

Burke Wins Title For Second Time

By MARY GARBER
Staff Reporter

Greg Burke of North Forsyth won five shot put championships this track season. Burke won the all-Forsyth meet, the Central 4-A Conference, the sectional title, the regional title and the state championship.

But Burke was disappointed in his work this season.

"I had hoped to throw the shot 60 feet," he said. "But my best throw came in the state meet and it was 55 feet, 9½ inches. I just didn't improve as much as I had hoped to do this year."

Though the big man from North might not have hit the 60 feet he wanted, he still has an impressive history in track.

He won the conference title his junior and senior years. He won the sectionals two years straight. And, the only reason he did not win the regionals twice in a row is that this is the only year that event was held.

Burke Keeps Winning

Most athletes would settle for one state title. Burke won two straight. Jim Wilkins in the mile and Carlester Crumpler in the high hurdles were the only other state champion repeaters.

In addition to his high school work, Burke won the state title in the Junior Olympics shot last year. He went on to win the regional title at Knoxville and competed in the national finals at San Diego, Calif.

Burke had a good time at the national meet but he said with a smile that "I didn't throw too well."

Leaves Football Practice

One reason may have been because Burke had to leave North Forsyth's football practice to travel to California.

"I didn't get much chance to work on my shot," he said.

Burke started with the shot as a ninth grader.

"But I didn't really work seriously at it until I was in the 10th grade," said Burke. "I wanted to do something in the spring. I couldn't play baseball. And I certainly wasn't going to do much running. So, I went to the shot and discus."

Burke took third in the conference as a sophomore.

There must be something



Staff Photo

Greg Burke, state shot putt champion, studies the Track and Field Guide.

about state meet competition that inspires Burke.

He threw the shot 54 feet, 10 inches in 1969 when he won the state title.

"That was three feet further than I had ever done," he said.

And this year, his 55 feet, 9½ inches was his best showing of the season.

Burke is a three-letterman at North. He played tackle and center for the football team. He played center on the basketball team and threw the shot and discus in track.

His basketball play kept him from taking part in indoor track.

"I wanted to go to a meet at North Carolina this winter," said Burke. "But I understand that you can't play for another team when you're on a high school team. And I was afraid that competing in the track meet might hurt my basketball. Anyhow Coach (Gray) Cartwright didn't want me to go."

Burke may go to Atlanta, Ga. next month to compete in the Southeastern AAU.

He plans to go to East Carolina next fall where he

will play football and compete in track.

"I hope I can get a chance to do some indoor track, since I won't be playing basketball at East Carolina," said Burke. "I will be working on a weight program there. And this should help me, too. I haven't been on a strict weight program before."

Burke will play with the North team in the North-South Boys' Home game to be held at Greenville on Aug. 1.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Burke. "It will give me a chance to find what it is like to be at East Carolina."

Burke said that Coach Scott Brent and Coach Jon Omdahl of North had helped him with the shot.

"And I watched Mike Stafford (former city champion from Reynolds) a lot. He has perfect form," said Burke.

Burke plans to compete in the decathlon to be held at North Wednesday and Thursday.

"I'm not too good at some of the events," he said, "but it's going to be fun."