

Skirt-in' Sports

By Mary Garber



New Rule May Be Needed

Most of the rules in the handbook of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association were put there because of something that happened.

A situation arises in a game or playoff series or a coach comes up with something different and there's a protest. If there's a rule to guide him, L. J. (Hap) Perry, executive secretary of the NCHSAA, will act. But sometimes there isn't. When there isn't every one involved has a suggestion of what rule could be made to apply. If nothing fits, it's almost certain a rule will be made at the next meeting of the board of control.

The tangle of the Central 4-A baseball playoffs probably will lead to some sort of regulation.

Three teams — Gray, High Point and Greensboro Grimsley—tied for the Central baseball title. But Grimsley had to play a game on a Monday to finish its regular season and gain the tie.

A playoff was set up to pick the conference winner on the weekend. Such a situation was fine for Gray and High Point. They hadn't played during the week, so they could (under state athletic rules) take part in two conference playoff games, the state playoffs and still be within the limit of three games a week.

But Grimsley's situation was different. After Grimsley played Lexington to tie for the title, the Whirlies couldn't play any more that week.

Some school officials felt that since Grimsley couldn't go all the way if it won the Central title, it shouldn't be permitted to compete in the playoffs. But Perry insisted that he couldn't rule Grimsley out until it violated a rule. It was legal to play three games in a week and he would permit Grimsley to do so. But, if the Whirlies won those three, they couldn't play Rocky Mount.

This put Grimsley in a nice pickle. The Whirlies were knocking themselves out and couldn't win. If they lost, everything was okay. But, if they won, they couldn't play that weekend and all their work would have been for nothing. High Point beat them so it was all right.

Perry ruled the regulation which says a team cannot go into a tournament unless it is eligible to complete it, applies only to basketball. Perhaps this is the answer to avoid future tangles. The same principle should certainly apply to all sports. If it takes a special ruling for each, that's the way it should be.

Perhaps the board of control will look ahead at its June 24 meeting and set up some sort of regulation that will avoid such a situation in the future.



L. J. PERRY

. . . needs rules . . .

Coaches Disappointed in Showing

Winston-Salem and Forsyth County track coaches were disappointed over the showing of their athletes in the state track meet. Stuart Peters, the versatile Reynolds athlete, won second place in the high hurdles for the only Winston-Salem points.

In the past, both Reynolds and North Forsyth have done well, and it could be argued that this was just not our year.

But in the state records, Charlotte holds or has a share in eight of the state's 14 records. Athletes from Charlotte (or Mecklenburg county) hold the discus, shot, high hurdles, 880 relay and mile relay. They share in the 100-yard dash, 880 and low hurdles.

Hendersonville is second in record holding with the 220 and 440 and a share in the 100. But all three of these are by one boy, Carroll Maxwell.

Jacksonville has the state record in the high jump and broad jump. Durham has the mile. New Bern is the record holder in the pole vault.

Greensboro has only a share in the 880.

Winston-Salem has only a share in the low hurdles (Reid Warren in 1962).

Some of the track coaches feel there's not enough emphasis on track here. One weakness, they contend, is poor support of cross country in the fall and this is considered a must in the development of good distance runners.

Track Torn Up During Season

One coach reported work began on his track soon after the season began. This left him with no place to work.

Another problem is the late development of track interest. An example of this is Bob Randall of East Forsyth. Randall, who played football and basketball at East, came out for track for the first time this spring as a senior. He threw the discus 137 feet. Johnny Johnson of Reynolds is another senior first-timer.

The decathlon being held this week is a way of developing interest in track, but only a few boys took part. Here was an opportunity for boys to try a new event.

And the Junior Olympics on Saturday will be another way to boost interest in track.

A few years ago, the Peters Creek Athletic Club offered boys interested in track a chance to work during the summer. But that has died.

These are the sort of programs needed to make track a growing sport in Winston-Salem. We would not want Charlotte to beat us this badly in football or basketball. Why should we be content to let them beat us this way in track?