Tech Track - ‘Many Stars’

VPI News Service
BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech's women’s track and field team is nearing the start of what could be its best season ever. Coach Herbert Tucker has even had the leeway to select from women trying out for the team, picking who can help the most.

“We have many new people, many stars,” he said with anticipation of the coming season. Tucker said he has not done much recruiting this year and the main reason is that he has not had to. He has received quite a few inquiries from high school and college transfer students about coming to Tech and running for the team.

“We are reaping the benefits of a successful year last spring. Many of the new girls have written to me. They learned about the track program’s success either through friends or from publicity we have received.”

Tucker is looking forward to the outdoor season, but before it starts in March, some team members will compete in several indoor meets. He looks on the indoor season as a warmup for the outdoor season. It is a period, according to the coach, where the women see what the competition will be like and how much more preparation they need before reaching their peak. Eight of the 26 members of the outdoor team will not be competing indoors.

Tucker said a dual meet is planned with Madison College but the date has not been set yet. Tucker is looking forward to strong performances from some veterans and some new members of the team.

On Feb. 5, the team will run in the University of Pittsburgh Invitational Collegiate Meet which will involve 12 to 15 college teams.

On Feb. 11 and 12 the team will participate in the “Mason-Dixon Games” at Louisville, Ky. Then, on Feb. 26 the team will run in the “Lady Volunteer Invitational” at Knoxville, Tenn.

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education and recreation from Christiansburg to provide leadership.

Some new members of the team Tucker thinks will help are Daphne Palmer, a sophomore in liberal arts and sciences from Fairfax. As a sprinter, she competed with the Sports International Track Club and is transferring here from the University of Hartford.

Susan Cook, freshman in clothing, textiles and related art, is expected to be strong in the quarter mile. Kim Michael, a sophomore in biology from Sterling is strong in the 80 yard dash and Laura Petry, freshman from Ashland majoring in health, physical education and recreation, is a top prospect in the shot and discus. She was high school state champion in the discus and fifth in the shot last year.

The outdoor track season schedule is:

- March 26, Atlantic Coast Relay, Raleigh, N.C.
- April 1, University of Virginia International, Charlottesville
- April 16, Virginia State Collegiate Championships, Blacksburg
- April 25, Madison Invitational, Harrisonburg
- April 29 and 30, University of Maryland Invitational, College Park, Md.
- May 12-14, Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women National Championships, Los Angeles, Calif.
- May 21, Tome Black Classic, Knoxville, Tenn.