

Conference. District Champ

Onyenyeonwu Victorious

By Michael Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

For the second year in a row, track star George Onyeneneonwu has qualified to compete in the nationals in both the 100 and 200 meter races. Last weekend George won the Conference and the District in these events. In the meet, held at Pembroke State, George ran a time of 10.62 seconds, which is his best

this year, and better than the national standard. In the 200 meter, George ran a time of 21.33, which is also better than the national standard.

George attributes his success in the District meet to the warm weather. "At most of the meets this year, the weather has been cold, and therefore my times have been consistently slower. The weather last weekend

was perfect for me, and if the meet had been held on a faster track, my times would have been much faster," he said. George also gave credit for his district wins to the competition he faced this year. He commented that he competed against Division 1 schools for most of the season. "Once you're on the track, it doesn't matter where you come from. But it was always in my mind that these were the best, and I had to run my best to win."

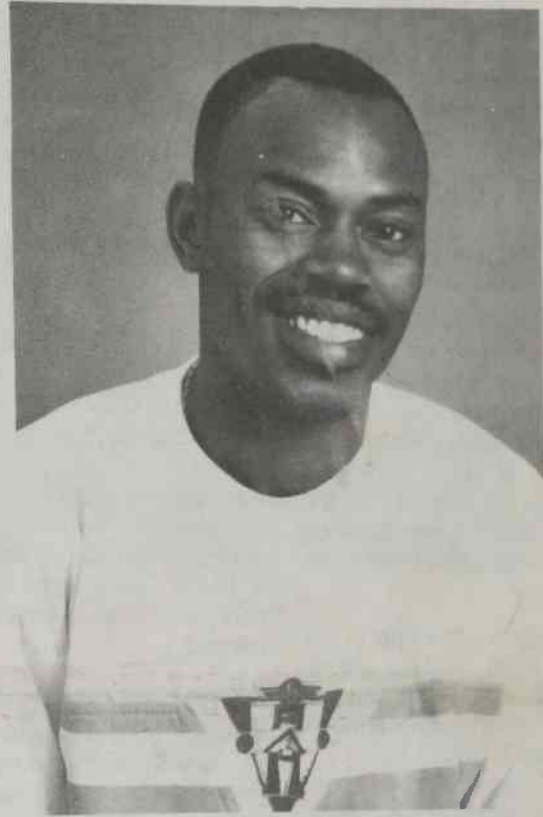
With the exception of the Duke Classic and the Liberty Invitational, George finished first in every meet this season. At the Liberty Invitational he finished second in the 200m, but still won the 100m. He finished second in both heats at the Duke Classic, where he competed against the likes of N.C. State, Duke,

University of Southern California, and other good Division 1 track schools.

George holds the St. Andrews records in the 100m, the 200m, and the 4x 100 relay. In this, his senior season, he is ranked fifth in the 100m, and eighth in the 200m.

George says his goal now is to win the nationals. "It seems like an impossible goal, but I've worked hard all season, and I'll continue to work hard. A national championship is my goal because I want to strive to be the best," he said.

George has been invited to join the NAIA International Track Team. He is approximately \$700 shy of the amount needed to realize this opportunity. We at the Lance encourage you to help George raise the money to accept the honor.



Baseball Takes Conference Crown

By Michael Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

The St. Andrews baseball team, under third year coach Gary Swanson, has won the Carolinas Conference regular season.

The Knights, who lead the nation in wins, earned a record of 42-12 overall, and a 10-2 record in the conference.

As a team, the Knights hit 376, while holding their opponents to a .226 average. They also set a national record for stolen bases with 286. The power hitting of Chad Lindaman, Dave Owens, and Bret Katz, paced a club that hit 31 home runs. The Knights outscored their opponents by nearly a 2-1 margin.

The Knights' pitchers had

an overall e.r.a. of 2.66. Pitchers completed 21 games, and picked off 32 baserunners. The team also struck out 350 opposing batters.

Coach Swanson became the St. Andrews all-time winningest coach in victories and percentage with a 97-39 mark over three years.

The regular season crown gives the Knights an automatic bid into the District playoffs, which according to Swanson, was a pre-season goal. The Knights will compete against national power Elon College, Wingate College, and High Point College. The winner will advance to the area, and the nationals will be played following the area playoffs.

Swanson Delivers

By Michael Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

Coach Gary Swanson, while giving a speech to the Laurinburg optimist club made three promises: 1. St. Andrews baseball would have a winning record during his first year. 2. The baseball team would have a national ranking in three years. 3. The team would make it to the College World Series. He still remembers the chuckles at his remarks.

True to his word, the Knights earned a record of 23-17. In the process, the team broke 41 school records.

In his second season, The Knights earned a national rank, breaking into the ratings at number 25. Swanson led his team to a 32-12 record, and to one game of a district playoff birth.

Swanson used the experience of falling just short of the playoffs to motivate this year's team. The Knights

won the conference regular season title, lead the nation in victories, and set a national record for stolen bases. They have also been ranked as high as eighth in the nation. Swanson takes these accomplishments in stride. "Records and rankings are fine. They're a tribute to the hard work that has been put in by this team. But these were not our goals going into the season. Our goals were to play well, play for the conference title, and to proceed from there. And we want to have fun doing it."

Swanson coached at the Division I level before coming to St. Andrews, a move that many found strange. Swanson had taken a less than mediocre program at Northern Iowa, at age 26, and built a team that was beating the likes of Iowa and Iowa State. After building the St. Andrews program according to his predictions, rumors have begun to fly

about his coaching status in the immediate future. "I've had offers to manage professionally with the Expos and the Indians at the "A" level, but I'm perfectly happy here. I wouldn't coach at the Division I level again because I hate the mentality of the Division I schools." Swanson has other reasons to be content.

"What's most important to me in my life is my wife and my baby daughter. I want my daughter to know her father, and I want to be where my wife can be with me. That's what's most important."

As Swanson prepares to take his team into the district playoffs and maybe the College World Series, he can look into the stands and see the faces of the very persons who laughed at his predictions two years ago. This is a sight that he admits gives him satisfaction.