1975-76 MEAC BASKETBALL REVIEW

Aggie Born ....

Aggie Bred ....

When I Die

I'll Be Aggie DEAD!!
Cheerleaders Discuss Tourney

By Blannie E. Bowen

As co-captains of this year's cheering squad, Reba Green and Cheryl Robinson differ in their opinions about teams, coaches and players in the MEAC, but their views share similar views of the upcoming tournament.

"I don't really care who comes in second or third as long as we are number one," Reba replied prior to a cheering squad workout. "I admit that A&T has a good chance, but it is going to require a lot of dedication and hard work," Cheryl remarked in a tone similar to that of coach Warren Reynolds would use.

Reba said Morgan, Howard and Delaware should be the second, third and fourth best teams; but Cheryl favors Morgan, South Carolina, and Howard to be the top three contenders for the title after A&T.

As the senior member of the cheering squad, Reba and Cheryl have traveled to all of the MEAC schools and have term some of the best basketball in the country.

Both agree that Eric "Pencil" Evans of Morgan is the best player who has competed against the Aggies this season. They agree that students should display banners, posters and any other items to create more school spirit just as the cheers should do.

Cheryl goes further by explaining that Aggies should throw parties because the tournament is "gonna be a big thing especially for people in North Carolina. The coliseum is gonna be packed."

As far as individual players are concerned, the two cheerleaders said they don't have any individual star on the Aggies, team because they cannot place one player over the other.

A graduate of Champaign Central High School in Illinois, Reba is a clothing and textiles major who has plans of entering the fashion business and working at the management level. She plans someday to own a fashion store.

Cheryl graduated from Greensboro's Dudley Senior High School. She is a physical education major and has plans of traveling and working at her hobby, modern dancing in her future studio.

These two careers should be easily attainable because Cheryl and Reba are accustomed to sacrificing time and energy. The cheering squad practices two hours per day for five days a week, in addition to the regular games.

Although they lead cheer for basketball as well as football, the superlatives surrounding the coaching accomplishments of Reynolds are nearly unending. Above all his ability to communicate with his players is his greatest asset.

His whirlwind attack is one of the most imaginative in basketball. He has the ability to take players of contrasting personalities and playing style and devise methods to make use of each man's strong point.

The Aggies like to run, but over the years defense has played a big part in the team's success. "It's the only way to offset teams with similar height, experience, ability, speed and ballhandling," Reynolds asserted.

The essence of his winning formula is a combination of discipline and thoroughness. And this year he will be out to attain even higher goals for the university.

Win

Aggies

In three seasons as head basketball coach at North Carolina A&T State University, Warren Reynolds' teams have captured two Mid Eastern Athletic Conference championships.

The 1974-75 team was Reynolds' best as the team captured the Visitation and Tournament Championships finishing with an overall 18-7 record. Reynolds was honored by his peers as the "Coach of the Year" and was also awarded "Top Tournament Coach."

Reynolds possesses one of the finest basketball minds in college coaching and as a result he spent much of his off season time lecturing to basketball's future superstars.

In convincing style, Reynolds has clearly answered the challenge since taking over as head coach at North Carolina A&T State University four years ago. His overall record at A&T is 67-32.

Reynolds came to the Aggies with one of the most impressive records of any coach to come out of the state of Georgia as he led Ballard-Hudson High of Macon to a 57-14 record. He continued his winning ways during his first season at the Aggie helm as he guided the team to its second straight Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Basketball Championship.

During that same term Reynolds was awarded by both agree that football is easier to cheer for despite the cold weather and "the itches from the grass."

They remarked that basketball is more difficult because "somebody is watching every move you make and every mistake, too." Also, Cheryl says Howard's cheerleaders provide the keenest competition among the MEAC cheering squads.

She said, "Our squad is like a close-knit family because we travel together, live together, stick together, and sometimes act like big sisters to the basketball players."

Reba and Cheryl remarked that their job is made easier by the pep band, individual clubs, Thomas Byrum (A&T's trainer), Coach Reynolds, and students who love to cheer when the Aggies are behind.

Cheryl said she spends her free time as a life guard, meeting people, interior decorating and sewing. Reba mentioned shyly that she is a member of the Home Economics Club, Alpha Chi Honor Society, Who's Who and Miss A&T's senior attendant.

Both became Aggies because of family members who were Aggies. Cheryl has two brothers; Reba is an only child but these two said they love A&T tremendously because "it can make or break you."

"People in Baltimore don't show for Tournaments, but A&T is going to make the MEAC," Cheryl concluded.

The Aggie co-captains think that A&T will be the team to beat because they cannot place one player over the other.

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Al Carter's first year as an assistant coach proved to be a valuable learning experience as the young Aggie mentor was a vital part of the A&T championship drive.

Besides his coaching duties, Carter is responsible for scouting and recruiting, two very important jobs in a successful program.

Carter, a 1973 graduate of North Carolina A&T, will assume the assistant coach responsibility for the Aggies this fall.

Carter was a former cage standout for the Aggies, and was a vital cog on the Aggies' two MEAC championship teams.

After graduation Carter taught in the Fairfax (Va.) School system and also was an assistant varsity basketball coach.

"My biggest attribute to the team will be my overall knowledge of the system and our personnel," said Carter, who played on Coach Reynolds' 1972-73 championship team.

Carter is married to the former Patsy Johnson. They have a two-year-old daughter La Tonya.
MEAC Analysis Indicates Morgan State As Favorite

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY BEARS

Morgan State has been the real surprise of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference this season as the Bears stayed at the top of the league for most of the 1975-76 basketball campaign.

Coach Nat Frazier has been one of the most successful coaches in both recruiting and winning programs. The 1974 coach of the year and now a wealth of talent heading into this year’s tourney.

Eric Evans, a 6-9 forward from Clinton, is one of the conference’s top candidates for player of the year honors. Evans is averaging nearly twenty points and eleven rebounds per game.

Ivan Young (6-7) and Arthur Solomon (6-10) provide plenty of height and beard strength for Morgan’s strong inside attack.

The Bears are basically a control tempo squad and the weight of control falls to Billy Newton (6-11).

Newton, a member of Morgan’s 1973-74 NCAA Division II championship team, is a terrific penetrator and adept outside shooter.

His running mate is Barry Sharpton (6-3) who is known for his outstanding one-on-one moves to the basket. Maurice Jeffers (6-7) is in fact the Bears top defensive player although the Maryland native does not receive many headlines.

This is a fact that the departure of Marvin Webster has done nothing but improve Morgan State’s basketball hopes for this year.

Barry Sharpton, a physical Bear squad has already established itself as one of two teams to beat in the tournament. Barring an upset the Bears should make it through Saturday night’s finals.

Vadney Cotton, Angelo Council and Gerald Glover are three returning players with loads of talent and enthusiasm. Cotton achieved All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference status during the 1974-75 season. A 6-4, 210-pound forward, and in his senior year, Vadney is Howard’s All-America candidate. He averaged 17 points and eight rebounds per game.

Junior Angela Council is expected to provide the starting point guard. Mcclehan averaged 26-point performance against S.C. State and seven points and six assists against N.C. A&T despite playing irregular spells at a time.

Billy Newton
Barry Sharpton
Arthur Solomon
Eric Evans
Ivan Young
Jimmy Gorman
Anthony Young
Donnell Davis
Tim Frazier
Guillermo Moreno
Gerry Guinn
Cordell Jackson

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE BULLDOGS

South Carolina State College was expected to improve on last season’s 15-11 overall mark and a 7-5 slate in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) with the return of all five starters and 13 letter winners.

The five returning starters are led by a trio of all-conference performers, 6-0 Harry Nickens, 6-5 senior Alex Barron and 6-8 sophomore Carl Green.

Nickens, as a freshman, led the Bulldogs and the MEAC in scoring last season with a 21.2 mark while Barron chipped in over 17 points per outing and grabbed 11.1 rebounds, second only to Green’s team-leading 12.1.

The Bulldogs were expected to challenge defending champion North Carolina A&T for the top spot this season.

Quincy Marshall
Michael Nettes
Vadney Cotton
Jeffery Taylor
John Mullen
Tony Bates
Ron Parker
David Whitehead
Angelo Council
Ellsworth Hart
Gerald Glover
Tyronne Hart
Robert Moultrie

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY EAGLES

DURHAM..Three Durhamites are expected to lead second year coach Stan M. Holt’s NCCU Eagles to their most successful campaign in recent seasons. The trio of sophomore center Timothy Melver (6-8), junior forward Floyd Monroe (6-8) and freshman guard John Harrell (6-4), all of Hillside, is expected to be joined in the starting lineup by freshman Robert McClehan (6-6) and sophomore guard Stanley Melvin to form a talented but unexperienced unit.

These five players will join 11 other aspirants in helping to mold the Eagles into a contender for the MEAC crown. Monroe, a 6-8 jumping jack, is expected to provide consistent scoring and rebounding punch along with newcomer Robert McClellan. McClellan averaged 26 points and 15 rebounds last year at New Bern High.

McLeroy, in his only second year of organized ball, in vastly improved amid is expected to carry the heavy load in the middle. He shot 52.7% from the floor last year while seeing limited duty.

Harrell, a sensational all-around player, averaged 17 points for the Hornets of Hillside last year. He along with Melvin, the only returning starter from last year’s 10-16 squad, should provide a devastating backcourt, but averaging 97 points per game while hitting 49.5% of his shots.

Center backing up Melver will be 6-10 David Fitts, a junior from Weldon, and 6-8 David Caldwell of Chapel Hill. Pushing Harrell and Stanley Melvin for the starting guard slots will be sophomores Glen McCray of White Plains, Robert Lee of Mt. Vernon High, Stuart Mebahn of Goldsboro, and freshman James King of Kinston.
North Carolina A & T State
All-America Candidate
Ron Johnson

6'-7"
Senior Forward

'SUPERMAN', as he is called by players and coaches around the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, is one of the most exciting performers in college basketball today.

Johnson has exceptional quickness and at times he plays the point position on the feared Aggie press. An ALL-MEAC and ALL-TOURNAMENT selection last season, Johnson is one of the primary reasons North Carolina A&T reigns as the Champions of the MEAC.

Johnson is a native of Chester, Pa. and served as Co-Captain of the 1974-75 championship team.
The Sparrow family and friends

James Sparrow Visits Family

By Steven Sims and Craig Turner

Newark International Airport was a scene that could have easily been mistaken for a Hollywood movie script. The setting was a busy air terminal in which a young man was reunited with his family.

The young man was James Sparrow, the number one basketball star for A&T. He has probably received more than his share of honors and accolades in his still early athletic career.

But Sparrow could find very few moments in life that could match Saturday's family reunion.

"It's the biggest thrill I've had in the whole year," I really didn't expect to see anyone of them here," shouted Sparrow, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. Sparrow's mother later allowed for an interview with these reporters, after the festivities.

"I'm really thrilled to see James like this, especially since he had to miss the Christmas holidays. It was like a second homecoming for all of us," she explained.

Alonzo Sparrow was quick to answer questions about his son's successful career at A&T and how it had affected the family. "We don't have a lot of money, but we do have harmony. The whole family has been behind him ever since he started playing at A&T. I can honestly say none of the publicity has changed him in any way," she remarked.

Pressure has been growing for Sparrow since his incredible showings during the A&T Holiday Classic. Some of that same pressure is being applied to his family as well.

"As a family group, we often times get together and suggest what we as a family should do. James gets a lot of help from his younger brother (Alonzo) as well."

Alonzo Sparrow is the younger brother of James and presently an outstanding backcourt performer at Laurinburg Institute which produced the older Sparrow.

Sparrow is often looked upon by some of his team mates for leadership, a quality he showed during his freshman year at A&T.

"He's always been a father type person. Since his father died when he was four, James has always been the man of the house," replied Mrs. Sparrow.

"He took the responsibility for all of us. James is so serious minded and concerned I worry about his overdoing for us," she explained.

If there has been a key for success, all of the Sparrows agreed that they attribute their good fortune to their mother.

"I guess I am responsible for being overprotective. I had to portray a mother as I father in the kids. I told them there were things they couldn't do and they would have to decide for themselves," Mrs. Sparrow characterized her son's decision and aspirations as a never-ending process of hustle.

"You simply have to take the good with the bad. James tries so hard he scares me sometimes. But to hold him back would be like shattering all of his dreams. To dream and not to do anything with the dream isn't to have a dream at all.

"Often times the public wonders why a talent such as Sparrow decided to pass larger institutions for a predominantly Black University such as A&T. Mrs Sparrow explained her son's decision in detail.

"His father (James Sparrow, Sr.) had played pro ball in the old Negro leagues with the New York Clowns. Although he never really knew his father, it set his attitude about a lot of things," she said.

The staff for this special insert: Blaimee Brown, Patricia Everett, Michael Hefley, Benjamin Forbes, Bill Lawson, Steven Sims, Daryl Smith, Lynelle Stevenson, Craig R. Turner, Lance Vanlandingham, and John E. Williams.

A special thanks to Mr. Joseph Foust III.
Hornet Coach Mitchell Faces Rebuilding Year
DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE HORNETS

Without last year’s basketball stars, guard Sam Shepard and center James Roundtree, Hornet Head Coach Ira Mitchell faces a modest rebuilding year. Shepard and Roundtree both played summer basketball in Venezuela. Shepard set a points in one game; and Roundtree, the league’s leading rebounder, was named the league’s most valuable player.

Mitchell has three other lettermen returning. Last year’s lettermen returning. Last year’s experience.

Leroy Miles is a 6-4 New York, NY; Donald Aaron is a 6-1, 191-pound sophomore from Brooklyn, NY; and Roger Sawyer is a 6-4, 190-pound sophomore from Philadelphia, PA.

The A&T Pep Band plays a key role in preparing the Aggie “Hoopsters” mentally for a ball game.

By Blannie E. Bowen

Morgan State Wins ‘Flip’ For First MEAC Round

Morgan State University won a coin flip over Delaware State for the top seeding and a first round bye in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference basketball tournament which gets under way here Thursday afternoon.

The Bears, coached by Nat Frazier and the Aggies, coached by Warren Reynolds, had finished the regular season deadlocked at 11-1. The two teams split a pair of games during the regular season. A&T will open tournament play Thursday at 9 p.m. against the seventh seeded team, Maryland Eastern Shore.

The tournament will include two games on Friday night at 7 and 9 p.m., and the consolation game and the final on Saturday night. A&T has won the MEAC tournament three times during its history under Mitchell. The Aggies defeated the Bears in the finals last year at Baltimore, Md.
James Sparrow was selected as a first team All-Conference guard in this year's balloting.

Ron Johnson (30) fouls a hook shot over Morgan State's Eric Evans (30).

Ron Johnson will play a vital role in A&T's quest for its fourth MEAC title.

Coach Warren Reynolds points out his defensive alignments to 6-10 center, Sinclair Colbert.

Forward L.J. Pipkin (32) pops a short jumper over S.C. State during a key MEAC battle.
North Carolina A & T State
All-America Candidate
James Sparrow

Sophomore
6'-6", 185 lbs.
Guard

Sparrow, a native of Brooklyn, N. Y., entered A&T with all the fanfare having broken Charlie Scott's scoring records at Larinburg (N.C.) Institute. He continued his pace as he broke the A&T freshman record by scoring 394 points for an average of 15.9 ppg.

Named to the second team ALL-MEAC squad last season, Sparrow is too quick for a forward to handle one-to-one and just too big for a guard to check.

"He's a coach's dream. He's unselfish, has a great attitude, and has all the tools to be a great one," said A&T Head Coach Warren Reynolds.