

# CHRONICLE SPORTS

**Black on Sports**  
**Robert Eller**  
 Sports Editor



## Virgil Simpson Year-Round Coach

**By Robert Eller**  
 Sports Editor  
 Virgil Simpson stood beside the track at Winston-Salem State University. His eyes were fixed on the track as a large throng of youngsters ran various sprints and relays.

Almost 100 members of his Roadrunners track club who had qualified for the state junior olympics meet were in training and as Simpson talked, his mind and eyes stayed glued to the track.  
 "I just completed my 20th year of coaching at Anderson," says the balding Hampton Institute graduate just before ordering a young runner to push it.  
 "I have always been the track coach there and I'm also head basketball coach and assistant football coach."

Now why would a man who has spent 20 school years coaching from the last of August to the middle of June spend his summers doing the same thing?

"Well," says Simpson breaking into a half grin, "In the beginning I guess you could say my daughter got me started. She was interested in track, but the beginning of the Roadrunners was back in 1973. I had four boys and four girls at Anderson that I thought were outstanding. I entered them in the Junior Olympics at Wake Forest and they qualified for the regionals."  
 "Then in '74, my daughter Sharon came into the picture," he added. "She got with three girls at Brunson School and they wanted to enter. Eventually they decided to call their team the Roadrunners."  
 Those four girls, Sharon, Sherri Nichols, Lemelia Johnson and Katrina Sudler, went on to set a state record in their age group for the 440 relay.

Since the clubs almost accidental beginning in 1973, it has steadily grown. The club had restricted membership to athletes be-

tween the ages of 12 and 17 but last season Simpson began training the younger age groups. This season club membership reached 125.

Simpson now has five coaches who also volunteer their services to help with the training of the tracksters. Deval Penn, Alan Edwards, Lemuel Johnson, William Pean and Baxter Holman are on his staff.

Keeping the Roadrunners running is no easy task for Simpson and his staff however. "Funding is our biggest problem. The kids have to buy their own uniforms, pay their entry fees for meets and pay a bus fee. We ask the kids to pay \$21.50 at the beginning of the season to cover these fees and insurance but we don't exclude kids who can't pay. We just take the money out of our pockets."

Simpson does get sponsorship for athletes who advance to regional and national competition from community churches and

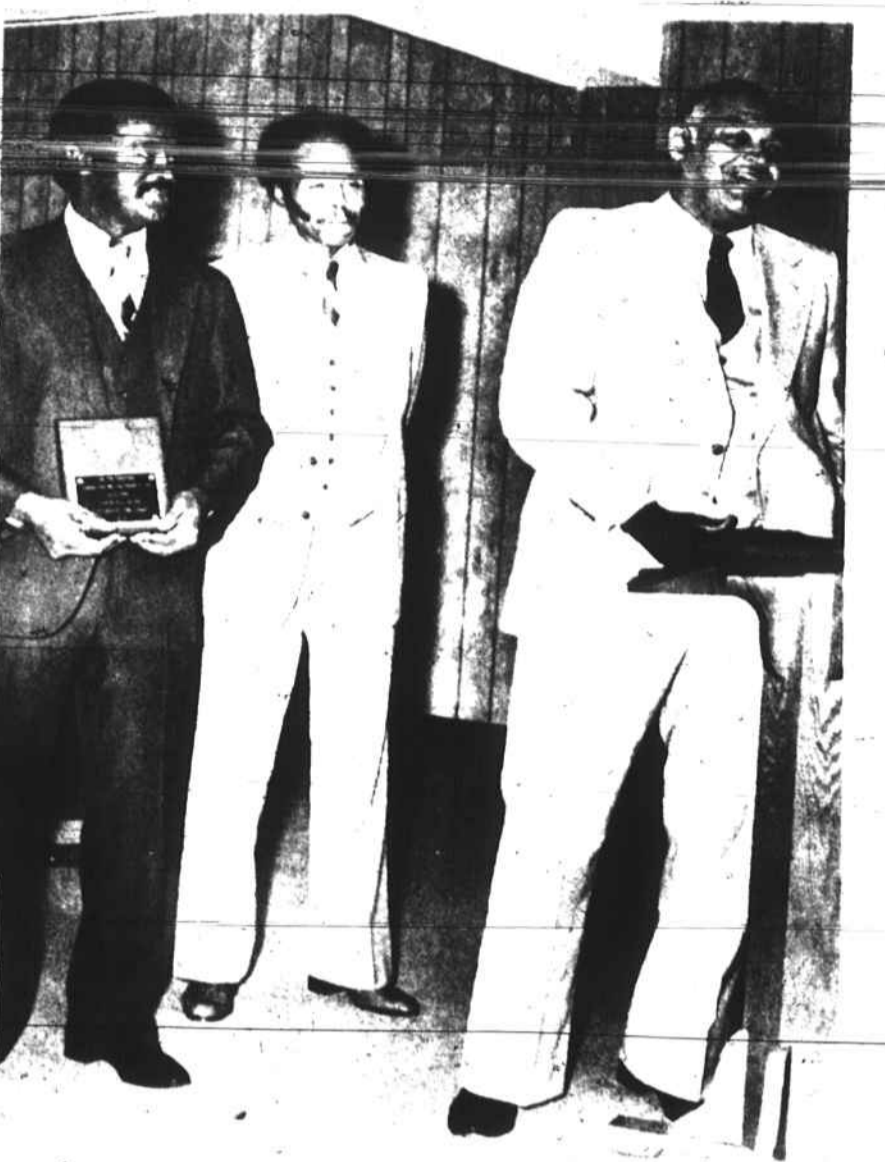
businesses. Still, keeping his team running is a major task. "We have been lucky enough to break even so far but it gets tougher every year and since my daughter is a senior this year I might just retire after it ends."

"I love this program and I love working with these kids but the financial part of the thing is the burden," he said. "Still I don't know if I could give it up even though I think about it quite often."

Simpson says \$6,000 would run the program for a year. "With \$6,000, we could take care of everything except meal money for 100 kids."

There is more to coaching the team than preparing them for competition according to the former three sport college athlete.

"We put in five work hours per-week training the kids but the real work comes on meet days. We are mother and father to these kids for



## Good Company

Virgil Simpson, a 20-year veteran coach at Anderson High School, enjoys some good company in the person of WSSU standouts C.E. "Big House" Gaines and Bill Hayes. Simpson, bassileus of the local Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Chapter, also includes the Roadrunners Track Club as part of his civic activities.

A funny thing happened to the New York Yankees on the way to their third straight World Championship. They fell eight games behind before the all-star game, and all of a sudden the man who came to their rescue last season when the Yanks were hopelessly doomed, found his way out of the clubhouse and on to Florida where he will assume the title of general manager and the duties of a scout.

Well so much for Bob Lemon. Now who will replace Lemon. George Steinbrenner must have been kidding last year when four days after Martin resigned, the owner shocked fans at an Oldtimer's Day Celebration by announcing that Martin would be back to manage in 1980.

But George wasn't kidding and Billy is back despite having called his boss a liar before leaving, and slugging a reporter since.

With Billy back at the helm, the Yankees are sure to get their share of headlines throughout the remainder of the season.

Lets look a few months ahead and see what some of them might be.

**FLASH....** Martin calls team meeting, orders every player to give 100 per cent or he will knock their heads off.

**FLASH....** Martin says Reggie Jackson doesn't own a Volkswagen and furthermore Reggie's Rolls Royce plays a lousy rightfield.

**FLASH....** Martin says that while he was drinking Lite Beer in the commercial he and Steinbrenner made together George actually had champagne in his bottle and that they weren't arguing over what the beers best points were but over which they would have in the clubhouse after the pennant clincher.

**FLASH....** Martin announces that Steinbrenner has said no to his idea of trading Jackson to the San Diego Padres for "Big Bird."

**FLASH....** Martin breaks Rich Gossage's thumb while trying to get the ball from him after summoning Don Hood in the ninth inning of a close game.

**FLASH....** Martin suspends Mickey Rivers for five days for failing to throw away the ace of spaces during a gin game.

**FLASH....** Martin suspends Reggie Jackson for 10 days for not relaying the signal to Rivers that he was to throw the ace away.

**FLASH....** Reggie is benched by Martin after hitting four singles in four at bats because Billy says, "He is paid to hit homers."

**FLASH....** Reggie returns to the Yankee lineup and hits a ninth inning homer to tie the Yanks for the division lead with Baltimore, but Martin benches Reggie because he gave him orders to bunt.

**FLASH....** The Yankees win the World Series and immediately afterwards Jackson, Steinbrenner and Rivers fill a Volkswagen with Lite Beer, cover it with playing cards and push it into the Atlantic ocean.

**FLASH....** Bob Lemon is hired to manage the Yankees in 1980.

**FLASH....** Steinbrenner announces while standing on the Brooklyn Bridge that Billy will be back to manage the Yankees as soon as he is fished out of the ocean, hopefully in 1984.



Gene Little, shown riding on the shoulders of a victorious Aggie team at the past MEAC tournament, abruptly left his post as basketball coach to join the pro ranks. SEE STORY PAGE 12

## 135 Compete in Meet

**By Robert Eller**  
 Sports Editor  
 Approximately 115 aspiring track and field athletes took part in the first annual Winston-Salem Youth Celebration Track and Field Meet held at North Forsyth High School June 12 and 14.

The meet, which was co-sponsored by the Winston-Salem Recreation Department and the Winston-Salem Jaycees, was a two day affair with 8 through 11 year olds competing on June 12 and 12 to 15 year olds participating on June 14.

Larry Rowland, district supervisor for the Recreation Department, and meet

coordinator, said he hopes the meet will become a yearly event. "We would like to do this on a yearly basis as a celebration for school being out and to determine participants for the stgate Hershey's track meet."

First place winners from last weeks competition will advance to the Hershey's meet in Charlotte on June 21.

Double winners in the meet included Billy Bailey in the boys 8-9 age group. Bailey took both the softball throw and the long jump and finished third in the 50-yard dash. China Perkins was also a double winner in the same age

group for girls, taking the 50-yard dash and softball throw.

Chauncey Jones won both the 50-yard dash and the softball throw in the boys 10-11 age group and Regina Gray won the 50 and 100-yard dashes for girls.

Others winners in the 8-9 age groups were: David Caldwell boys 50 and 100-yard dashes; Nicki Gentry, girls long jump; in the boys 10-11 age group, Tim Williams, 100-yard dash; Chris Hairston, 220. Philip May 440, and Waddell Hopper, long jump.

Among girls, Angie Wade won the 220, Monica Gentry, the softball throw

and Sherrill Williams, the long jump.

In the boys, 12-13 age group, Keith Speas, 50-yard dash; Bobby Mills, 100-yard dash; Robert Williams 440; Graham May, 880; Chris Joyner, broad jump; James Cole, softball throw. Girls: Keesha Long, 50-yard dash; Mazie Howell, 100-yard dash; Dietra Porter, 440.

Among boys 14-15: Johnathan Samuels, 100-yard dash; Freddie Adams 220; Lee Mathews 440 David Gray, mile run; Ton Barr, broad jump; and Ric Pueschel, softball throw.



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