

Sprinters Becoming Ligon High Tradition

The two best high school sprinters in North Carolina, as proclaimed by stopwatches at a track meet in Charlotte last weekend, coincidentally have the same given name, Charles.

The youngsters also attend the the same high school — Ligon High of Raleigh. This might be a coincidence, too. Then again, it might be tradition, or the skill deguidance of George Handy.

When senior Charles Copeland and sophomore Charles Stewart finished one-two in the 100 and 220 - yard dashes during the Negro State championships, it reminded some persons of another Ligon track combination.

William Crockett and James Stewart ran the 100 in 9.6 before finishing at Ligon in 1961. Stewart, a brother of the current Ligon sensation, also had a 21.5 for the 220 around a curve.

Crockett then moved on to Minnesota to play football and Stewart ran track at Southan Illinois, but coach Handy did not have many seasons in which to mourn their departure.

Copeland ended an outstanding senior year by winning the 100 at Charlotte in 9.8 and the 220 in 21.4. Earlier, he set a North Carolina High School Athletic Conference record by running a trial 220 in 20.4 Charles Stewart, second in both races, ran a 9.7 during the

100 trials, equalling the NCHSAC record.

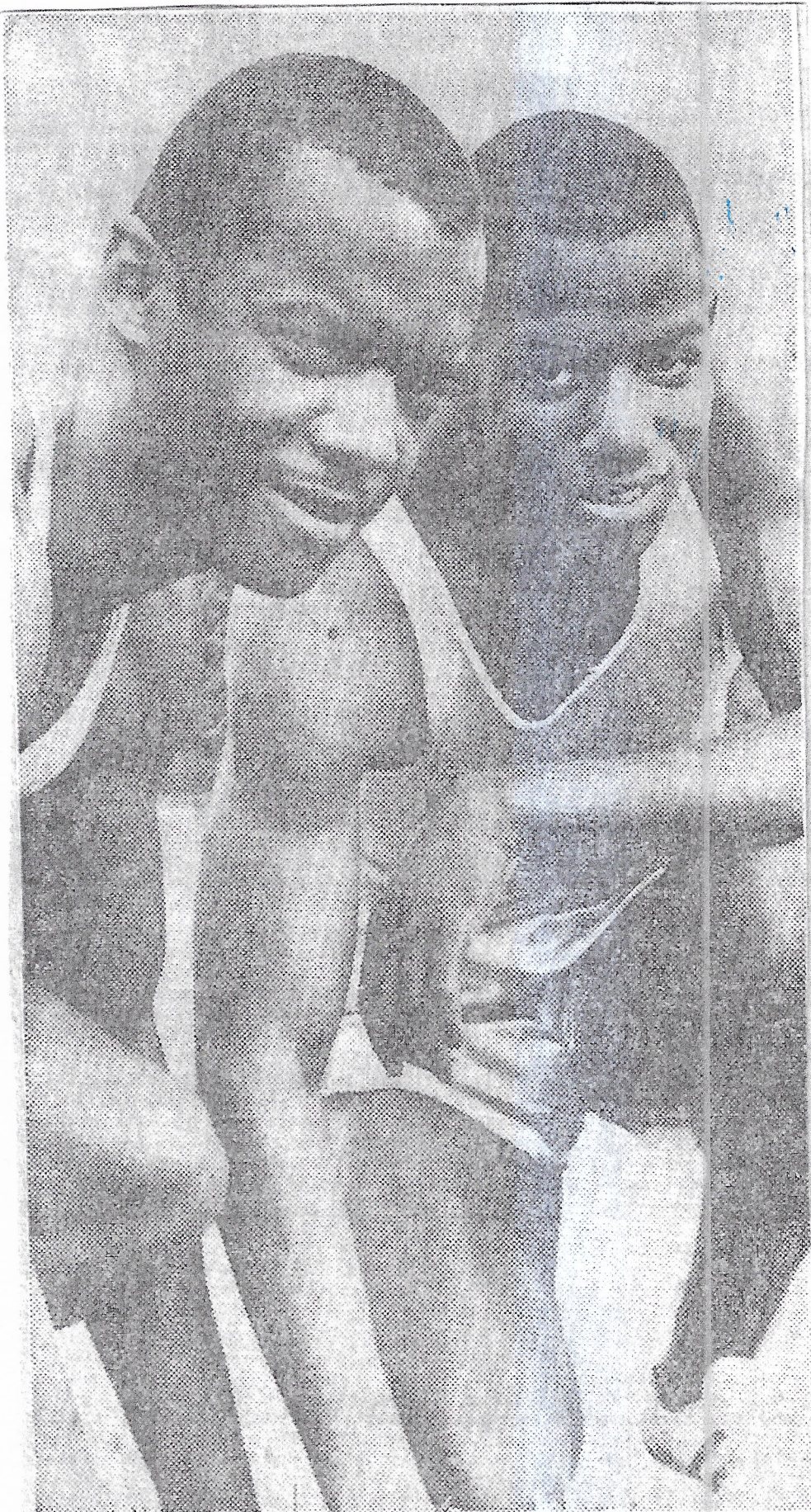
Copeland's talents have interested track coaches at North Carolina College and Michigan University. Handy predicts a bright future for his pupil.

Copeland is built like Handy believes a sprinter should be. "He's lean and about 6-0 or 6-1," the coach said. "He has lean hips and a strong upper body. His calves are not too big—he can pick up his legs and put them down."

Charles Stewart is more the stocky type. "I doubt if he gets much faster," Handy said. But the coach is not going to complain if the youngster next year repeats that 9.7.

Stewart and Copeland both will compete in the Carolinas AAU tomorrow at State College.

By ELDON MILLER



Ligon sprinters Stewart (L), Copeland