

# Mike Rodriguez Is

## "Athlete Of Week"

By Chase Vance  
Post Staff Writer  
Garinger High School finished in a surprising third place in the state track meet held recently in Cary, North Carolina and star discus thrower Mike Rodriguez is a big reason.

The Wildcats had the highest finish of any of the Charlotte schools with 10 points to 9 for West Charlotte.

The record setting sophomore threw the discus 172.5 feet and 5 inches to erase the old mark of 171 feet and 8 inches set by Chapel Hill's Dave Taylor in 1968.

A stellar performer all season for the Wildcats, Rodriguez moved here with his family during the second semester. His father is a professional wrestler who goes by the name Cyclone Negro. His real name is Eduardo Rodriguez.

Sixteen year old Mike stands 6-3 and weighs 210.

The first week of the season, he threw the discus 132 feet. He attributed his 40 foot increase to the following.

"My coach and my father really helped me," said the

### Morris Field

### Rangers Romp

### Over Norwood

The Morris Field Rangers went on a hit rampage here Sunday afternoon to maul the lowly Norwood Pirates, 26-0, in a Jackie Robinson Semi-Pro League baseball contest.

In so doing, the Rangers scored in every inning and each of the 13 players manager Herman Thomas sent into the one-sided fracas got at least one hit.

Murphy Morris and Alfred Thompson led the cannonading with five base hits a piece. Morris contributed five singles and Thompson clouted two doubles and three singles. Bobby Reynolds, Harold Adams, Charlie Adams also figured heavily into the Rangers' biggest offensive output of the season. Reynolds poled a homerun and two singles while Adams and Houston were hitting a pair of singles and a double.

Ricky Summer, who received help from Roger Coleman and Alphonso "Shot" Clawson, was the winning pitcher. His record is now 2-0. The Rangers have won 10 of 13 league contests.

### BATCH Racquet

### Club Defeats

### Raleigh, 19-16

The Traveling All-Stars of the Batch Racquet Club went on the road recently to Raleigh to take on the Racqueteers for first place in the Southeastern Racquet Association.

In the Association's first big match of the season, the Stars rebounded from an early 3-6 deficit and pulled a 19-16 win out of the fire for undisputed possession of first place.

With a 2-0 overall and a 3-0 conference record the team remains undefeated and will take a two week rest until June 10 when they travel to Winston-Salem and June 11 when the tough Richmond team comes to town.

The Batch junior varsity beat Raleigh's junior varsity 9-3 to remain in first place on the junior circuit. They are tied with Gastonia with a 1-0-1

young man who has only been in the states six months before he set the new state discus record.

Only a sophomore he has a great future ahead of him. In fact, he likes football almost as much as he likes basketball.

"I helped lead the Amarillo Tascosa High School Rebels to the state football championship by gaining 1500 yards," he said. "I also average from one to two touchdowns per game and we finished with a 15-0 record."

Listening to music by Earth, Wind, and Fire and the Commodores are what Mike likes to do best, but his secret desire is that he can't wait until August.

"That's when we start practicing for football," he said.

### Outstanding

### Sprinter Signs

### With S.C. State

Orangeburg-Orangeburg-Wilkinson High sprinter Johnnie Watson Jr. has signed a track grant-in-aid to attend South Carolina State College in the fall.

Watson, the Bruins' most valuable athlete in track this season, participated in the 440, 220 and 100 yard dashes.

Bulldog head coach Robert Johnson calls Watson "one of the most versatile track competitors in the state." Johnson plans to use Watson in the 440.

Watson's best time in the 440 this season was :48.5 seconds. He covered the 220 yard course in :21.7 and the 100 in :09.9.

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...Observes Hawks' bench player

## Allen Sets Football Camp

J. L. H. Cooperation in conjunction with Allen University and Benedict College, will sponsor a football camp for youngsters between the ages of 8-18 years.

The camp, which will feature the expert leadership of numerous professional gridiron athletes, is scheduled to open June 4, and run through June 30.

Designed to accommodate approximately 300 youngsters per week, the camp will be primarily located at Allen University, although some facilities at Benedict College will also be used.

Directors of the camp include: Leroy Blakely, Jim Chandler, Sandy Stephens, former All-American quarterback at the University of Minnesota, Jim Harold, president of J. L. H. Corporation; Richie Harris, John "J.J." Jones, former quarterback of the New York Jets and AU basketball coach, Willie Washington.

According to Blakely the

primary purpose of the camp is basic in nature.

"J. L. H. Corporation Professional Football Camp was conceived as a vehicle to provide the professional guidance to the youths of South Carolina during the summer months," explained Blakely who is the director of St. Luke's Center.

"Although this is our (J. L. H.) first try to help our youngsters better educate themselves, we're very hopeful of accomplishing our intended purpose," he continued.

Blakely said the cost per week for each youngster will be \$150. The fee will cover room and board (three meals per day), snacks, bowling, movies, field trips, in addition to courses in Health Education, Drug Abuse, Alcohol Consumption and motor skills.

Although the athletic emphasis will be primarily on football, youngsters are also slated to receive fundamental training in the areas of basketball, baseball, softball, swim-

ming, volleyball, gymnastics and weight-lifting, calisthenics and track and field.

Dr. Alvis V. Adair, president of Allen University, describes the camp as a "most needed activity."

"Youngsters, who otherwise would spend their summer months mostly idle now have a chance to grow and learn in a stable setting," noted the AU chief administrator. "We're looking forward to the start and continued development of the concept that not too long ago was just an idea in someone's mind."

Among the pro stars who have indicated that they would be teaching participants in the camp include: Donnie Shell and Roy Gerela of the Pittsburgh Steelers; Mack Alston of the Baltimore Colts; the Minnesota Vikings, Stu Voit; Steve Riley, Matt Blair and George Atkinson of the Oakland Raiders.

### Alfred Thompson:

## Morris Field Should Give

## Orioles A Run For Title

By Chase Vance  
Post Staff Writer  
"Well, it is something I really enjoy doing," said Morris Field Ranger star Alfred Thompson in describing the experience he has gained by playing with the Morris Field Rangers.

"Right now we are playing real good ball," he added and we should give the Mecklenburg Orioles a run for it in the second half of the season.

Thompson who lives in the Capitol Drive community is 22 years old and 6-0 tall and 163 pounds.

His stardom really started at Harding High School where he was a star second baseman his junior and senior years.

Then he started playing for the Morris Field Rangers of the old Triple County League. That team has now moved to the Jackie Robinson Semi-Pro circuit and is one of the top drawing cards and attractions in the league.

This spring a big event occurred in Alfred's life. He went to Dallas to try out for the Texas Rangers in the free agent camp.

"I had a great experience," he said. "I did real well, but as you know in free agent camp, they only have a few positions available and the competition is real tough. I was released but not before giving it all that I had."

Alfred believes that after the season with the Rangers, he will go south to Mexico and give the Mexican winter leagues his best shot.

"I am really interested in the winter leagues," he said. They play some good ball down there and I should get



Alfred Thompson  
...Rangers' star  
some good experience.  
When it comes to advantages,  
he has a few.

base and is a switchhitter who throws right-handed and bats mostly left.

"It started when I was a kid," he said. "Whenever I picked up a stick I would put my left hand on top of my right hand and it has stuck with over the years."

Second base is his most natural position, because "I like to turn doubleplays."

"The infield area is one of the toughest parts of the diamond," he added. "If you are playing a team with a lot of pull hitters, the third baseman is going to get a workout. The shortstop normally has the biggest area to cover because many balls hit in his area and the first and second baseman have to work hard to put together a double play combination."

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