

Jumper

Winston-Salem State University forward Nevayta Strother puts up a fourth-quarter jump shot in last Saturday's game against North Carolina Central University. The Lady Rams barely held off Central 87-82. Strother, sixth in free throw percentage in the CIAA, has helped WSSU post a 9-8 won-lost record thus far this season (photo by James Parker).

Black Olympians in history From Page B3

won three individual events -- the 100 and 200 meters and the broad jump -- and ran a decisive lap on the victorious American relay team, thus taking home four first-place medals and four of the tiny-potted German oak trees that the Organizing Committee had provided the winners as living memorials of their triumphs. He broke the Olympic and world record in the 100 meters, though it was disallowed because of a following wind, set a new Olympic and world record for the 200 meters around a turn, and broad-jumped over 26 feet for the first time in Olympic history -- another record.

And to top all that, the 400-meter relay team of which he was the anchor set a new Olympic and world record for the event.

Owens came home to America amid the cheers of admirers but never did latch on to a top-flight job. He ran in exhibition races, spoke at clinics, served as salesman for sporting goods outlets and helped sell Olympic coins, but the real gold -- the spending kind -- never got into his hands as it had for many Olympic winners.

The late **Ralph Metcalfe**, one of a galaxy of stars who were on the same Olympic team with Owens, twice finished second in the Olympics, behind **Eddie Tolan** in Los Angeles in 1932 and behind Owens in Berlin in 1936. Metcalfe, who won a gold medal as a member of the victorious relay team in 1936, became a congressman from Chicago.

One of the standout Olympic double-winners who is still connected with the Olympic movement is **Marvin G. "Mal" Whitfield**, who since 1964 has served as a regional youth and sports officer working in Africa for the U.S. Information Agency. Last spring, Whitfield returned to the United States for a special ceremony at the Jesse Owens Track and Field Classic held at Ohio State annually. Mal was inducted into the Ohio Track and Field Hall of Fame at the ceremony.

Whitfield won two Olym-

pic gold medals (800-meter run and 160-meter relay) in Helsinki in 1952. A middle-distance runner on both indoor and outdoor tracks, Whitfield broke 18 world records during his racing career. A native of California, Whitfield also attended Los Angeles State College.

During his 20-year career with the USA, Whitfield has trained young athletes throughout Africa, promoted U.S.-African sports exchanges, and sought recognition of outstanding African athletes and programs, imparting at the same time a positive image of American sportsmanship and athletic prowess. Even in those countries without close ties to the United States, Whitfield has been able to surmount political barriers to exercise his unique skills as a trainer and coach.

Whitfield has organized several visits a year for the past decade or more to

Africa by American sports specialists at no cost to the U.S. government. This year, he predicts, some 43 nations of the 52 countries in the Organization of African States (OAS) will participate in the Olympics at Los Angeles.

Although black athletes dominated the track and field events in high schools, colleges, AAU meets and the Olympics, there was one event that the public seemed to disassociate with a black competitor -- the back-breaking decathlon.

The one individual who cracked this myth was a high school track and field athlete from Plainfield, N.J., named **Milton Campbell**, who could perform with excellence in just about all of the required 10 events of the decathlon. Although he had not heard about the decathlon previously, he made the 1952 Olympic Team at the age of 17 and placed second to fellow

American **Bob Mathias**. Campbell recalls that, prior to participating in the Olympic trials, he researched the exploits of the great Carlisle (Pa.) Institute Indian, **Jim Thorpe**.

Four years later, Campbell made headlines when he captured the decathlon with a blazing score of 7,887 points at the 1956 games.

If Campbell's victory in Melbourne, Australia had any significant meaning to anyone, it was to another black youth, **Rafer Johnson**, who won the decathlon in the 1960 Olympics in Rome with a staggering score of 8,392 points. Johnson had been runner-up in 1956.

The fact that he was the first black athlete to win the decathlon has followed Campbell these past 31 years. During all pre-Olympic Games programs, news and TV airings, you'll

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PEPSI PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



The Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem salutes swimmer **Whitley Westbrook** of Reynolds Senior High School! He's the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week. Westbrook, whose specialty competition is the Individual Medley, has been an outstanding leader for the Demons, who have gone undefeated.

In honor of Reynolds swimmer **Whitley Westbrook**, the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem will make a cash contribution to the Reynolds Senior High School Athletic Program. Again congratulations to **Whitley Westbrook** of Reynolds... The Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week.

Listen each Wednesday at 8 p.m. on WSJS for Gene Overby TALKS SPORTS where he highlights Pepsi's Prep Athlete of the Week.

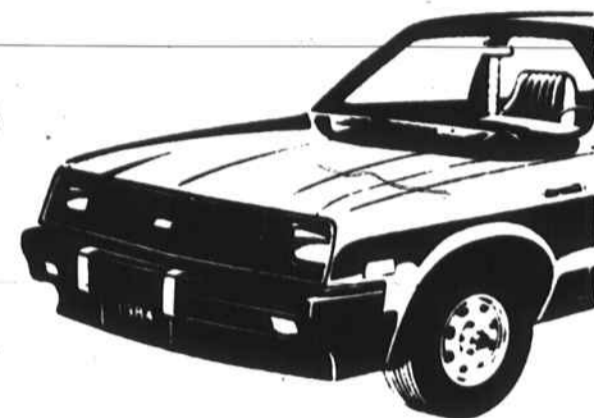
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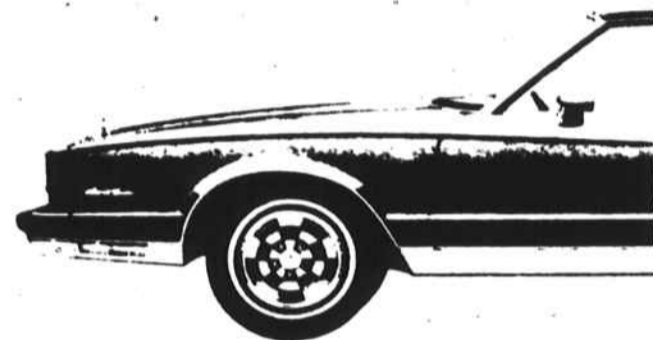
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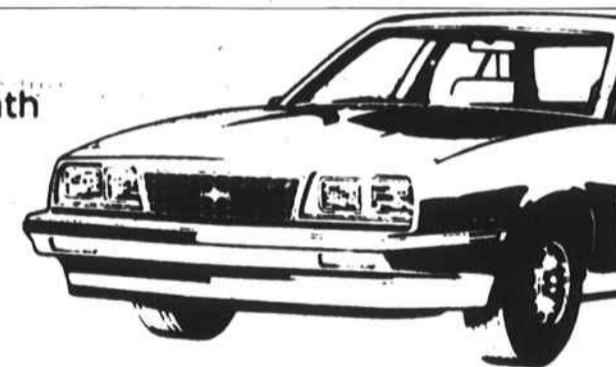
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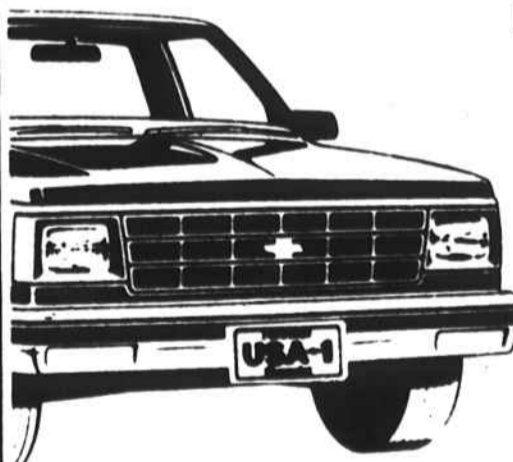
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