

# Eagles' Copeland Plays Tune in 100, 220 Time

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DURHAM — Carnegie Hall or the Olympics?

A 9.3 100-yard dash or a piano concerto?

What do track and music have in common? A great deal if you are North Carolina College speedster Charles Copeland.

The ex-Ligon high sprinter is a top performer for the Eagles. A music major

Copeland plays some pretty classy tunes on the cinders.

"If Charles continues his development and desire I'm sure that he'll likely be one of the fine all-time performers we have had at North Carolina College," says Eagles' coach Leroy Walker.

And the Eagles have had such world class competitors as Lee Calhoun, Edwin Roberts, Norman Tate and many more.

"He's ready to join the crowd," Walker said here yesterday during varsity qualifying for the WTVD Track and Field Championships of North Carolina.

"We always knew he could be a fine performer. His main problem was he thought of himself as only a 100-yard dash man.

"He's moved up to the quarter and 220 and he's much stronger."

When told of Walker's compliment, Copeland said, "That's some pretty tough competition. It's really quite an honor. Coach Walker has certainly helped me a great deal and taught me a lot. He can really make you have a lot of desire."

Copeland has run the 100 in 9.5 and a couple of "unofficial" 9.4s. He has a 20.5 in the 220 as a freshman and a 20.6 so far this his junior year.

Copeland played one year of football at Ligon, but broke a finger and "gave up football."

As a freshman at NCC, he set a goal of 20.5 in the 220 and obtained it. "I guess I ran into the sophomore jinx," he says about his next year. "I don't like to remember that."

This year he set his goal as a 20.2 in the 220. "But I don't have too much time left to get it.

He qualified for the 100 and 200 here yesterday, but admitted pain from a pulled muscle suffered in last week's Penn Relays.

"Of all the times to get hurt. I never



SPRINTER CHARLES COPELAND

have been hurt before and when you have a chance to run here at home to be bothered by an injury, it's too much."

The co-captain of the Eagles is also the anchor man on the Eagles' mile relay team which has a 3:09.7 to rank them as one of the best in the land. He has a best quarter mile time of 46.

"I really like the relay events."

A natural question put to athletes is whether they plan to enter the coaching field.

"I'm a music major and I would like to teach music for a couple of years. More than anything I would like to be a composer."

"I'd better not answer that," Copeland said with a grin when asked if he put more time on the track or more time on the piano.

"Yes, he's a music major," said Walker, "and a good one."

They call Bob Hayes "the fastest human in the world."

Charles Copeland may not be the fastest in the world, but he may one day be the fastest composer in the world."

Until that day the symphony he plays on the cinders could be called on overture in 100 and 220 times.