

September 6, 2002

TO: The CNU Community

FROM: Paul Tribble

RE: \$1 Million Gift to CNU and Naming of the POMOCO Stadium

Many thanks to all the students, faculty and staff that gathered on the football field this morning for a special announcement.

Today is another great day in the life of Christopher Newport University. One of America's finest and most successful companies, POMOCO, has made a major financial commitment to one of America's finest and most successful Universities - CNU.

The people at POMOCO are leaders in the automobile business and they are leaders in our community, Commonwealth and the world. No corporation has a greater social conscience or a bigger heart. Indeed, at this very hour the founder and Chairman of POMOCO, Dois Rosser, POMOCO's Group Vice President Bill Hayes and my wife Rosemary are in Cuba building churches.

Our friends at POMOCO want to encourage the success of our students and POMOCO's \$1 million gift will enhance their academic and athletic lives.

More than half of these monies will go toward academic purposes. At CNU the word student comes before athlete. We expect our student-athletes to excel in the classroom and they do. Our student-athletes have a higher graduation rate than the graduation rate of our entire student body.

The balance of the POMOCO monies will allow us to move forward immediately at the end of this football season to complete phase 2 of our stadium project.

The Stadium will be enveloped with CNU red brick, two five-story towers will be built to house a modern press box and hospitality room and concession and rest rooms will be developed in spaces under the stadium.

This facility will soon become the finest Division III track and football stadium in Virginia and one of the most outstanding and beautiful sporting venues in the entire country.

And that is most appropriate because we have the most outstanding coaches and student athletes and they deserve the best. Over the years Head Coach Vince Brown and his fellow coaches and student-athletes have built the most successful track program in America -- 12 National championships and 420 All Americans.

And Matt Kelchner and his coaches and players have celebrated the most successful start of any football program in America. This weekend we will win at Salisbury and over the next few years we will quickly become a respected and feared national football power.

None of this would have occurred without the inspired leadership of America's finest basketball coach and Athletic Director, CJ Woollum.

We are grateful to POMOCO for this very generous investment in the success of our students and in recognition of this gift, we have today named our track and football facility the POMOCO Stadium.