

Coach Advocates Divisions in Track

By MARY GARBER
Staff Reporter

GREENSBORO — The split of the state high school track meet into two divisions will boost track in North Carolina, according to Coach Stuart Allen of Charlotte Myers Park. Allen's team has dominated North Carolina high school track for several years.

"The split into two divisions is a move to help track," said Allen yesterday at the North Carolina Coaches clinic here. "It will be an incentive to smaller schools to compete because they will feel their boys have a chance."

Allen said that some smaller schools would not take part in the sectionals because they felt

their boys would not be able to hold their own against track men from the large schools.

Allen feels more must be done to boost North Carolina's track program. He would like to see summer track with communities giving youngsters a chance to compete in track. This would take some financial backing, either from local recreation departments or from some civic groups.

Allen thinks that track men in the community would be glad to work with the boys if they were able to get some financial help.

The Myers Park coach feels that men in the track field must do their part as well.

"We have to have people willing to run off the meets," said Allen. "It's hard on a coach to have to run off the meet. It takes time he should be spending with his boys."

Myers Park was host to the sectional meet this spring and Allen felt it hurt some of his boys.

"We had a heavy rain the day of the meet and the boys had to get out and help get the track in shape," said Allen. "Some of them were so tired after that they couldn't do their best in the meet. David Brantley is an example. He is a high hurdler and good enough to qualify for the state meet, but he was so tired he did not run well."

Allen insisted there was no magic formula to Myers Park's success in track. "We have had two boys that have been dedicated to track and have worked hard," he said.

Charlotte's track program gets a boost through physical education classes which teach the sport and through a junior high school program.

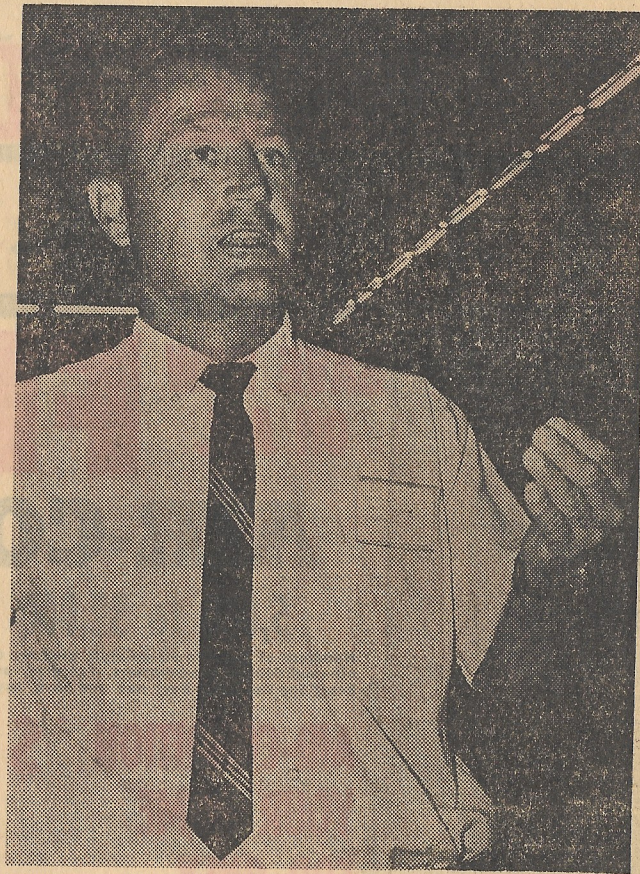
This summer, Charlotte has had a community track team which has competed in eight meets. The boys will go to Jacksonville, Fla., next week to take part in the district Junior Olympics. Allen said the boys have done this on their own, with most of them holding summer jobs and working on their track after hours.

Charlotte does not have a year around program though the boys do run in one indoor meet at Chapel Hill. About 50 per cent of the Myers Park track team plays football. "We have about 15 boys who are track men the year around," said Allen.

Allen went to Emory and Henry on a baseball scholarship and played football and baseball. He is an assistant football coach at Myers Park.

"I'd like to see us give more kids a chance to run in meets," said Allen. "If we could have a heat for 10th graders in each event in each meet it would help. Kids want to take part in the meet. They lose interest when they can't run."

Allen would also like to have an all-weather track in Charlotte. "I like the one at Duke," he said.



Staff Photo by Mary Garber

Stuart Allen explains a point in his lecture at the coaches clinic.

Allen had several of his track stars with him at the clinic yesterday. Jeff Howser, a former state champion in high and low hurdles, will be a sophomore at Duke. Nick Karres, the state discus champion, will attend North Carolina, taking part in football and track. Louis Jewell, state 100 and 220 champion, is going to Johnson C. Smith. Paul Vincent, who won the high hurdles this year, will go to Furman.

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TWIN CITY SENTINEL SPORTS

with

Mary Garber

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In the Right Direction

One day last spring, Bob Sawyer, the track coach at Greensboro Grimsley, sat in Greensboro High School Stadium and talked about North Carolina's high school track program.

Sawyer wanted to see the state's track program built up to where North Carolina youngsters would do better in out-of-state competition. And, he wanted to see some high school in the state challenge Charlotte Myers Park, king of Tar Heel high school track.

"It would help a lot if one school would boost track by having their track coach work with the sport the year around," said Sawyer.

He went on to explain that this would give the coach time to develop youngsters. It would make the young track stars feel that their sport was important.

It all seemed like a dream when Sawyer was talking about it. Bob is the capable coach of Grimsley's conference champion swimming team. There seemed no way to work his schedule so he could devote more time to track.

Bob Jamieson, Greensboro Grimsley's athletic director, worked it out. When Jamieson heard that Bill Webster had given up the Reynolds basketball coaching position, he got in touch with Webster to see if he would be interested in coming to Grimsley as track coach.

Jamieson wanted to try the year-around track program and he felt Webster was the man to do it. Webster had done an excellent job with Reynolds track. He won a state championship and his teams were always contenders.

Yesterday, Webster accepted the job as track coach at Grimsley. It will be a fulltime track coaching position. He will work with the cross country team in the fall, have some sort of winter track and then go into the spring program.

Sawyer will have more time for swimming and when the swimming season is over will be free to help Webster with track.

Under this program, Grimsley could soon be challenging Myers Park.

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Stuart Allen, the track coach at Charlotte Myers Park, thinks track could become a good spectator sport with night meets.

Winston-Salem track coaches have talked a lot about holding the city-county meet at night but nothing has ever been done.

Allen said Charlotte's city meet drew well at night. Allen said that even some of the top track men have trouble getting a place to run.

"When Jim Beatty (a former world record holder in the mile) was trying to get in shape for the Olympic trials, he used to climb the fence at Myers Park to run on our track at night," said Allen. "Of course, when we found out about it, we let him have a key. We couldn't have a former world champion climbing our fence."

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