

# Kathy Tar Heel Of Week

**Editor's Note:** Tomorrow, Nov. 7, Kathy McMillan will be 18 years old and has already earned the distinction of being considered the top teenaged women's long jumper in the United States. The Hoke High senior was spotlighted by the Raleigh News and Observer last Sunday as Tar Heel of the Week. The article is reprinted here from the News and Observer for the interest of News-Journal readers.

By David Zucchini

RAEFORD - Kathy McMillan began her junior year in high school here in much the same way she had spent her entire school life. She cooked breakfasts for her father, a bricklayer, and worked his tobacco field after school.

Then, last January, she travelled outside her home state for the first time. Last spring she took her first airplane ride. By summer, she was spending weeks in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Alexander McMillan, accustomed to steamy breakfasts served up by his third youngest child, longed for her return. Kathy, then 16, at times felt ready to come home.

For one thing, she got lost in LaGuardia Airport. Worse yet, she had to take a lot of shots to leave the country. And the plane ride? "No parachutes," she recalled.

Such is the life of a novice international athlete. As a world-class long jumper and Olympic hopeful, Kathy McMillan has precious little time to sample the uncluttered life of a senior at peaceful Hoke High.

"The whole thing," she said, "is kinda unbelievable."

Unbelievable is perhaps the best term to describe what happened after a skinny ninth grader went out for the girls' track team in an event she knew nothing about. Three years later, she owned the second longest jump ever made by an American woman.

From New York to Los Angeles to Canada and Russia and Czechoslovakia, Kathy competed head-on with the world's finest long-jumpers. Only 17, she left the house in which she was born, setting two long jump records and taking aim on a fistful of others.

"I never expected her to do all this," admitted her Hoke High coach, Bill Colston, who said he has never seen a better athlete in nine years of high school coaching.

Colston's eyes widened when he discussed his pupil, for she had literally come to him out of nowhere. "Nobody - just nobody - does this well this soon. She's the kind of person you only read about."

What Kathy had done was win a bronze medal in the Pan American Games two weeks ago, setting two short-lived Games records. She had previously won the long jump in Durham's Pan Africa meet, taken the Junior Olympics with a record jump, and finished fifth on only one jump in a U.S. - U.S.S.R. meet.

Her 21-foot-seven-inch jump against the Czech and Polish teams in Prague was the longest this year by an American woman. She is an even bet to qualify next spring for one of three long jump positions on the U.S. Olympic team.

Kathy McMillan is, in fact, the world's best teenaged female long jumper.

"And she still doesn't know how good she really is," said Colston, who watches over his young protegee like a fight manager over a budding world champ.

Kathy doesn't even know how good other jumpers are. In fact, she didn't even recognize the names of U.S. and world record-holders until she competed against them.

"I don't even take Track and Field News," she pointed out.

Kathy is equally blasé about the finer points of long jump technique. She now "hitch kicks," or pumps her legs in the air, instead of "sailing," but only because other jumpers do it.

She pays no attention when she misses her take-off board during practice, saving her concern for actual meets.

"I don't think about it," she said. "I just do it."

She began doing it as a ninth grader who tried out for girls' track because it was the only sport open to girls at the time. Colston was unimpressed until Kathy beat the school's top jumper in the state meet.

She has since won three state championships in the event, Hoke High, in its fourth year of girls' track, has won four.

"Of course, having Kathy didn't hurt," Colston conceded.

It does not hurt a team for a jumper to improve from 16-9 as a freshman to 17-9 as a sophomore and 19-9 as a junior. With a 21-7 leap as a senior, Kathy is a mere half-inch off the U.S. women's record.

"I'm going for two more feet now," Kathy said blithely, as if discussing two inches to be added to the hem of a skirt. "There's always somebody slipping up behind you, so I figure I need 23 feet to close the door." The world's record is 22-4½, or 9½ inches from her best jump.

Still, she seems more fascinated by the products of her jumps than the jumps themselves. She finds travel "exciting," thinks meeting girls on the U.S. team is "fun" and was "surprised" that she was allowed to keep the sleek blue U.S.A. uniform from the Pan Am Games.

Yet she is singularly unawed by the glamor names of women's track. Of Willye White, a former world's record holder, Kathy said: "She's twice my age." Rooming with Martha Watson, current Outdoor National Women's champion, Kathy said: "Wasn't no different to me."

"I sure don't feel famous," she said, laughing. "But I guess I am jumping against all these people everybody has heard of."

People are beginning to hear about Kathy McMillan, at least in North Carolina. She is the first person to be named "Athlete of the Week" four times by a Fayetteville newspaper. Wire service and local stories have

forced her to start a second scrapbook.

At international meets, her admirers are increasing. She says her competitors now classify her as a "leaper," as opposed to a mere "jumper." It is an honor shared by few.

Colleges, too, are taking note of Kathy's abilities. Coaches have approached her from UCLA and Tennessee State University, schools with two of the nation's strongest girls' track programs.

"The guy from UCLA was trying to impress me with how much he knew about long jumping," she said. "He knew a lot more than I did." Kathy is leaning towards Tennessee State.

Wherever she goes, she would like to go as anything but a strict one-dimensional athlete. Despite weak ankles, for instance, she wears fashionable platform heels.

"I like 'em," she said, dismissing the heels' potential hazards.

Colston is more specific. "You can't expect her to sacrifice everything," he said. "We don't want her to become some kind of freak, you know."

After a year of travel, Kathy has already seen her share of unique characters. She remembers throngs of autograph seekers - herself included - swarming around Wilt Chamberlain during the Pan African Games in Durham last summer.

She said she was afraid to approach Chamberlain, particularly after he gruffly refused to sign for anyone. But later, the same people began asking for her autograph.

Kathy signed, not quite certain why she had been asked. So beside each signature, in parenthesis, she scribbled the words "long jumper."

For The Record

Kathy McMillan

**BORN:** Nov. 7, 1957  
**EDUCATION:** Hoke County High School, Raeford, Senior  
**PARENTS:** Mr. and Mrs. Alexander McMillan, Raeford  
**FAMILY:** Seven brothers and sisters

## Hoke ASCS

By Thomas R. Burgess

Delivery Station Designated For Carryover Tobacco In Type 13 - Mullins Leaf Tobacco Company, Mullins, S.C., has been designated by Stabilization Corporation to handle growers' carryover tobacco in the South Carolina and North Carolina - Border Belt, according to Fred G. Bond, General Manager. The facilities at Mullins Leaf Tobacco Company will be open for handling carry-over tobacco from November 10 through November 14.

Bond emphasized the following points for producers who plan to deliver tobacco: 1. Obtain a marketing card or other identifying documents from the County ASCS office prior to delivery. 2. Schedule the delivery by telephoning Stabilization's representative at Mullins Leaf Tobacco Company, Mullins, S.C. (Telephone 803-464-8651), beginning Monday, November 10, 1975, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. 3. The tobacco should be delivered in standard tobacco sheets. At the time of delivery, sheets will be exchanged. 4. Only tobacco that is graded into official USDA standard grades will be accepted. 5. All participating producers must be members of Stabilization.

There will be an official Government Grader to grade the tobacco. A receipt will be given to each producer listing the weight and grade of each sheet of tobacco delivered. Also, the producer will be asked to sign an agreement

making Stabilization agent for the producer for the handling, servicing and sale of such tobacco.

The tobacco will be received, processed, and redried in the usual manner and offered for sale as soon as possible after July 1, 1976. That tobacco which does not sell for a satisfactory price will be tendered to Commodity Credit Corporation for loan under the 1976 program. Proceeds from sales or loans advanced, less expenses incurred (storage, insurance, fumigation - anticipated not to exceed \$0.01 per pound) during the carryover period, will be distributed to participating growers after July 1, 1976.

## Bethel Ingathering

Bethel Presbyterian Church is having an Ingathering on Thursday, Nov. 13.

Barbecue and chicken salad plates will be served from 11 A.M. until 2 P.M. Plates will be \$2.50 each.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

## Walter Coley and Mike Wood's Pharmacy Phlashes

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**RESCUE SUPPORT** - Julian D. Butler, vice-president of the Raeford Branch of the Southeast Production Credit Association is shown above presenting an emergency spine board to the Hoke County Rescue Squad. Bobby Smith, squad treasurer, accepts the donation. The aluminum spine board is used in extracting and transporting a victim of an accident when back injuries are suspected.

## Superior Court

### Pair Draws Prison

Two men linked in the attack on county health worker Jessie Nicholson at an isolated McCain cabin last February in which the woman was left for dead were sentenced to prison Monday by Superior Court Judge Clarence Hall.

John Tracy McNeill, who was apprehended in late August after eluding capture for almost six months, and James Franklin McNair, (alias) Jack McNair, pleaded guilty to charges of felonious breaking and entering and misdemeanor larceny.

Both were sentenced to not less than three years nor more than four years with the option of work release.

Three others of the six linked to the incident pleaded guilty to similar charges.

Curtis Hill, Dwight Graham, and Bruce Leonard King admitted to the accusations of felonious breaking and entering and misdemeanor larceny and were sentenced to not less than

three years nor more than four years, suspended for three years and placed on probation for three years and fined \$16.67.

The sixth member of the group, Robert Lee King, is charged with breaking and entering and larceny, assault with intent to commit rape, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury and kidnapping is still at large and is also being sought by the FBI for interstate flight to avoid prosecution. McNair was allegedly the last one in the cabin with Robert King on the day of the crime, and McNeill allegedly was contacted by King not long before his arrest according to testimony.

In other Superior Court action, the final juror for the Jerry Shaw trial was seated early Tuesday morning. Testimony was expected to begin Wednesday morning.

Shaw is charged with rape and first degree burglary.

## Dillon School Public Hearing 10th

A public hearing on C.A. Dillon Training School will be held at Butler Town Hall at 7 P.M. Monday, November 10.

The meeting will be attended by the recently appointed Commission on Youth Services and Director of Youth Services David Jordan, who will be attending a meeting of the commission at the school in the afternoon.

The hearing is one of a series planned for each of the state's training schools since the Division of Youth Services became a part of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources.

Director Jordan and members of the commission will answer questions and hear problems or grievances of former students, school staff or citizens in the community.

## SUPPORT THE BUCKS



Who Said

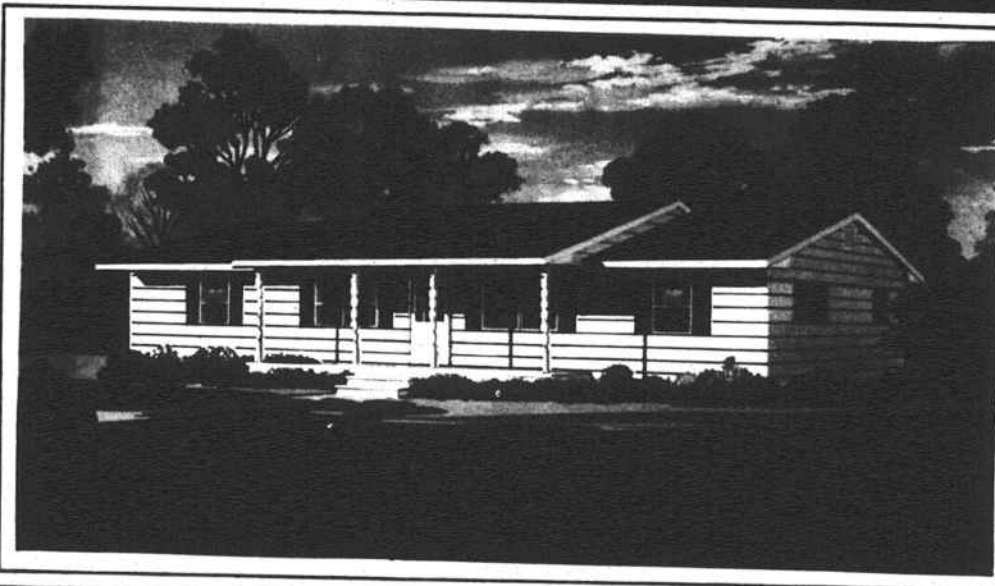
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**Mr. Flynn's**

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