

"Some people kinda forgot about us. But the county meet doesn't mean a whole lot if they're at home eating at Hardee's while we're winning the state championship."

*— Steve Whicker,
Glenn Track Coach*

Ricky Rowell's third-place finishes in the 3,200 meters at the sectionals and regionals were critical to the Bobcats' state championship (photos by James Parker).

Sports Beat

Glenn wins behind Jones, Scott

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

RALEIGH — Swaying gently in a light spring rain, members of the Glenn track squad sang a capella in the stands of the North Carolina State track last Friday night.

Not too many spectators heard them. But the Bobcats' singing would have done a famous capella group like the Orioles proud, though the high school athletes could have used a little more bass.

There had been nothing missing only moments before as Randy Jones managed a stunning win in the 200 meters that lifted Glenn past pre-meet favorite Durham Hillside, 44-43. Since neither team had another entry in the final two events, Jones' photo-finish victory gave the second-year school its first state championship in any sport — and the first track title by a Forsyth County school since Atkins won in 1972. Both Jones and Wilson Fike's Jerry Rogers were timed in 21.30 seconds, with the photo showing Jones nosing out Rogers.

"I have a feeling he's going to do it," Assistant Coach William Butler said nervously moments before the junior sprinter ran the race of his life. "He's our workhorse out there. Even though he's a junior, he's the team leader."

Coach Steve Whicker had said earlier in the week that how Jones and Hillside hurdler Elbert Ellis fared would prove which team would win the state championship. Jones fared better, winning the 200, taking second in the 100 and running on the Bob-

cats' winning 4x200-meter relay team. Ellis won the 300 hurdles, but he finished third in the 100 hurdles. Whicker said Jones benefited from being in lane two in the 200.

"He could see his competition there, especially coming out of the curve," Whicker said. "He knew where he stood and just let it go. If he had been in lane five or six, he might have run too fast early in the race and not had time to recoup."

"He's been in meets like this before and that experience was the key difference."

Last summer, Jones won the 100 and 200 in the TAC age-group national championships in Seattle. Jones improves with age. His time last week was nearly a second better than what he had run in Seattle.

"Coming off the curve, I think I was in third," said Jones, named the state meet's outstanding male track athlete. "The guys from Asheboro (Chuckie Simmons) and North Meck (Donald Colson) were pulling ahead of me, so I just kicked it in. I told myself, 'You got to do it for yourself and the guys.'"

Simmons, who earlier had won the 100 by tying the meet record, took third on a full stomach. He had eaten a quarter-pound hamburger only minutes before the race. Colson finished fourth.

"We had something to prove," Jones added. "At the beginning of the season, everybody else in the county was laughing at Glenn."

Yet, Whicker was confident he had the right
Please see page B10

Local Sports

Big inning propels Pond Giants past Greensboro

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

The Winston-Salem Pond Giants opened their season with a giant last-inning rally that provided the difference in a win over the Greensboro Brewers.

David West drew a bases-loaded walk to drive in the winning run and Cameron Brower added a two-run double to provide insurance in the game at Guilford College's Armfield Athletic Center.

Mitch Cromer went eight innings and allowed only seven hits and two earned runs for the Pond Giants, the nation's oldest semi-pro team.

"I really felt good about Mitch's going that long," said Manager Nelson Petree, whose team went 24-6 last year. "You don't want to leave a pitcher in that long on opening day, but we are short of arms right now."

Petree plans to add several pitchers in the next couple of weeks, including East Tennessee State's David Mabe, Reynolds' Greg Cox (involved in the high school playoffs) and Lincolnton's Jim Williams. Mabe, a left-hander, was the Pond Giants' winningest pitcher last summer.

"You really can't tell how good a team is going to be until about 10 games into the season," Petree added. "But if we get a cou-

ple more pitchers we will be all right.

"We hit the ball pretty good for a team that practiced no more than we did."

Petree said the Pond Giants had three practices before the opener.

Winston-Salem actually scored first, in the top of the second inning, but was quiet for a long time.

Greensboro rallied for a 2-1 lead when it scored a pair of unearned runs in the second inning. The Pond Giants made a throwing error in the third for a 3-1 Brewers' cushion and Greensboro built the lead to 5-1 after six innings.

But Cromer settled down and his teammates made their last-ditch rally to produce the successful opener.

Third baseman Steve Hardister led off the ninth inning with a double off the left field wall and scored on Ken Phillips' single. Cedric Moss followed with a double to put runners at second and third. David Marotta then walked to load the bases.

Sherman Brown, who played for the Winston-Salem Indians last summer, brought the Pond Giants to within 5-4 with a two-run single and Ron Jessup, who coaches at East Forsyth, bounced into a fielder's choice to tie the game. Del Long, who coaches at West Forsyth, walked to reload the bases.

That set the stage for West and Brower, a

rising junior at East, to put the Pond Giants ahead to stay.

Hardister pitched the bottom of the ninth to earn the save.

The Pond Giants open their home schedule against the Walnut Cove Tigers Friday night at Ernie Shore Field. Game time is 7:30. Walnut Cove owns an 8-4 record.

Winston-Salem will host the Greensboro Bulls Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Greensboro features former Pond Giant and High Point College standout Chuck Willard.

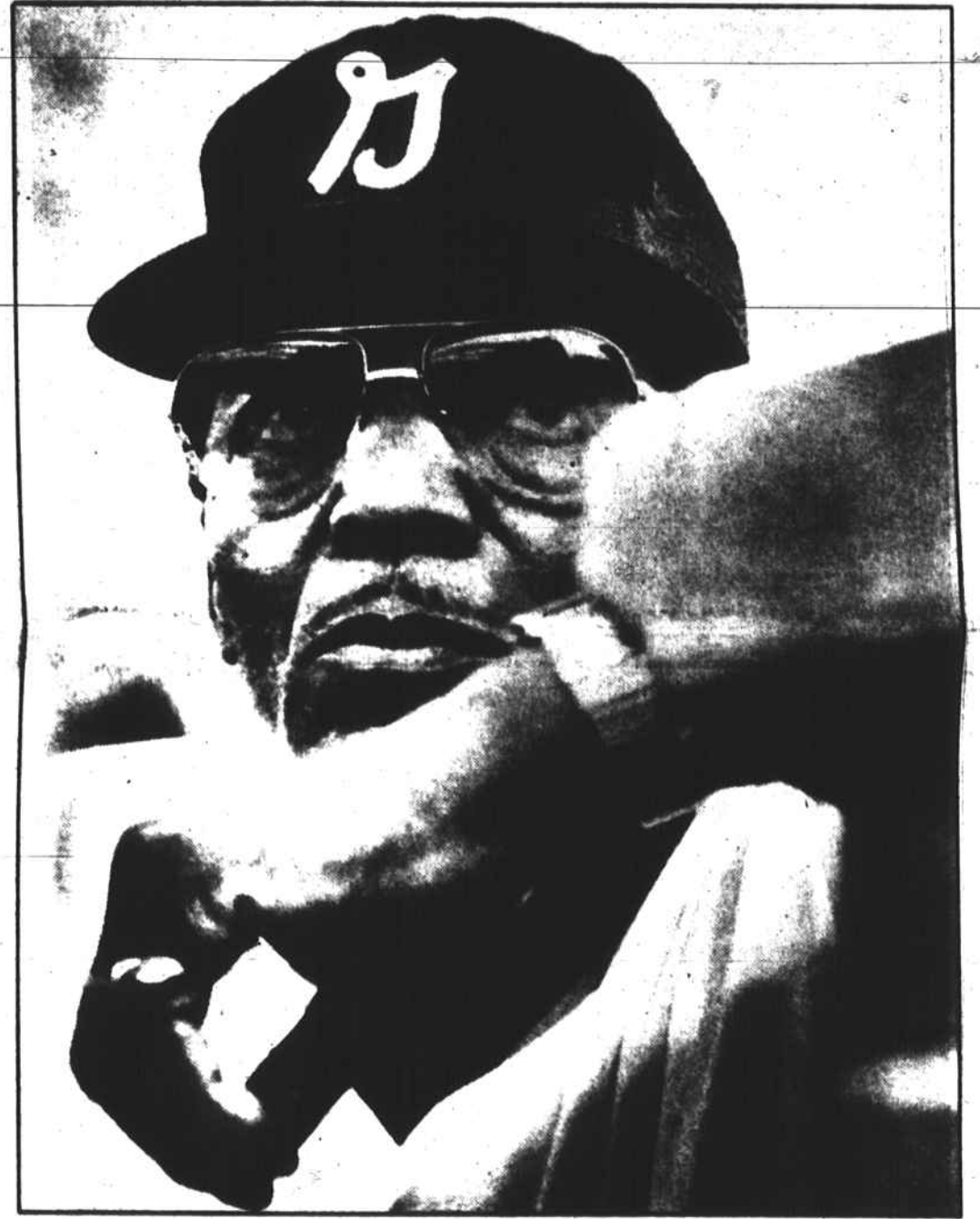
The Pond Giants will play a pair of games against the Indianapolis Clowns next month. The Clowns will be at Ernie Shore on June 13 at 7:30 p.m. and at Rich Park in Mocksville June 15 at 2:30 p.m.

The Clowns are a barnstorming semi-pro team that feature gags and dialogue with spectators in the manner of basketball's Harlem Globetrotters.

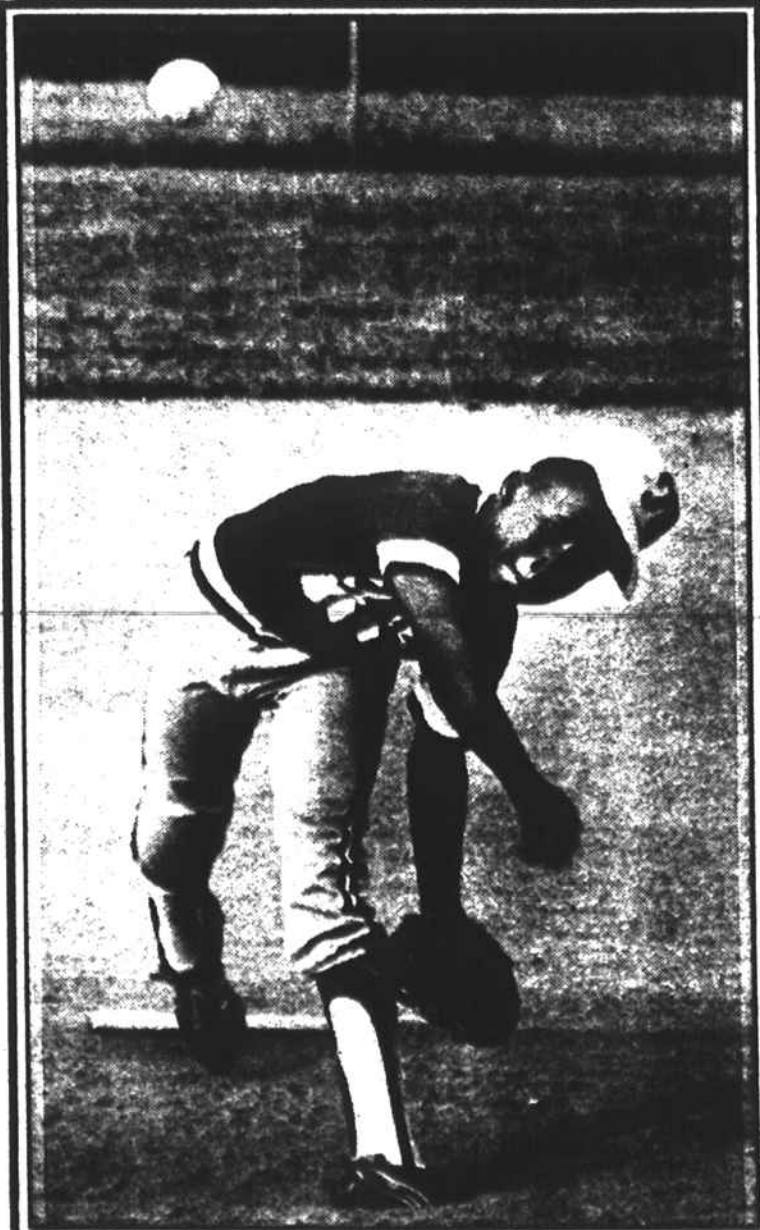
WSSU Grid Schedule

Winston-Salem State's football team will open its 1986 season at home against Virginia State Sept. 6 in Bowman Gray Stadium.

The Rams' other games include Hampton University (Sept. 27), Fayetteville State (Oct. 13) and Wake Forest (Oct. 20).
Please see page B4



Nelson Petree takes in the action as his Pond Giants begin their 72nd season with an 8-5 win over Greensboro (photo by James Parker).



Tyrone Leach unleashes a fastball for the Giants in a Twin City Little League game at Rupert Bell last Saturday (photo by James Parker).

Prep Track

Doggett dynasty ends; Whitten signs with Georgia Tech

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

RALEIGH — The second-longest dynasty by a girls team in state high school track and field came to an end last Friday night at North Carolina State.

Greensboro Dudley closed out the Pam Doggett era in fine fashion, winning seven of 16 events, establishing three state records and outscoring second-place Greensboro-Grimsley and Wilson Beddingfield 84-28.

Doggett, the state's best female athlete, accounted for enough points herself for Dudley to capture its third straight state title, the most since Kathy McMillan-led Hoke County won five in a row in the 1970s. She set state records in the 100 and 300 hurdles, events in which she has the best times in the nation this year. She ran on the Lady Panthers' 4x400 relay team that shattered the previous state record by more than eight seconds. The 5-foot-3, 135-pound Doggett also was sixth in the long jump.

Teammate Adrienne Ferguson, bound for Howard University on a track scholarship, also scored enough points to win the meet all by herself. Ferguson won the 100- and 200-meter dashes and was on two relays. Ferguson, who has run an 11.9 in the 100, made up four places to win the 4x100 relay.

"That's the best anchor leg I've ever seen by a

high school anchor," Dudley Coach Lonnie Phifer said. "Adrienne just blew by the field."

"This proves we could win without Pam. Adrienne alone scored enough to win. We know how good Pam is, but we like to give everyone credit."

One of the big sidelights of this meet was recruiting. While Ferguson has committed to Howard, the chase for Doggett continues. For a long time, she has wanted to go to the University of Tennessee, which inexplicably wasn't willing to give her a full ride as recently as a few months ago. The Vols said her times just weren't good enough to take that kind of risk. So Doggett was considering historically black Tennessee State.

Then the multi-talented Doggett, whose best event is the collegiate heptathlon, started to reduce her times in the hurdles, primarily because she had undergone a successful operation to eliminate painful compartment syndrome in her legs.

While Tennessee has warmed to Doggett as her times became the best in the nation, North Carolina State apparently has been high on her all along. Sources close to Doggett say that she was leaning toward NCSU after last Friday's state meet.

"She hasn't made a decision yet," said Diana Doggett, Pam's mother. "She's in the process of narrowing the list and she's down to three: Tennessee, N.C. State and the University of Georgia." Mrs. Doggett said her daughter would make a

decision in early June.

West Forsyth's Tomika Whitten, a two-time state cross country champion, turned in the best finish by a Forsyth County female. Whitten, a senior, finished third in the 3,200 meters behind first-place Cissy Hudson of East Burke and second-place Staci Watkins of Greensboro Grimsley. That threesome had been the top three in the state cross country championship last November.

West Coach Penny Craver said Whitten had been sick in the regionals, which had the same order of finish as the state meet.

"We couldn't train too much this week," Craver said. "That's not to make excuses. Cissy and Staci are good. They're both underclassmen and will dominate distance running in this state the next couple of years."

The only other female from Forsyth County to place in the top six was Carver sprinter Yolanda Shepherd. She was sixth in the 100.

With Dudley dominating almost half of the events, there wasn't much room for other teams. Still, Phifer seemed relieved to be finished with this season.

"We had a lot of pressure this year because everybody knew we should win it," the Dudley and North Carolina A&T State alumna said. "I didn't want to blow it."

"I need not have worried because they did
Please see page B2