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Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey  
National Junior Champion Track & Field Meet  
St. Paul, Minn.  
Aug. 8, 1964  
Statement Officially Opening Meet

*Read over phone Aug 6.*

It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to open the National Junior Champion Track and Field Meet and to welcome some of the nation's finest young competitors to my home state. I also am delighted to have an opportunity to say a few words to a group of young people . . . and to you who are coaches or Jaycees or parents or are interested in any way in the welfare of our young people.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these young athletes on their willingness to strive for excellence. These young competitors, and all young people, should be encouraged to reach--then to maintain themselves--at the highest level of physical proficiency they can attain.

Stressing physical fitness means that we need more than fine varsity athletes. More important we need to have a whole youth population which enjoys physical achievement in individual and group sports.

The joy of achievement, of cracking one's own former record, the thrill of winning fairly and squarely, or if losing, to do so with honor and no regrets. That is what we want and need. We need a Nation that is tough, but in the finest sense of that word. Tough--not in the sense of cruelty or callousness--but tough in that we do not cringe before test, challenge or adversity.

President Johnson has expressed a keen interest in the long-range aspects of sports and physical fitness. He wants the best possible American participation in international athletics. He is enthusiastic about the tradition of vigorous sports competition so well advanced by the late President John F. Kennedy.

I have been happy to be identified with this national effort to encourage physical fitness . . . I hope all of you share our hope that physical fitness can be accepted as one of our national goals . . . and that we can all work together to achieve it.      Thank you.

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(To be telephoned to Radio Station KDWA, Hastings, Minn., where it will be taped for use at the meet).

Bob:

Several days ago you got a message long distance from a Patrick Hogan, St. Paul Junior Chamber of Commerce in re a telegram or a tape recording from the Senator to 400 young boys (ages 13-15) from 30 states meeting for the National Junior Champ Track and Field Meet. He wanted the message to be so worded that the Senator would be declaring the Meet officially open.

The affairs is sponsored by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The opening ceremonies will take place in St. Paul on Saturday morning but Mr. Hogan would like the message today (Thursday) since he is taping all of the material for re-broadcast at the time of opening.

The message can be sent to him in care of Radio Station KDWA, Hastings, Minnesota.

He called again at 12:30 today. I made the usual remarks of pressing business and delay.

Thelma



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