IN THE LEAD — The powerlifters maintained a clear lead in the three minute 50 yard race. Karl York, North Carolina's first woman powerlifter who's ranked fourth in the nation, stood atop the house to count cadence and cheer the team on.



SUE TOMBERLIN (center) and other Mars Hill cheerleaders watch as their team

maneuvers the house into place at the starting line.

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Hendon Seeks End To CETA 'Incentive' Program

WASHINGTON - After conferring with North Carolina officials, Western North Carolina Congressman Bill Hendon has called on Labor Secretary Raymond J. Donovan to exempt the State of North Carolina from a requirement that it pay students to attend school.

Hendon said in a letter to Secretary Donovan that, "It is unbelievably bad public policy to pay students to attend school, and I am concerned that such payments may actually be an incentive for more students to drop, out of their

regular school program."

The \$30-a-week payments, to student dropouts eligible only if they are from families ly if they are from families who already receive public assistance, are required under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). North Carolina has not previously made the payments, but when the state recently asked for an official examption, the U.S. Department of Labor refused and ordered the payments, which would cost North Carolina \$100,000 this year.

"To force the state to make such payments... is incomis-

payments... is incomis-with the administration's to return decision mak-



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Compared With Last Year's Results

Fewer Madison Students Pass Competency Tests

Results from October's high school competency tests showed Madison High students scoring slightly above the state level and below the regional level

on both reading and math portions in percentages of students passing. According to Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, supervisor of county schools, 92.7 percent of 206 juniors taking the test for the first time passed the reading test, and 89.7 percent of 204 juniors passed the math test.

The local figures a year ago were 94 percent for reading and 92 percent for mathematics.

This year's figures for the state showed 91.9 percent passing reading and 89.4 percent passing mathematics. Figures for last year were 92.5 for reading and 89.4 for mathematics. Regional results, based on 20 counties

in Western North Carolina, showed 94.3 percent passed reading and 91.3 percent passed mathematics for this year. Last year 95.0 percent passed reading and 91.2 percent passed mathematics.

Dr. Rice and 14 seniors who had not

taken the test before, or who failed last year, were also given the tests. Of the combined 220 students (juniors and seniors), 91.2 percent passed reading and 88.1 percent passed mathematics. She said seven juniors made perfect

scores on the reading test and 20 students missed only two questions. No juniors made perfect scores on the math test, but 14 missed only one or two

Each portion of the competency exam has 120 questions with a 64 percent score required to pass the math section and a 72 percent score necessary to pass the reading section. A high school student is required to pass the test, which quizzes students on basic use skills of knowledge they have learned and how to apply that knowledge in common sense situations before they can receive a diploma.

The test identifies students who need additional help in mastering basic skills and shows specific areas where students need help - such as fractions or interpreting charts. The test is also used in designing an individuial

remediation program for students.

The test will be given again in April for those students who did not pass, Dr. Rice said. Remediation, to help the students catch up, will be provided until

the spring test is given. And remediation efforts may start with younger students next year. The state Board of Education has recommended giving the tests to 10th graders so schools will have a longer time for remediation, according to Tom I. Davis, assistant to the state superinten-

dent of public instruction. Davis said implementation of testing at the 10th grade level will depend on the legislature amending the original competency testing bill and appropriating some \$200,000 for the pro-

Dr. Rice said parents of each student have received an extensive test report on their child's competencies, and that if they have any questions they may contact her at the board of education of-

Teachers Await TOY Selection

eight regional finalists competing for the 1982-83 North (TOY) will be named. The nominees will be selected by mid-January from competitors representing most of the local school systems.

A screening committee in each of the eight regional education centers is now in the process of interviewing local winners and evaluating notebooks. Once the regional finalists are named, a selection committee appointed by the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction will review their scrapbooks, interview them, and recommend the three top state finalists. An observation team will then visit the finalists at their schools to determine the winner

The 1982-83 TOY will be presented to the State Board

In just a few weeks, the at its April meeting. The Carolina first participated in School Officers, Encyclopedia teacher selected will have no the teacher of the year pro- Britannica, and Good classroom duties during the gram, the state has produced Housekeeping magazine. Carolina Teacher of the Year year's reign and will be four national finalists and two The present teacher of the

entered in national competi- national winners. The national year is Dr. Penny Smith, a event is jointly sponsored by humanities teacher at Since 1970, when North the Council of Chief State Asheboro High School, who

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