

**LADY EAGLES**

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"She's been getting better ever since," Green said.

Rowland is undefeated this season in the 400 and 800. She is also ranked number 10 in the state among girls in the 400, according to the Track Honor Roll list.

It looks like track could be the ticket to success for Rowland but that wasn't her outlook on the situation in the beginning.

"When I first started running, I didn't know I would like it," said Rowland. The Greensboro native now proclaims a love for running and looks forward to the challenges each track meet presents.

"I know if I don't do my best I've got to work harder in practice," she said.

She can get a little tense before a meet but Rowland has her own way of dealing with each race.

"I'll stretch by myself and concentrate on how I'm going to run my next race," she said.

Rowland doesn't mind the individual acclaim that comes with running, but she really enjoys the rewards that comes when the team wins. She and her teammates understand the winning burden that comes along with running at Smith High School and they don't want to drop the baton in their quest to be number one.

"As long as everybody puts their mind to it, we can be champs," Rowland said.

Before the Lady Eagles can think about putting up any more championship banners, they must continue to work hard and perform well in conference meets.

On Thursday April 9 at Smith High School, the men and women track teams competed in a dual track meet with conference foe Carver High School. Even though running conditions were not ideal because of cool temperatures and some rain, both Smith teams were triumphant. The men won going away. The women were equally impressive, winning by an overwhelming margin of 86-21 even though Green rearranged the events some of his athletes ran. Because of a nagging injury, Rowland only ran two events.

April 10-19 is Spring Break and while this means rest and relaxation for students across the state. The mens and womens track team at Smith will prepare to run at a national track meet in Columbia, S.C. that attracts from 50-70 teams from across the U.S. The meet will take place on April 17 and 18.

Green wants to use this meet to gauge where his team stands right now. He hopes his girls will come from the meet with a renewed focus of mind and body so they can finish the season strong.

"If everyone is running at their best we have a chance at winning a championship," Green said.



Sophomore Santa Sample runs the second leg of the 4X800 in a recent meet.



Junior Rasheta Webster not only runs the 4X400, but she also competes in several field events.



Lady Eagle track members Tawana Rowland (top left), Santa Sample (top right), Amanda Hampton (bottom left), Rasheta Webster (bottom right) and teammates are determined to take the team to the next level.

**BASEBALL**

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age.

Where does the problem lie? Is it with the kids, as some suggest. Do African-Americans naturally gravitate to other sports as they get older?

The number of African-Americans participating in Twin City suggest that even if that were the case there would be more African-Americans participating in high school baseball than the current level.

The league currently has some 600 male athletes from the ages of 5-15 years-old participating. That's males more than any other little league in the county has. Add African-Americans from other organizations to that pool of prospective baseball players and the picture begins to become more clear.

There is a breakdown somewhere along the line. The same kids who advance through the league from T-Ball up to Big League Baseball don't just lose

their love for the game. Or do they?

Do the decision-makers have anything to do with this phenomena? Are the high school coaches actively recruiting African-Americans to play? Or are they content with the players that show up for the team?

Even more, are the athletic directors and administrators aware of the exclusionary policies that their coaches are promoting. Perhaps the only way for the real truth to reach the surface is

for an in-depth study to be done on the sporting habits of local high school athletes. But there are some conclusions that can be drawn from the few facts that are readily available.

A sport that was once considered to be in the mainstream in African-American society is slowly changing locally. Undoubtedly something has to be done in the future to prevent high baseball from becoming a "White Kids" game in Forsyth County.

**THE SPORTS DEADLINE IS MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.**

**TWIN CITY**

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Major League games.

At 11:30, the Mets will challenge the Braves and the Black Yankees will play the Senators. At 1:30, the Twins will play the Cubs and the Stars will battle the Black Sox, winners of the Minor League championship last season. The Giants will face the Dodgers at 3:30 and the Grays will challenge the Monarchs.



Andrew Greer of the Indians receives instruction from a coach.



A T-Baller prepares to swing away.



Fundamentals are stressed, even in T-Ball.

In Pony League action, the Astros will play the Blue Jays at 11:00, the Cardinals and White Sox square off at 1:15 and the Padres and Tigers cap the day when they play at 3:30.

The league is still looking for dedicated volunteers to participate in the league's overall functions. Grounds keepers, concession workers, umpires and assistant coaches are still welcome to join the league.

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