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McManus wins national title at Hershey meet

By Chronicle Staff

When it comes to throwing a softball, Andre McManus is the nation's best in the 13-14s age group.

McManus confirmed his status as the tops in his division by winning the event at the Hershey National Track & Field Championships held at Hershey, Pa. last Saturday. His winning throw was 257 feet, the same distance he threw at the state meet last

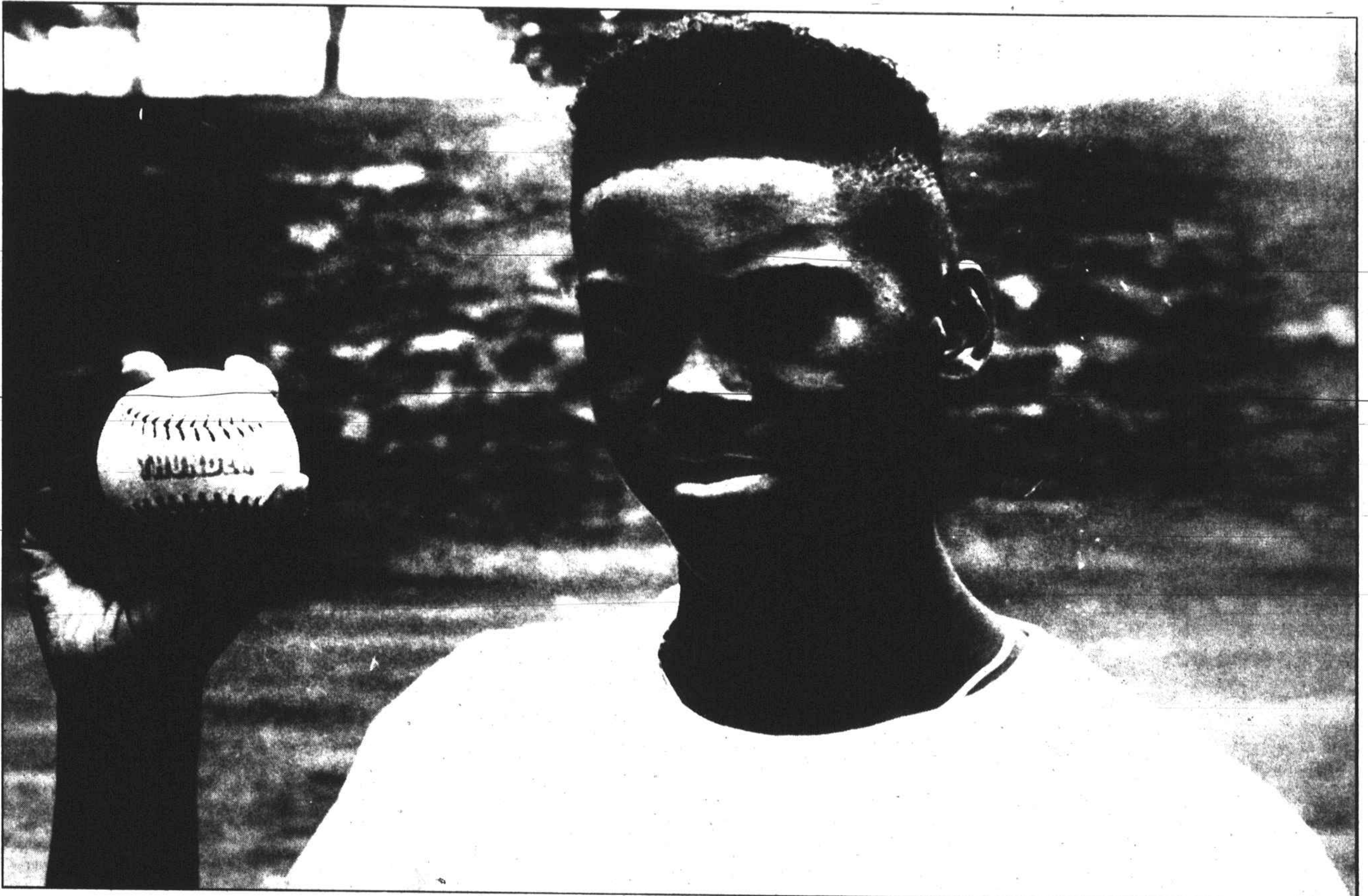
"I couldn't tell what anybody else was throwing. But after my second throw, I took the lead for good."

-Andre McManus

month.

The 14-year old McManus is the first athlete from the Winston-Salem Parks & Recreation Dept. to win a national title at the Hershey meet. He finishes the summer track season in perfect shape with a 5-0 record in competition.

Entering the competition, McManus had set his sights on breaking the existing national record (305 feet) for his age group. As things turned out, a national record wasn't in the cards for that day, primarily because of unseasonably cool temperatures.



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McManus is the undisputed national champion in the softball ball throw for 13 and 14 year-olds.

Photo by Chronicle Staff

Williams sisters share their message with Winston youth



Venus Williams

By Chronicle Staff

Venus and Serena Williams are prime examples that positive things can and do happen no matter what your background might be.

That's the reason why both made personal appearances as part of last week's Garber/Lash Tennis Tournament at Hanes Park. The two also conducted a tennis clinic at Happy Hills Gardens and spoke to area young-

sters at the East Winston Library.

It's clear that neither have forgotten where they came from. Both started playing the game in Compton, Calif., on a public court, located in the heart of the ghetto. Drugs were the norm and so were shootings, which is typical of life in the hood.

The message that the Williams girls deliver to youngsters is clear. Nothing is out of

reach if you keep striving and believe in yourself. It's a message that they've been exposed to for years, courtesy of father and mother (Richard and Brandee Williams).

"They're everyday girls from the ghetto," said Richard, who started an inner-city tennis program in Compton eight years ago. "We want the girls to understand that it's good to go back and help people who are underprivileged. With them coming from the ghetto, it shows a lot of kids what can be done and what they can do."

Over the past couple of years, Venus and Serena have stunned astute tennis observers with their exceptional on-court skills. The consensus is that both will become elite performers on the circuit one day.

As a result, the two have received a lot of national media attention.

Both are highly ranked by the Southern California Tennis Association. Venus is undefeated in 60 matches and Serena's record is 57-2.

For now, though, both still have a ways to go. Neither sister has reached their teens yet. Venus is 12 and Serena will be 11 next month.

Venus is said to be the most sought-after tennis player of her age in the history of the game. Her vast potential has agents salivating for the opportunity to sign her to a contract.

The agents are not alone. The sneaker people are making their pitches. So are the tennis equipment companies and sports apparel firms.

The story of the Williams sisters is unique, not so much



Serena Williams

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