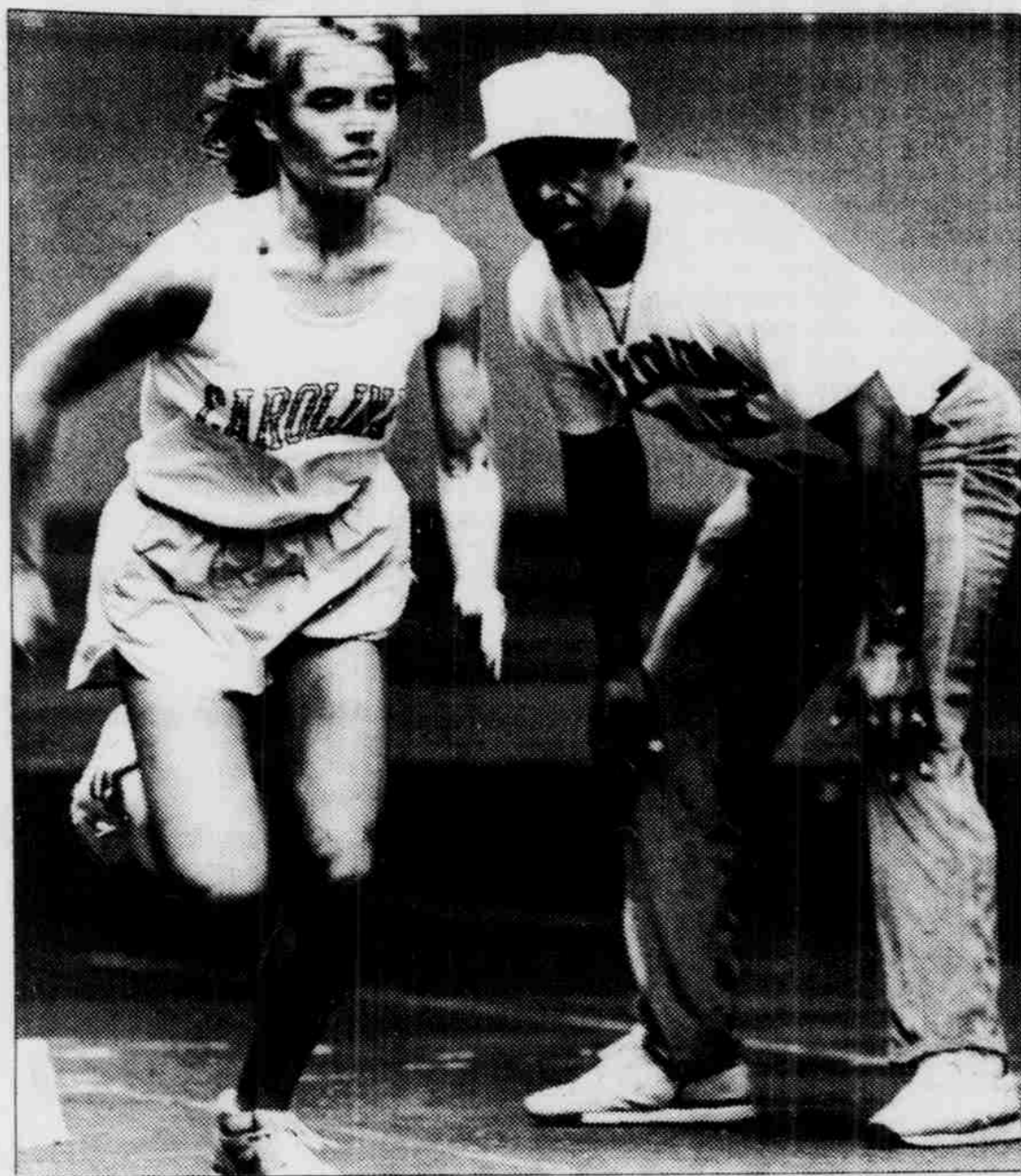


# SPORTS

## Track camp attracts athletes eager to learn from UNC team



DTH/Grant Halverson

Coach Charles Foster works with 15-year-old Amy Rye of Huntersville

By A. J. BROWN  
Staff Writer

For nine months of the year, Chapel Hill is the ultimate college town, with students from all over the country and the world providing a unique cultural diversity that enhances each student's education. But for those other three months, this intellectual hub is transformed into a village of pre-teen and adolescent noisemakers who flock to the University to participate in the various sports camps sponsored by UNC athletic teams.

About 40 of those youths came last week to the camp sponsored by UNC's track and field team and directed by Dennis Craddock. The six-day program, in its third year, attracted potential collegiate tracksters from Virginia, North and South Carolina and Georgia.

The camp is open to athletes from elementary to high school seniors. Charles Foster, UNC sprint and hurdles coach and director of camp operations, said he sends pamphlets and brochures advertising to high schools up and down the Eastern Seaboard.

"We try to encourage coaches and parents to send their kids to our camp as early as possible," Foster said. "We work with athletes from the sub-novice level to those with full-scholarship potential," he said.

UNC's program is unusual because collegiate athletes also work with campers, Foster said. This year, sprinters Kendra Mackey and Reggie Harris, high jumper William Darity and triple and long jumpers Sharon Couch and Penny Blackwell helped with the camp.

Foster said that the purpose of using the athletes is to show the campers that the members of UNC's track team are not just taught to perform. They understand their events well enough to teach someone else the things that they have learned from their coaches. He said that aspect of the camp may be one of the things that attracts the campers.

Amy Clark, a 15-year-old camper from Huntersville, agreed.

"Coach Foster tells us a lot things that will help us improve, but it's really helpful to see athletes who can do everything that he's telling us to do," Clark said. "Then, things don't seem so hard."

William Crutchfield, a 16-year-old camper from Pittsboro, came to camp last year because Coach Foster said he could show Crutchfield how to lower his times in the 100- and 200-meter dashes into the scholarship range.

"When you have an athlete like Kendra (Mackey) or Reggie (Harris) working with you, or a coach like Foster who can do what he's telling you to do, instead of showing you with a film, it makes you think you can do it," Crutchfield said.

He said his performance improved as a result. Last year, Crutchfield only made it to the conference championship meet, but he finished second in the conference in the 200-meter dash and fourth in the event at the sectionals, and anchored three relay teams at the regionals in 1990.

When she came to the camp a year ago, Tiffany Everett was probably one of the sub-novice athletes Foster talked

*"When you have an athlete like Kendra Mackey or Reggie Harris working with you, or a coach like Charles Foster, it makes you think you can do it."*

— William Crutchfield, track camper

about. The 15-year-old Franklin, Va., native competes in the 100- and 300-meter hurdles, as well as in the three jumping events for Franklin High School. She said she has seen definite improvement in her performance.

"When I came here last year, I was going into my freshman year. I was taking five steps between each hurdle. Kim Austin worked with me and got me down to running three steps between them," Everett said.

Although Everett didn't place in the state meet as a freshman, she finished eighth in the 100-meter hurdles in the meet this year. Aside from receiving instruction from Coach Foster, Everett said that she likes the personal contact she gets with the current athletes.

"Sometimes, you just get tired of hearing coaches telling you what to do," she said. "Coach Foster is hard, but he's good. And, it's fun to work with the athletes because they probably used to make the same mistakes some of us are making," Everett said.

The athletes are equally enthusiastic about working with the campers. Sharon Couch said she gets excited when a

camper that she's instructing finally begins to do the things she's telling her to do with consistency. "It just makes me happy to see them learning, and from me, too," she said. "I think I want to be a track coach someday," Couch said.

Mackey also said that working the camp was exciting. "It's exciting to work with them because they're excited to be working with a UNC athlete," she said. "It's really a good feeling to work with them because they want to learn," Mackey said. She even admits seeing a little bit of herself in some of the campers.

Foster said camps like UNC's, as well as other programs, can help stir interest in track and field across the nation. He also works with the national Track Athletics Congress' program to develop athletes in many events for future Olympics and international meets, acting as hurdles chairman for the Southeastern United States.

"Through our campers, I want to leave a mark on the sport of track and field in this country," Foster said. He's off to a good start.

## What to do, what to do, go outside and burn or watch a sports movie?

It's the middle of the summer. It is too hot to play your favorite sport outside without burning your skin off. Since the domes still do not have cable, the live TV action is non-existent. What's a bored sports fan to do?

**John VonCannon**  
Staff Writer

Ah! The VCR looks quite inviting. If you can't play or watch sports for real, then let Hollywood conjure up some bigger-than-life script to take away the summer doldrums. Yeah, that's the ticket.

Now, the next step is to actually pick a tape. Since this is a new experience for most fans, a guide to the best sports films of all time is needed. Since it is summer, baseball flicks are quite appropriate. Therefore, the top 10 list is full on the national pastime.

As Casey would say, back to the countdown.

10. *Sport Goofy* (1941-1949) - Don't laugh too hard at this selection. Goofy provides plenty of chuckles for the old funny bone in this series of Disney cartoons. The most popular were "Double Dribble", "Goofy Gymnastics", and "How to Play Football."

For anyone who has ever tried and failed to make the team, Goofy puts it all back into perspective. Where else would you come up with an extra point attempt that is deflated by the halftime gun and lands right in the middle of the goal post to add .5 to your score? Not in today's cartoons.

9. *Bad News Bears* (1976) - The classic little league flick. At some point in time, every dad has wanted his son to strike out the batter or knock one over the fence. Walter Mathau plays an ex-minor league drunk who comes back to lead a scraggly bunch of little-leaguers to the championship game. In the process, the kids learn a little about life including that it's OK if a girl (Tatum O'Neal) is your ace pitcher.

8. *Rocky II* (1979) - This was the only sequel that was worth anything. Everyone knows the story. Rocky Balboa

(Sylvester Stallone) comes back despite doctor's orders for a rematch against Apollo Creed. Of course, our hero becomes the heavyweight champion of the world. The most memorable scene is Rocky's run through Philadelphia with all of the kids trying to keep up.

7. *Victory* (1981) - The only soccer film of the bunch. While the plot is hardly original, the movie is still quite inspiring. Michael Caine turns a group of Nazi prisoners into a respectable soccer team. Stallone plays an American who thinks he is playing football but makes the team nevertheless.

Pele, probably the biggest name in soccer history, shows why he has earned that reputation. His skills with a soccer ball were marvelous to watch during the practice and game scenes. The end is also moving as the stadium crowd helps the team escape from the Nazis.

6. *Eight Men Out* (1988) - Based on the book by Eliot Asinof, the Black Sox scandal of 1919 is recreated by Charlie Sheen and Christopher Lloyd among others. Perhaps the most noticeable point in the film is the attention given to detail. The viewer feels like he is back in 1919 with the old baseball uniforms and ballfields.

The book is also a must-read. Asinof really feels sympathy for the players as do many baseball historians these days. The final scene shows an overweight Joe Jackson playing for a minor league team in North Carolina years after the suspension.

5. *Hoosiers* (1986) - Basketball movies are few and far between, but this one grabs the heart from the very beginning. Gene Hackman plays a coach who leads the local high school team to

the Indiana state championship.

However, everything is not a bed of roses. The local townsfolk have problems with his coaching methods. At one point, the team plays with only four players because one player is riding the bench for taking a shot too quickly.

The Chicago Bulls could learn something from this film. When the team was intimidated by playing in a large arena, the coach has a player measure the dimensions of the court. The basket was still 10 feet from the floor and the free throw line 15 feet from the basket.

4. *The Natural* (1984) - This plot has been replayed many times on ballfields all over America. However, it will never be quite like the film.

The All-American boy, Robert Redford, is a baseball player who gets his chance to finally to make it big in the major leagues. His team is struggling until the manager gives him a chance. Of course, he knocks it out of the ballpark in spectacular fashion.

The whole movie has a sense of magic to it. The bat was made from a tree knocked down by a lightning bolt. When Redford falls for a woman in Chicago, he goes into a batting slump. The idea of him even making it to the pros in his late 30's is strange enough. Still, this makes the film quite special.

3. *Rocky* (1976) - The standard by which many sports films are judged. Sylvester Stallone makes a name for himself in this one. Even if you've seen this one a million times, it is still worth dragging out of the archives.

The scene that makes the movie is the fight itself. When Rocky knocks Apollo Creed to the floor in the first round, the audience knows the fight will go the distance. Though, that was Rocky's goal.

2. *Field of Dreams* (1989) - Based on the book *Shoeless Joe*, by W.P. Kinsella, this film goes a step beyond "The Natural." Just the sight of "Shoeless" Joe Jackson standing in left field of a



A scene from 'Eight Men Out,' a top pick for summer sports videos

baseball field in the middle of Iowa brings shivers up and down the spine of any baseball fan.

Kevin Costner, along with James Earl Jones, goes on a cross-country search for the meaning of life. In the process, baseball becomes a larger-than-life, almost religious experience. The ending is quite fascinating as a line of cars stretching for miles waits to watch the baseball's history unfold in the middle of a cornfield.

1. *Pride of the Yankees* (1942) - No,

my favorite team isn't the Yankees, but the story of Lou Gehrig is a remarkable one. Played by Gary Cooper, Gehrig rises from an immigrant family to become baseball's ironman. In the end, he is struck down by an incurable spinal disease which brings a sudden end to his baseball career.

Two scenes are memorable. In the first one, Babe Ruth (played by himself) promises a crippled kid a home run in the world series game that afternoon. In front of all the photographers, the Sul-

tan of Swat autographs a ball. Then Gehrig sneaks in after everyone has left, and the kid asks for two home runs. Gehrig says he will do it if the kid promises to walk again someday. Of course, both guys fulfill their promises.

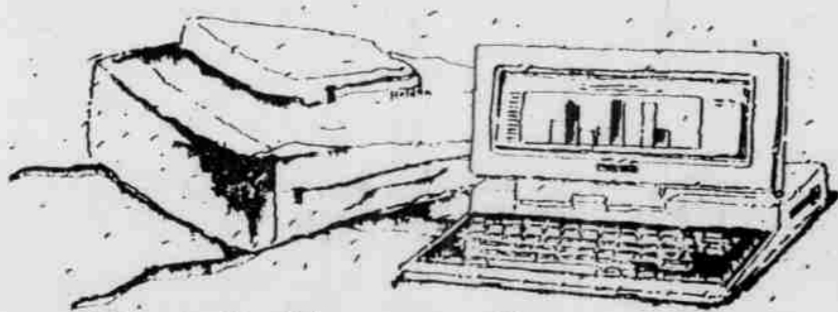
At the end, the Yankees hold Lou Gehrig Day at Yankee Stadium. It is here that Cooper gives Gehrig's famous speech: "Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth." This speech alone makes the movie a classic.

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