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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

## Surgeons Save Severed Thumb

### Fayetteville Youth Makes Medical History at Duke

When Paul Stewart decided to go water skiing on Saturday, June 1, he had no idea he would make medical history.

Paul lost his thumb at 11:30 a.m. that day, and it wasn't until 5 o'clock the next morning that it was back in its proper place on his right hand.

He has his brother, his father and a team of orthopaedic surgeons at the medical center to thank for the happy reunion.

It all began shortly before lunch that Saturday on the choppy waters of White Lake near Elizabethtown, N.C. while Paul, his brothers and several friends were pursuing a favorite pastime.

The other fellows skied without incident, but when Paul took his turn, a coil in the tow rope looped around his thumb and ripped it off at the base.

His companions rushed the 17-year-old to an Elizabethtown hospital and telephoned his father, Dr. Albert S. Stewart Jr. of Fayetteville.

The physician, a specialist in internal medicine, knew that with modern surgical techniques it is sometimes possible to re-attach limbs which have been severed in accidents.

He also knew that this complex micro-surgery is often attempted at Duke, that Fort Bragg provides an emergency helicopter air lift service and that time is a critical factor if replantation is to be successful.

Unfortunately, Paul's thumb lay somewhere on the bottom of White Lake.

Remaining calm, the internist asked his 18-year-old son David to collect as many of his friends as possible and hurry back to the lake to look for the missing thumb.

Using face masks, David and six others dived repeatedly in the rough water at the site of the accident. A boatload of disbelieving onlookers was enlisted to keep additional boats out of the area.

"We had to keep trying even though I didn't think there was much chance of finding it," David said.

Fortune smiled on their efforts. "I saw it lying in eight feet of water about 20 feet from where I was swimming," the brother said. "Luckily, the bottom was sand instead of mud."

An army helicopter flew Paul and his thumb, now packed in ice, to Duke Hospital, arriving at 6:30 p.m. Within an hour, Dr. James Urbaniak, associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, and the hospital's Orthopaedic Replantation Team were reattaching the thumb to the young man's hand with the aid of a 40 power triple-headed microscope.

Urbaniak and his highly specialized team, composed of Drs. Panayotis Soucacos, Don Bright and Robert Adelaar, have been functioning for nearly two years, and although they have done 20 similar operations, this was the first to be attempted more than six hours after an accident.

Urbaniak said he and his associates

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'THUMBS UP' ON A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION—Paul Stewart (left) and his brother David of Fayetteville, N.C., compare thumbs 10 days after Paul's was severed in a water skiing accident. David, after rushing his brother to a hospital in Elizabethtown, N.C., returned to the lake where the mishap occurred and found the missing digit on the bottom of the lake where it had lain for two hours. Surgeons at the hospital were successful in reuniting Paul and his thumb. (Photo by David Williamson)



	Ticket Prices	
	Daily	Two-day
Finish line	\$7	\$10
Adjacent to finish	\$5	\$7
General reserved	\$3.50	\$5
General reserved	\$1.50	\$3

## Summer Arts Festival

### U.S.S.R.-U.S.A. Meet Set For July 4th Weekend

"The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming!"

"Relax there, Paul Revere. Give that poor old horse of yours a break. Haven't you heard? They're coming all right, but it's for a track meet and arts festival."

"To Durham?" The old silversmith looked skeptical and scratched his wig.

"You'd better believe it. And it's going to be held Independence Day weekend, July 4-7, in and around Wallace Wade Stadium at Duke University, if you know where that is."

"Why would the nation's most prestigious track and field event—outside of the Olympic or Pan-American Games—come to Durham, North Carolina, after playing five years at such sites as Los Angeles and Philadelphia where interest in the sport is supposedly greater than anywhere else?" he asked.

According to Dr. LeRoy T. Walker, coordinator for the USSR-USA International Track and Field Meet, the answer is simple and logical.

"Our success with the Pan-African Games (1971) and the Martin Luther King Games (1973) demonstrated that we could do the job and that the Triangle Area (Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill) will support top-flight track," he said.

"When we put in Durham's bid for the Russian-American meet, we were competing against some real track towns," explained Walker, chairman of the Department of Physical Education and Recreation at N.C. Central University here. "But we had some very impressive

statistics behind us."

For starters there was the Pan-African event, which drew a crowd of 52,000 to see the first team ever assembled from the entire African continent. The two-day attendance was the largest in the Western Hemisphere for the past decade.

"Then we showed our first success was no fluke when we staged the King Games two years later," said Walker, adding that an enthusiastic crowd of 23,000 track fans were on hand for the competition.

Al Buehler, Duke's cross country and track coach and former president of the U.S. Track Coaches Association who has the job of coordinating the meet itself, pointed to the fine athletic facilities here at the university as a reason for bringing the event to Tobaccoland.

"We like to call our track the 'Firecracker 440' because of its fast surface and red color," Buehler explained, while describing Duke's new all-weather ProTurf track, which was partly responsible for many of the eleven meet records during last year's King Games.

And a 44,000 seating capacity and a giant electronic scoreboard clock and Duke's facility must be considered one of the most outstanding in the United States, he indicated.

Mrs. Revere looked disgruntled and began polishing the silverware.

"What about me?" she asked. "Paul is a frustrated athlete and a frustrated jockey—that's why he likes to chase

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