

# Sports



## SPRINT KING

### St. Aug's Antonio Pettigrew rules at Tokyo championships

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE  
Chronicle Sports Editor

Nothing refutes performance.

Antonio Pettigrew proved that maxim to be true when he shocked onlookers by winning the men's 400 meters at the World Track & Field Championships last week at Tokyo.

The St. Augustine's quartermiler claimed the gold medal for his personal collection when he dusted Great Britain's Roger Black coming down the stretch, clocking 44.57 in the finals.

Pettigrew added a second prize when he anchored the U.S. team to a silver medal finish in the men's 4 x 400 relay.

"I'm very satisfied with my performance," Pettigrew told *Chronicle Sports*. "I wanted to show people that a black college athlete could shine with the big boys in the big meets. Plus I proved to myself that I could come back after having a down year in '90."

#### Coach isn't surprised

George Williams, St. Aug's track coach, never felt that his guy couldn't emerge as the 400 victor. "It's no surprise to me," said Williams. "He's disciplined and he does what he's supposed to do. You can always expect good things out of him."

Pettigrew qualified for this year's world championships by winning the 400 (44.36) at the USA/Mobil Track & Field Championships in late June in New York. (Athletes earn their spots on the American team by finishing among the top three in the finals of their respective events at the TAC nationals).

The SAC sprinter isn't a babe in the woods when it comes to world-class track.

Two years ago, he won the TAC nationals (ran 44.27 which is still his all-time best) and placed fifth in the world championships. At that time, he ran for Miami-Dade Community College in Miami, Fla.

But last year, Pettigrew experienced the down side of competition. Injuries slowed his progress and he never reached the form he had in '89. Still, Pettigrew refused to let his temporary misfortune interfere with his return to being a world-class performer.

#### Didn't get just due

Because Pettigrew had performed admirably at the world-class level before, it's strange that few media types gave him much of a chance to medal in Japan, much less win.

A lot of that had to do with the absence of Michael Johnson, who has the best 400 time in the world this year (44.17). Steve Lewis, the '88 Olympic champion in this event, was missing in action because he pulled up lame in the finals at the TAC nationals.

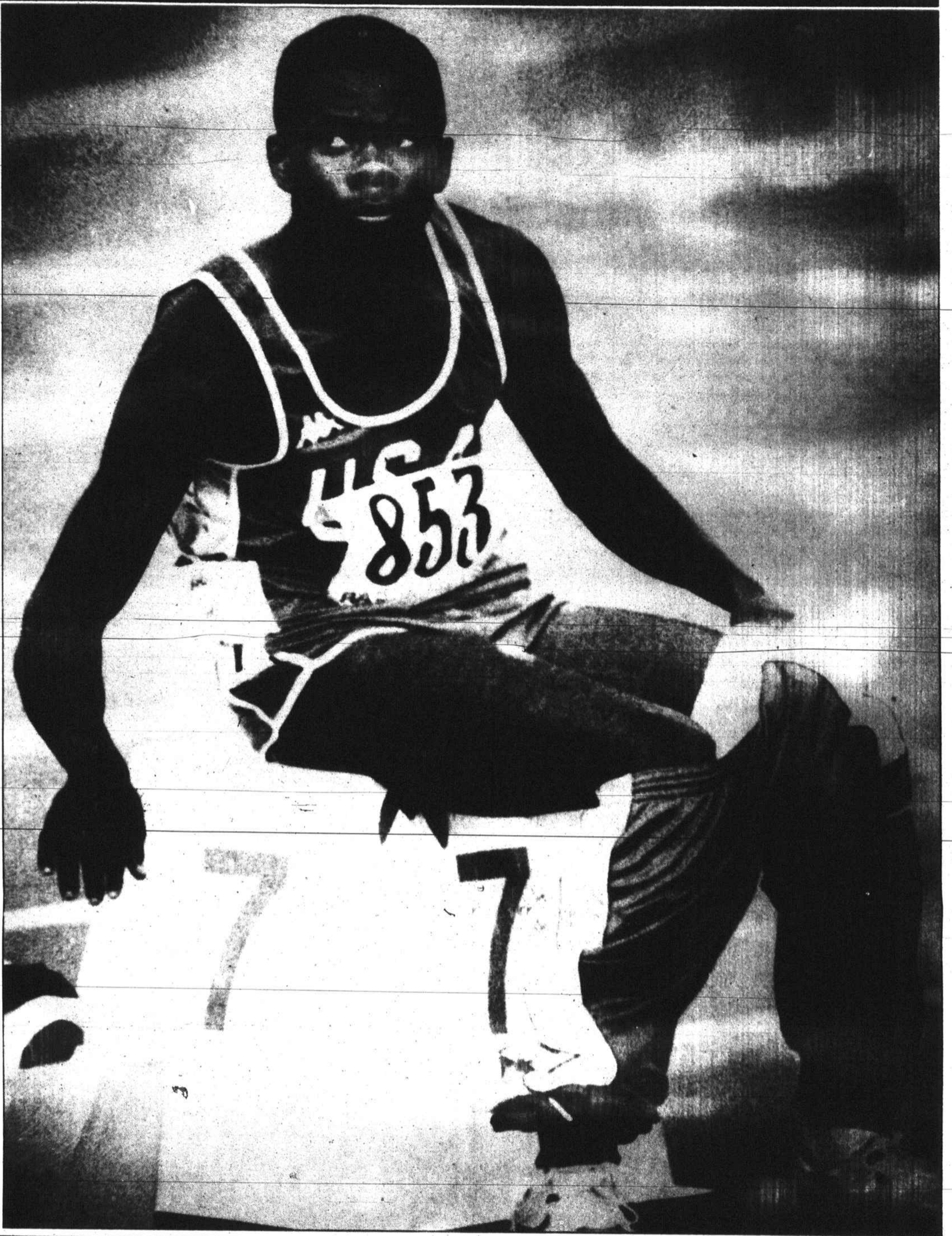
Danny Everett, the bronze medalist in Seoul, was admittedly physically below par in New York. He finished fourth, but was allowed to run the open 400 when Quincy Watts, the third-place finisher, decided to run in only the 4 x 400 relay.

#### The gold is his

In spite of the numerous innuendos hinting that the 400 lacked quality competition, Pettigrew kept pressing on and in the end, took on all comers and came out victorious. Black, the silver medalist clocked 44.62, Everett was third at 44.63, and Cuba's Roberto Hernandez, the Pan-American champ and pre-meet favorite to win the gold, finished fourth (44.86).

Photo by Mike Powell/AllSport USA

Pettigrew (at right) won the CIAA title as well as the Division II 400 crown indoors and outdoors this year.



### Triggerman

Winston-Salem State quarterback Mitch Nicholson is the guy who runs the show as perhaps the CIAA's best combination passer and runner.

Photo by Max Dunhill

## Rams set for '91 kickoff

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE  
Chronicle Sports Editor

Going into the '91 season opener, the Rams' medical status isn't what coach Pete Richardson had hoped for. But regardless, Winston should be ready to blast away on Saturday night against Morehouse College at Bowman Gray Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

WSSU will be missing a few parts when they take on the Maroon Tigers. Outside linebacker Reggie Richardson, a two-year starter, has knee ligament problems and will probably miss the first half of the season.

Running back Twayne Blackwell hasn't been healthy for the past three weeks because of a banged up knee. Freshman linebacker William Trent has broken bones in his foot and will be redshirted this year.

But while linebacker Richardson's absence creates a void, the WSSU coach is confident that his back-up LBs have the ability to contribute immediately. Steve Cobb and Antonio Stevenson are the likely candidates to take over for Richardson.

Pete Whitfield and rookie Adrona Crawley, who has been

a pleasant surprise in training camp, are also able replacements. Stevenson and Whitfield bring experience with them. Both were in the starting lineup at times last season.

**WSSU to play in Wilmington Sportsmen's Classic, see page B6**

Offensively, Winston is in good shape, injury-wise. But coach Pete still isn't convinced that the linemen are in shape.

"It's been either cool or raining a lot of the time during practice," the coach said.

"Those big guys need that heat to take the weight off. At this point, it seems that they'll have to play themselves into shape. Hopefully, we won't have to play in any 90-degree weather. That could cause some problems."

On paper, it appears that Morehouse College shouldn't give Winston too many problems. Richardson, however, thinks differently after seeing M-

House lose to Kentucky State 17-14 last weekend.

"I was impressed with what I saw," Richardson said. "They're a completely different team from last year. They had their opportunities to win the game in the second half. But conditioning hurt them because they don't have a lot of depth."

Under first-year coach Craig Cason, Morehouse fared very well, when you consider that they weren't supposed to have very much of anything in '91. Granted, Kentucky State is not a feared football power. But the Maroon Tigers unveiled a punishing ground attack, totaling 294 yards for the game.

Individually, Dextrel Smith and Patrick Gamble scored one TD each and collectively rushed for 216 yards.

Deeper still, Morehouse took command early on, leading 14-0 at the end of the first quarter on Kentucky State's home field. These guys aren't exactly paties. But ..... it's doubtful if they can go the distance with the Rams.

"We'll be OK as long as we stay focused," Richardson said. "And that means not beating ourselves with mistakes and turnovers."