



Tall Competition

When NYSP Coach Buck Joyner pitted the boys against the girls in a hurdles race, tall Teresa Montgomery stepped up to the line opposite Tshomba Smith determined to win. And she did ... by inches (photo by James Parker).

League's loaded with talent

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challenge to work with these young men, but, if they aren't willing to put everything into it, they won't improve," Hentz says.

"In the South, the major problem young players face is the fact that their coaches and teammates have told them they're good," Hentz adds. "What they fail to recognize is that, if these kids don't work on improving at every opportunity, they won't develop into complete players."


Eventually, Hentz hopes the league will be sanctioned and be able to expand to accommodate older and younger players. Most of the players currently participating are in their late teens or early 20s.

"If we could have the older players to mix in with the guys we have now, I think the players would gain a lot of valuable experience," says Hentz. "Also, the younger teen-agers could get a jump on the competition."

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MEAC referees hone skills in school

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Camp director Carl Tacy, head basketball coach at Wake Forest, said he was very pleased with the way the MEAC Officials School fit into the camp.

"Since this is a team camp, the basic framework is geared to team play," said Tacy. "In the past, we've hired college players to officiate the games, but they're not really trained to officiate on the high school level. The officials from the MEAC have done a super job and the players and coaches have been able to concentrate on their styles of play. "I'm hoping the relationship will continue in the future," Tacy added emphatically. "It's been good for both parties and has been very beneficial to us in working the camp."

Free also hopes the MEAC will be involved in the camp in future years. "We would certainly like to be invited back next year," he said. "We're going to attract new, young talent to our crew of

officials and this is an excellent way for us to get increased exposure."

Many of the new officials who participated in the MEAC Officials School will be asked to attend the conference clinic in October. The ones who have shown the most improvement at that time, Free said, will be eligible to apply to the league as conference officials.

While the league does not have a formal process for screening referees, Boyd said, referees are checked to make sure each applicant has a proven track record as a high school official.

"We require that all of our officials have at least five years experience as a referee on the high school level," said Boyd. "Next, we ask for at least 10 references to verify they are good officials. We also try to get out and look at them during their games to insure that we have top-quality officials."

ChevRelay members qualify for meet

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Trina Hymes will be heading to Howard University and Vincen-tay Huling is headed to Johnson C. Smith University.

And, just last week, Ann Hall and Liz Hairston signed grants-in-aid with St. Augustine's College.

Johnson, the head track coach at Reynolds High School, says he would like to develop a year-round track club to keep the interest up among high school-aged students.

"We would like to be able to have indoor meets during the fall and winter, as well as workshops and seminars with emphasis on technique and discipline," he says.

With the proper training, Johnson feels, this area could turn out some of the best talent in the country.

In the meantime, Johnson says, the individuals going to the national finals this year should do well. The relay team with the best chance of coming home as national champions is the young women's 1600-meter relay team, consisting of Annette Haynie, Angela Roberts, Chevy Rice and Liz Hairston.

The intermediate boys 4x100 relay team (Kerry Samuels, Kedrick Lowery, Chris Hairston and Kenard Martin) could also spring some surprises.

Other ChevRelay qualifiers for the national meet are Kyle Armentrout in the midget boys 800 meters and 3,000 meters, Liz Hairston in the 400-meter dash, Douglas Gode in the young men's division shot put, and the intermediate boys 1600-meter relay team (Kerry Samuels, Kedrick Lowery, Chris Hairston and Allan Johnson).

Still, there are hurdles to confront, not all of them on the track.

While the ChevRelay Track Club receives much of its funding from two area automobile dealerships, Johnson says, raising the money to go to the national competition has always been a problem.

"We named the club after the Chevrolet and used their emblem to tie us in with running and relays," says Johnson. "But, although the two local dealerships, (Parks Chevrolet and Modern Chevrolet) has been supporting us, we hope our sponsorship will increase so that we can travel to various meets. We welcome the support of all organizations, club and businesses. To those willing to help our cause, we offer honorary memberships in the form of framed certificates and also our genuine thanks."



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