs. George Mason, Appalachian State, N.C. State, Virginia & South Carolina	Chapel Hill, N.C.	3 p.m.
April 13	at Florida State	Tallahassee, Fla.	1 p.m.
April 19-20	ACC Championships	Chapel Hill, N.C.	1 p.m.
April 25-27	Penn Relays	Philadelphia, Pa.	11 a.m.
May 3-4	Gatorade Invitational	Knoxville, Tenn.	1 p.m.
May 11	UNC Tar Heel Classic	Chapel Hill, N.C.	5 p.m.
May 19	Carolina Open	Chapel Hill, N.C.	1 p.m.
May 23	UNC Last Chance	Chapel Hill, N.C.	5 p.m.
May 23	Georgia Tech Last Chance	Atlanta, Ga.	1 p.m.
May 29-June 1	NCAA Championships	Eugene, Ore.	1 p.m.

April 6th — Irwin Belk Track at Fetzer Field Dedication Meet

Waller's tale

Junior high jump re

By A.J. Brown
Staff Writer

Tisha Waller is RAW. Her technique isn't the best, and her mid-air phase is a little lacking. But her delivery in the high jump is well done, as she proved during the 1990-91 indoor track season.

On Jan. 26, the South Boston, Va., junior went over the bar at a height of 6-foot-4, setting a school record and winning the event at the Kodak Invitational in Johnson City, Tenn. And to convince any Doubting Thomas of her jumping ability, Waller matched her previous feat two weeks later at the Mobil #1 Track and Field Championships in Fairfax, Va.

Entering the outdoor season, the 6-foot leaper is tops in the nation among collegiate jumpers, having turned in the best American high jump this year and the third-best jump ever among the American college ranks.

So how is she handling her celebrity status?

"A gentleman asked for my autograph at East Tennessee (in Johnson City), which was kind of funny to me," Waller said. "But I gave it to him. I really didn't think much about it. I just thought it was cute that he asked me for my autograph."

She said that if anyone on campus made a similar request, she would think they were joking and just laugh at them.

Well, nobody is laughing at the statuesque jumper's accomplishments, especially not field events coach Jeff Ward.

"She came to Coach (Dennis) Craddock after last year's NCAA meet and told him that she realized for the first time that the other girls in the meet didn't have anything on her physically. They didn't have any physical skills that she didn't have, and that she was just as capable as any of them to win the national championship," Ward said.

"That was really the first dawning on her that she had that kind of big-league potential."

Although she does have big-league potential, Ward admitted that Waller's technique needed improvement. From a coaching standpoint, the early childhood education major is not a 6-4 jumper, technically. Technically, she is a 6-0 jumper with the physical ability to clear 6-8. Fortunately for her, she managed to

1990 NCAA Final Women's Dual Meet Rankings

(as compiled by Track & Field News)

1. North Carolina	100.0
2. UCLA	96.4
3. Nebraska	96.3
4. Florida	88.0
5. Washington	83.9
6. Texas	83.8
7. Indiana	82.2
8. Tennessee	80.3
9. LSU	78.8
10. Alabama	78.7

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