Why Charlotte Wins

Dear Sir:

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This letter is in reference to the article by Mary Garber regarding the relatively poor showing of Winston-Salem-Forsyth County track and field performers in the recent State High School T&F Championships. I was able to watch this meet and was also struck by the remarkable dominance of Myers Park and the other Charlotte area schools. This was not a new experience for me for I have watched T&F grow in North Carolina over the past eight years, first as a runner at RJR and currently at Duke University. The sport has made

significant gains in both the quality of performances and the quantity of participants, however the Winston-Salem area has not kept pace with the rest of the state.

I feel that there are several reasons for the dominance of the Charlotte schools:

- 1. A winning tradition.
- 2. Good competition within the city on an individual and team basis.
- 3. Coaches who advocate hard, year-round work
  - 4. A junior high track program.
- 5. News coverage and community awareness that places track on an equal basis with the so-called "major sports".

6. A cross-country program in the fall.

So, what can we do? I suggest that those forces in Winston-Salem who are interested in

T&F look to three major areas.

First, see that each of the new, large consolidated high schools in the county have a solid T&F and cross-country program. This will lead to better competition between individuals and teams. This should include a junior high program to spot track talent and create interest prior to the sophomore year in senior high.

Secondly, an attempt should be made to point out the unusual benefits of T&F for physical and emotional development. The fact that T&F can reach a large number of boys with different physical attributes should be emphasized. Many boys who don't have the physical development to be a champion in football or basketball can be a champion in one of the

many, varied events in T&F.

Thirdly, the Peters Creek Athletic Club should be revived during the summer. This club used to be very much alive and active several years ago and was responsible for a number of otherwise average trackmen becoming champions (myself included). This was always a very informal organization, simply composed of boys (junior high, senior high, college and graduates) who enjoyed running and recognized that summer training could be both enjoyable and beneficial.

In conclusion, I challenge the young trackmen of Winston-Salem-Forsyth County to set their goals high — on a state level — to contact each other this summer, band together, train together, have fun doing it, and in the process, seek out the success that is there for

those who are willing to go after it.

—ARTHUR F. JACOBSEN Duke '65

Durham.

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(Letters to the Editor)