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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 they share similar views of the upcoming tournament.

"I don't really care who comes in second or third so long as we are number one," Reba replied prior to a cheering squad work-out.

"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 that Coach Warren Reynolds would use.

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

As the senior members of the cheering squad, Reba and Cheryl have traveled to all of the MEAC schools and have seen 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 stars on the Aggie 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 cheers for basketball as well as football.

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 Bynum (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 as well as 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.

his peers with the Visitation Coach Award.

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.

* * *

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's two MEAC championship teams.

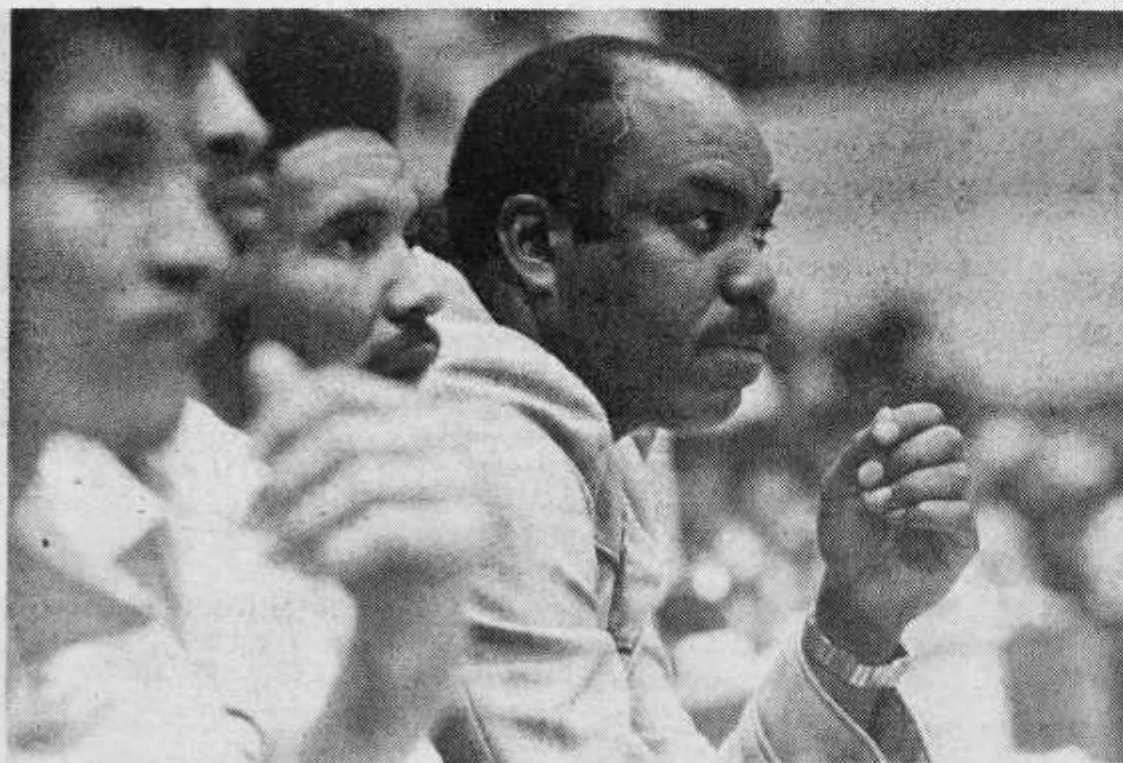
After graduation Carter taught in the Fairfax (Va.) School system and also was an assistant varsity basketball coach.

"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.



Cheryl Robinson and Reba Green



Head Coach Warren Reynolds and assistant Al Carter watch the Aggies with concern.

Coaches Help In Production Of 'Superstars'

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 tournament Reynolds was awarded by

Win

Aggies

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 mentors in both recruiting and winning programs. The 1974 coach of the year readies a wealth of talent heading into this week's tourney.

Eric Evans, a 6-9 forward from Clinton, rates as 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 board strength in Morgan's strong inside attack.

The Bears are basically a control tempo squad and the weight of control falls to Billy

Newton (6-1).

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 Scroggins (6-1) who is known for his outstanding one-on-one moves to the basket. Maurice Jennings (6-3) is by far the Bears' top defensive player although the Maryland native does not receive many headlines.

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

The big, talented, and 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.

Billy Newton	G	4	6-1	Elmsford, NY
Barry Scroggins	G	4	6-1	Baltimore, MD
Arthur Solomon	C	4	6-10	St. Thomas, VI
Eric Evans	C	2	6-10	Clinton, NC
Ivan Young	F	4	6-7	Rooklyn, NY
Jimmy Gorman	F	2	6-4	Severna Park, MD
Anthony Young	F	1	6-6	New York, NY
Darrel Davis	F	1	6-2	Grambling, LA
Tim Frazier	G	1	6-0	Savannah, GA
Guillermo Moreno	G	3	6-1	Republic of Columbia
Gerry Gnatt	F	2	6-5	Washington, DC
Cordell Jackson	G	1	6-0	Fallston, MD

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 lettermen.

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 retrieves.

Rounding out the fivesome will be 6-5 Marvin Fields (9.0)

and 5-11 Vince Sanders (6.7).

Third-year head coach Tim Autry will also have eight reserves, all lettermen, back led by 6-4 swingman Ronnie Henderson, 6-5 Willie Brown and 6-6 Steve Singletary.

Expected to bolster the Bulldogs' frontcourt are two 6-10 prospects, Ernie Branch of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Carl Graham of McColl, S.C., along with another Brooklyn native, 6-8 Larry Johnson.

S.C. State's 7-5 finish in the MEAC, good for the third place, was its best league finish since the conference was formed five years ago. The Bulldogs were expected to challenge defending champion North Carolina A&T for the top spot this season.

Gerald Henderson	G	2	6-3	Groton, CT
Ronnie Henderson	F	4	6-4	Spartanburg, SC
Harry Nickens	G	2	6-1	Washington, DC
Larry Davis	G	2	6-0	Chesterfield, SC
Vincent Sanders	G	3	6-0	Spartanburg, SC
Bruce Beasley	G	2	6-0	Beaufort, SC
James Cunningham	F	3	6-8	Spartanburg, SC
Alex Barron	F	4	6-5	Charleston, SC
Floyd Evans	G	3	6-3	Wilmington, DEL
Carl Green	C-F	2	6-8	Charleston, SC
Marvin Fields	F	4	6-5	Charleston, SC
Steve Singletary	F	4	6-6	Orangeburg, SC
Larry Johnson	F	1	6-6½	Brooklyn, NY
Carl Graham	C	1	6-10	McColl, SC
Willie Brown	F	3	6-6	Flint, Mich.
Ernest Branch	C	3	6-10	Brooklyn, NY

HOWARD UNIVERSITY BISON

Vadnay 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 6-6, 210lb. forward, and in his senior year, Vadnay is Howard's All-America candidate. He averaged 17 points and eight rebounds per game.

Junior Angelo Council is expected to provide the shining star Howard needs at guard. A second-team All-MEAC member, those who watched Council at his best last season know that his middle name is "potential." Nine points per game wasn't an impressive average, but one became impressed during the MEAC Tournament with his 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.

Sophomore Gerald Glover, 6-5, 180, made the All-MEAC second team at forward as a freshman last season. An Atlanta, Ga., native, Glover averaged 14 points per game and led the team in rebounding.

Despite a tardy start, Coach A.B. Williamson had a little success in his recruiting efforts. He signed Howard's largest basketball player ever, 6-9, 230 pound John Mullen. Mullen averaged 25 points and 22 rebounds per game at South Akron High School (Ohio), earning a first team berth on the all-state team.

All-Nebraska junior college pick Ron Parker is billed as an exciting star. The 6-1, 165 pound guard averaged 16 points and six rebounds, and was second on his Southeast Community College team in assists.

Quincy Marshall	G	3	6-0	Philadelphia, PA
Michael Nettles	F	2	6-7	Los Angeles, CA
Vadnay Cotton	F	4	6-6½	Chapel Hill, NC
Jeffrey Taylor	F	4	6-5	Baltimore, MD
John Mullen	C	1	6-9	Akron, Ohio
Tony Bates	G	1	6-3	Akron, Ohio
Ron Parker	G	3	6-1	Fairbury, Neb.
David Whitehead	G	1	6-4½	Shreveport, LA
Angelo Council	G	3	6-2	Washington, DC
Ellsworth Hart	G	3	6-1	Washington, DC
Gerald Glover	F	2	6-6	Atlanta, GA
Tyrone Hart	G	3	6-0	Willingboro, NJ
Robert Moultry	F	3	6-5	Winston-Salem, NC

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY EAGLES

DURHAM.—Three Durhamites are expected to lead second year coach Sterlin M. Holt's NCCU Eagles to their most successful campaign in recent seasons. The trio of sophomore center Timothy McIver (6-8), junior forward Floyd Monroe (6-8) and freshman guard John Harrell (6-1), all of Hillside, is expected to be joined in the starting lineup by freshman Robert McClellan (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.

McIver, in only his second

year of organized ball, is vastly improved and 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 ballplayer, 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. Melvin averaged 9.7 points per game while hitting 49.5% of his shots.

Centers backing up McIver 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 Melvin of Goldsboro, and freshman James King of Kinston.

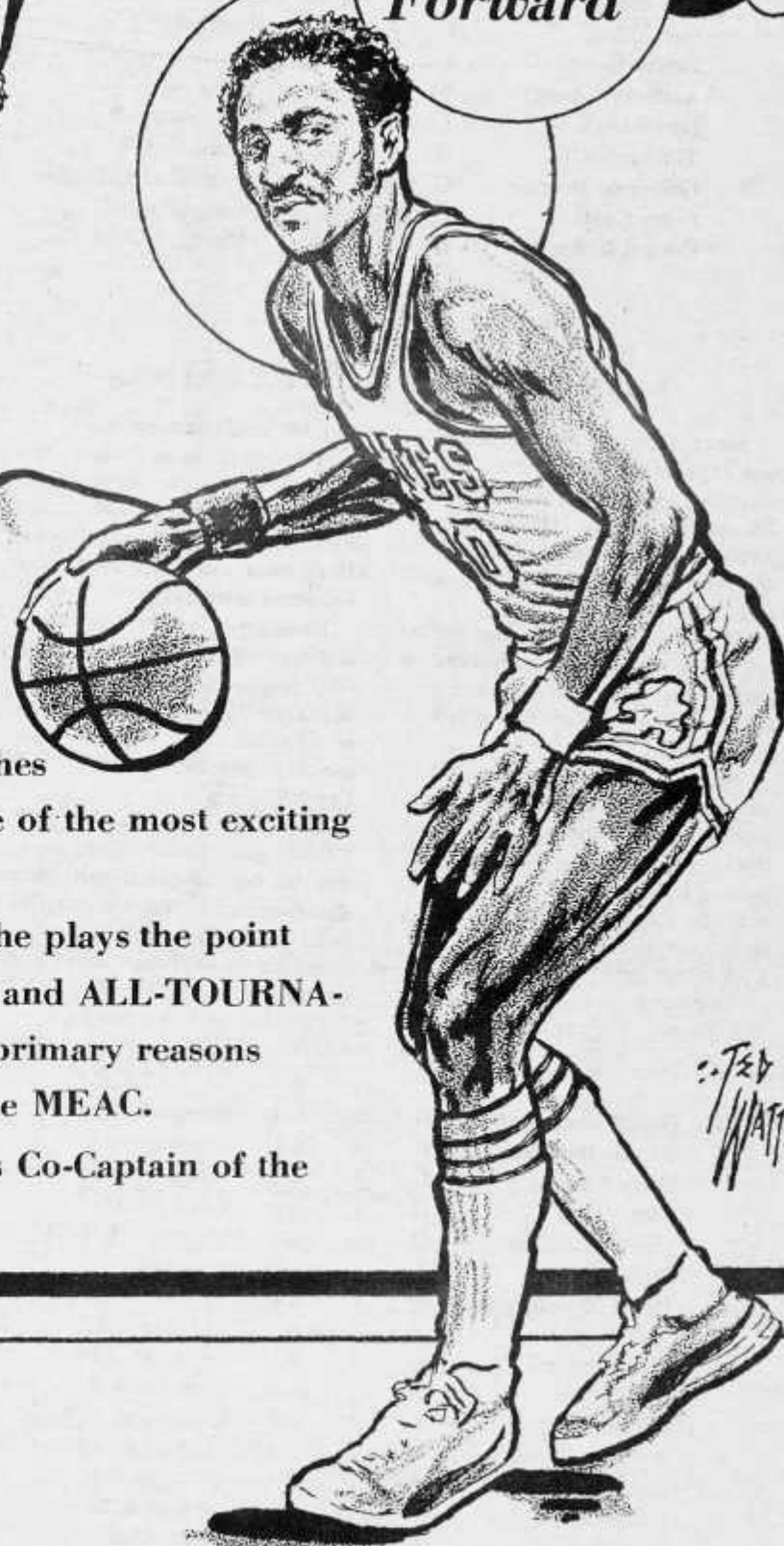
Stanley Melvin	G	2	6-4	Goldsboro, NC
John Harrell	G	1	6-1	Durham, NC
James King	G	1	5-9	Kinston, NC
Robert McClellan	F	1	6-6	New Bern, NC
Glenn McCray	G	2	6-4	White Plains, NY
Glendale Bass	F	1	6-5	Durham, NC
Tony Swann	F	1	6-4	Mebane, NC
David Fitts	C-F	3	6-10	Weldon, NC
David Caldwell	C	4	6-8	Chapel Hill, NC
Edward Roper	F	1	6-6	Charlotte, NC
Vincent Pledger	F	1	6-6	Winston-Salem, NC
Floyd Monroe	F	3	6-8	Durham, NC
Timothy McIver	C	2	6-8	Durham, NC
Ronald Broadhurst	C	1	6-9	Goldsboro, NC
Robert Lee	G	2	6-3	Durham, NC
Stuart	G	2	6-4	Goldsboro, NC

*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 6-6 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 the whole year. I really didn't expect to see any 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.

Mrs. Sparrow was quick to answer questions about her son's successful career at A&T and how it had affected the Sparrow household.

"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 Aggie 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

is presently an outstanding backcourt performer at Lauringburg 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 fatherly 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 and father to the kids. I told them there were things I couldn't do and they would have to decide for themselves."

Mrs. Sparrow characterized her son's desire 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 is not to have dreamed at all."

Often times the public wonders why a talent such as Sparrow decided to by 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 league with the New York Clowns. Although he never really knew his father, it set his attitude about a lot of things," she said.

"He started playing in high school on Staten Island. It was Alex McGeeth that introduced James to Lauringburg through some other persons. He didn't want to go to a white school and that left a lot of doors open."

Mrs. Sparrow has been pleased with her son's decision to attend A&T. "I had asked him directly what he thought about A&T and its people. He told me that he had fallen in love with the place and that everyone was super. From that I could feel he was in good hands," she said.

"I have never seen anyone take on to someone like James has to Coach Warren Reynolds. He really loves that man."

It was a rare occasion indeed in Newark this past weekend.

The Pencil Proves To Be Important To Morgan Offensive Threat

by Joe McIver, SID Morgan State
When Morgan State University's Basketball team comes to Greensboro for the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Tournament (MEAC), it will be homecoming for Morgan's leading scorer and rebounder, Eric (The Pencil) Evans. Eric, who prepped at nearby Clinton, is averaging a neat 20 points, 13 rebounds and five block shots per game.

Evans credits most of his success to Coach Nat Frazier and being able to play a year with Marvin (Human Eraser) Webster. Coach Frazier has given Eric the incentive to become a well-balanced ball player and has instilled the defensive fundamentals that are needed to become a great player. Webster helped Evans by showing him what a big man can do in the game of basketball.

"Everyone wrote Morgan off after Marvin left. They said that Morgan was a one-man team and without Webster we'll be just an average ball club" commented Evans. "But we're showing everyone that this is a team effort and we play team basketball." This is proven as Morgan ranks sixth in team defensive in the nation.

The 6'9" sophomore's statistics are a little misleading because Evans is only averaging 27.5 minutes per game. "Playing on a team like Morgan's where everyone gets a chance to play, you must stay on your toes. There is always someone on the bench wanting your starting position; and, if he shows he can handle it, Coach Frazier will not hesitate to put him in there," said Evans.

Evans started the season in top fashion as he won MEAC Player-of-the-Week three times in a row. He is no surprise to Coach Nat Frazier, who recruited him from Clinton High School. "We have always felt that Eric had

the ability to take up the slack left by Marvin," said Coach Frazier, after Evans scored 30 points, 13 rebounds, and eight block shots on C.W. Post in New York.

"The Pencil or Scooba," as he is called by his teammates, got his name when he decided to go swimming after basketball practice last year, and caught a cramp while jumping into ten feet of water. "After he didn't come up for awhile, we got worried and brought the pole out and pulled him up," said Billy Newton, captain of the Morgan hoop team. After that we all decided to call him "Scooba" and the name stuck. Known as an excellent shooter, Morgan fans shout "Scoo-o-ooba" as Evans' twenty-foot jumpers burn the nets or as he swaps away an opponent's shot out of the air.

Next year people will not write Morgan off as fast because The Eraser is gone, but The Pencil is still here.



Eric Evans

The staff for this special insert: Blannie Bowen, Patricia Everett, Michael Hailey, 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 Faust III

NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL ROSTER 1975-76

Nickname - Aggies
Colors - Blue & Gold

Coach: Warren Reynolds
Asst. Coach: Al Carter

NAME	AGE	HT.	WT.	CL.	POS.	HOMETOWN
Boone, Dexter	20	6-6	190	4	F	Richmond, Va.
Barnes, Raymond	19	6-5	205	2	F	Patterson, NC
Colbert, Sinclair	22	6-10	220	4	C	High Point, NC
Cassell, Steve	18	6-7	200	1	C-F	Charlotte, NC
Frazier, Gary	18	6-5	195	1	F	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Johnson, Ronald	21	6-8	190	4	F	Chester, Pa.
Johnson, Caleb	19	6-5	180	3	G	Asheboro, NC
Terris McClinnis	23	6-3	180	2	G	High Point, N.C.
Perry, Raymond	22	6-0	175	4	G	Franklinton, NC
Pipkin, L. J.	17	6-9	180	1	F	Laurinburg, NC
Sparrow, James	20	6-6	185	2	G	Brooklyn, N.Y.
Small, Kenneth	17	6-3	175	1	G	Bridgeport, Conn.

Hornet Coach Mitchell Faces Rebuilding Year

DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE HORNETS

Without last year's basketball stars, guard Sam Shephard and center James Roundtree, Hornet Head Coach Ira Mitchell faces a modest rebuilding year.

Shepherd and Roundtree both played summer basketball in Venezuela. Shepherd set a Venezuela league record with 58 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 backup center, James Rodgers

will inherit the starting slot.

A pair of veteran forwards, Wade Pittman, a 6-3, 185-pound senior from Newburgh, N.Y., and Fred Simmons, a 6-6, 183-pound junior from Detroit, Michigan give the hornets some inside experience.

On the backcourt, Jonah Ham, a 6-1, 164-pound senior from LaGrange, N.C., is back at guard.

The other front-line returnee is Keith Warren, a 6-10, 191-pound sophomore from Lexington, Virginia.

Timothy Best	F-G	2	6-3½	Washington, D.C.
Douglas Credle	G	2	5-11	Bayboro, NC
Kenneth Crichlow	G	3	6-2	Fair Haven, NJ
Hubert Crump	F	2	6-3	Wilmington, Del.
Gordon Denson	F	1	6-4	Orlando, Fla.
Nathan Edwards	G	1	6-2	Brooklyn, NY
Gerald Fields	G	2	5-11	Dover, DEL
Oliver Fonville	F	2	6-5	Chesapeake, VA
Jonah Ham	G	4	6-1	Goldsboro, NC
Cleveland Howard	F	2	6-4	Rocky Mount, NC
Algee Lovelace	G	1	6-1	Gretna, VA
Lionel Monsegue	F	3	6-4	Chesapeake, VA
Kevin Mosley	G	1	6-0	Roselle, NY
Wade Pittman	F-G	4	6-4½	Newburgh, NY
James Rogers	C-F	4	6-9	Newburgh, NY
Fred Simmons	F-C	4	6-7	Detroit, Mich.
Ronnie Spellman	G	2	6-0	Chesapeake, VA
Keith Warren	C	2	6-10	Lexington, VA
Carl Wilson	G	1	5-11	New York, NY

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE HAWKS

Coach Doug Jones has suffered one headache after another as his Hawks have virtually folded for the upcoming tournament.

Maryland is in the midst of possibly its worst season in its athletic history. The Hawks are still on probation by both the MEAC and the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics).

Donald Aaron, a 6-1 senior guard, was Jones' only returning starter with any great deal of experience.

Leroy Miles is a 6-4 New Jersey product who has surprised

nearly everyone in the MEAC this season.

A tremendous leaper, and outside shooter, the freshman has all but captured an All-MEAC spot this season.

However, Coach Jones will have to spend some long hours to find a way to knock off division leader North Carolina A&T in the tournament's initial round.

Without a starter over 6-4 nor any player in that regard, Maryland's ineffective board play should eliminate the bottom dwellers early.

Donald Aaron	G	4	6-1	Los Angeles, CAL
Andre Armwood	F	1	6-3	Baltimore, MD
Roger Batiste	C	1	6-4	Portland, ORG.
Robert Bell	G	1	6-2	Philadelphia, PA.
Daryl Foster	G	1	6-0	Baltimore, MD.
Carl Hairston	C	4	6-4	Martinsville, VA.
Clien Knox	F	3	6-4	Georgetown, SC
Lewis Miles	C	2	6-2	Princess Anne, MD
Carl Powell	G	1	6-0	Suitland, MD
Roger Sawyer	G	1	6-2	Bayboro, NC
Willie Vanderhorst	F	3	6-3	Georgetown, SC
Tommy Wimbush	F	4	6-1	Annapolis, MD

MEAC ALL THE WAY



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

"Ref" Speaks Frankly Of Games

By Blannie E. Bowen

Despite the fact basketball referees have the best view during any basketball game, seldom will any "ref" discuss the teams involved in games he has been officiating.

"A&T will definitely rate as the top team in the upcoming Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Tournament because of its personnel," remarked basketball official John Russell. "In fact," Russell said, "I would hate to see the MEAC without A&T in the finals because the attendance would fall off severely."

Russell explained that A&T has the biggest people up front (Ron Johnson, 6-8; Dexter Boone, 6-6; and Sinclair Colbert, 6-10) and the Aggies have more senior starters (4).

He said Morgan State should be a close second and "South Carolina State could become the darkhorse if they can get going." Russell said Delaware State has the potential, but lacks consistency.

Howard, Maryland-Eastern Shore and North Carolina Central, the latter which is Russell's alma mater, all have little or no chance of winning the MEAC title because they have inconsistent play at forward and center, Russell was quick to explain.

These observations were made after the Morgan-A&T game at the Piedmont Sports Arena which left the two teams tied for first place in the battle for a first-round bye which means the winning team would have to win only two games for the championship.

Russell said it is easy to officiate an MEAC game "because the pressures of having to make a split-second decision are not as great."

"In other words," he remarked quickly, "let me qualify that statement by saying it is more fun because you don't have 15 television and radio people to deal with as is the case with most ACC games."

Whether he is having fun in the MEAC or being dead serious

in the ACC, Russell commands the respect of fans, coaches, players as well as that of fellow officials.

"Whenever you are considered the best, you get the top games to officiate and I guess you could say that is the reason Jim (Birch) and I are here tonight," Russell explained in a serious tone.

Not only does he officiate the top MEAC and ACC games, but he also officiates the top games in the Southeastern Conference, Carolina's Conference as well as the CIAA.

He also commands respect at Andrews High School in High Point where he is an assistant principal. His tenure with basketball started at Laurinburg Institute where he made allstate.

Later, he played with Sam Jones at NCCU during the Eagles' glory years under John McLendon. Basketball has always been a vital ingredient in the life of the short, but well-built referee.

Can the MEAC compete with the ACC? "A&T possibly could, but the other teams could not because they don't have the big boys up front," Russell stated emphatically.

Russell's frankness has enabled him to reach the top in officiating circles. Because he

tries to remain unbiased in his calls, he always has some friends (the winners) and some enemies (the losers). As long as A&T continues to win, John Russell is welcome even in Moore Gym.

Morgan State Wins 'Flip' For First MEAC Round

Morgan State University won a coin flip over A&T Sunday for the top seeding and a first round bye in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference basketball tournament which gets underway 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.

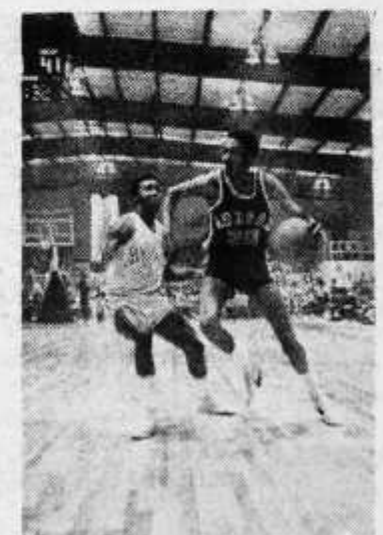
A&T will open tournament play Thursday at 9 p.m. against the seventh-seeded team, Maryland Eastern Shore.

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.

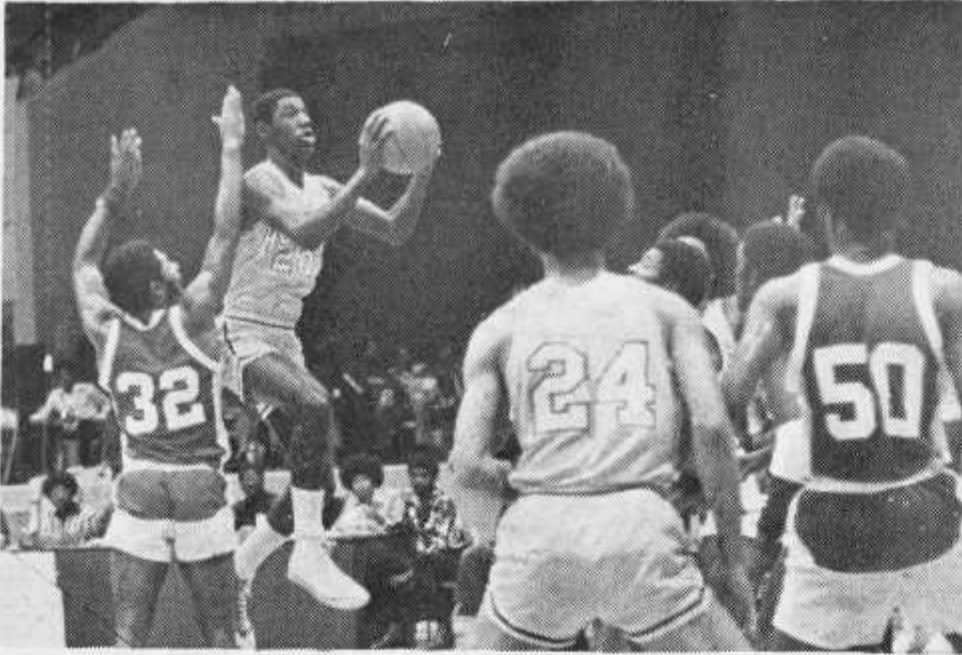
A&T has won the MEAC tournament three times during the league's four-year history. The Aggies defeated the Bears in the finals last year in Baltimore, Md.

The opening game at 3:30 p.m. Thursday will pit fourth-seeded Howard against fifth-seeded Delaware State.

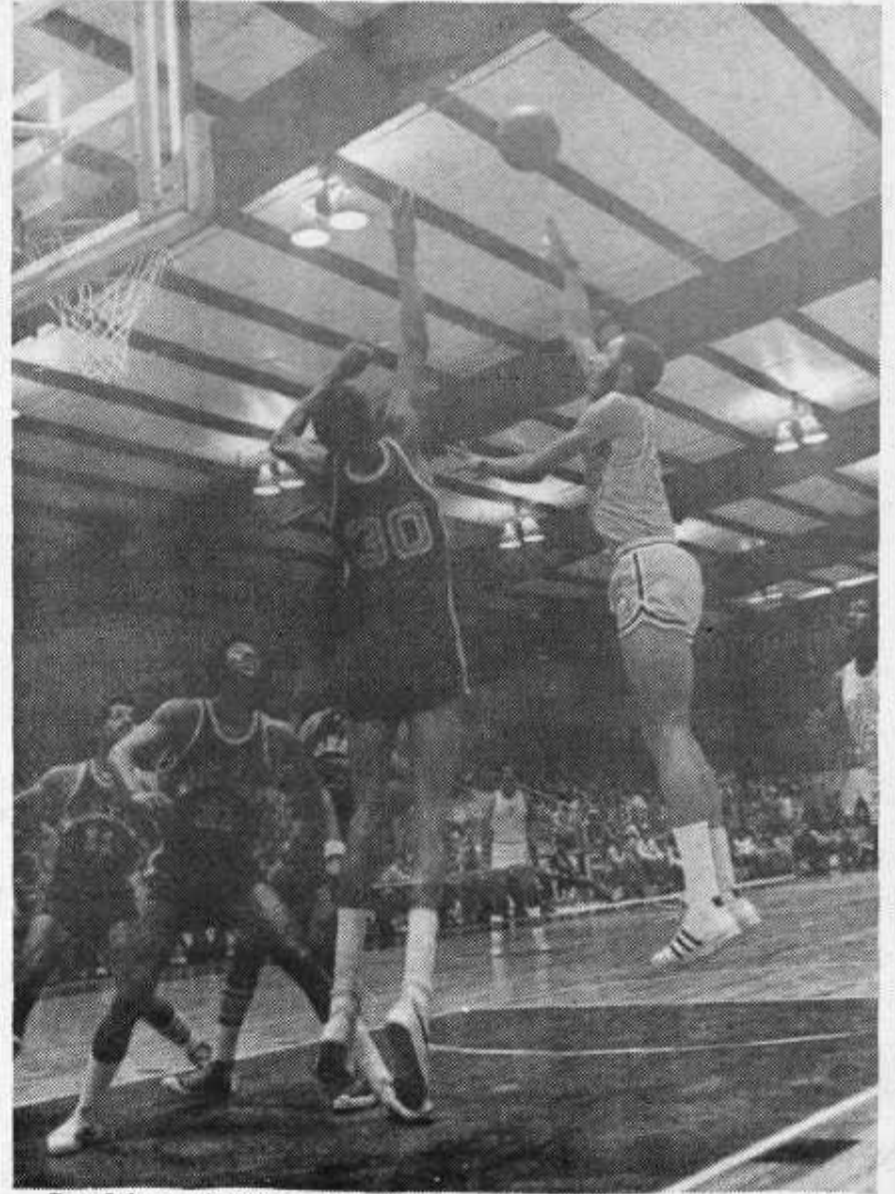
At 7 p.m. on Thursday, third-seeded S.C. State will take on sixth-seeded North Carolina Central.



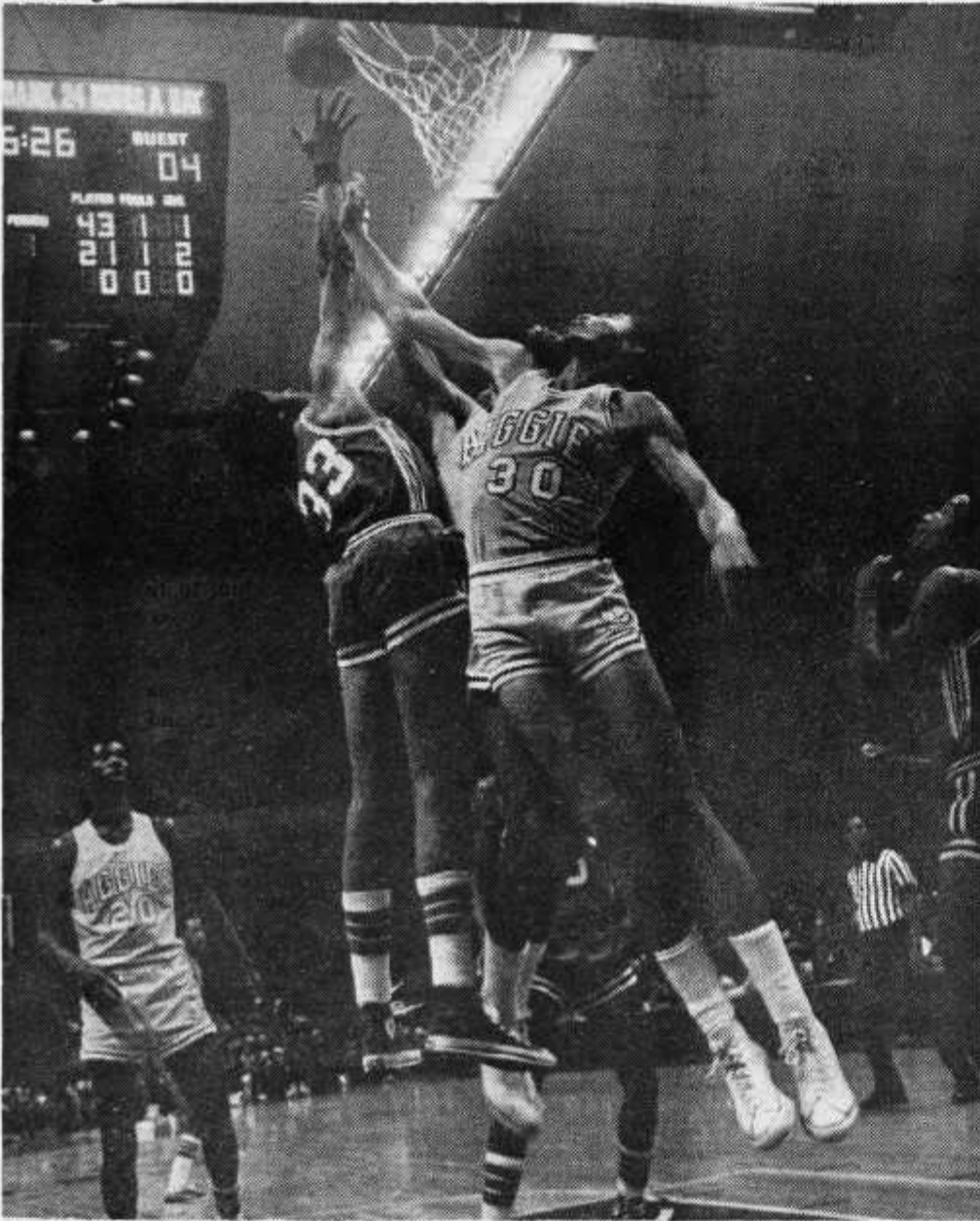
Eric Evans (30) drives past Terris McInnis.



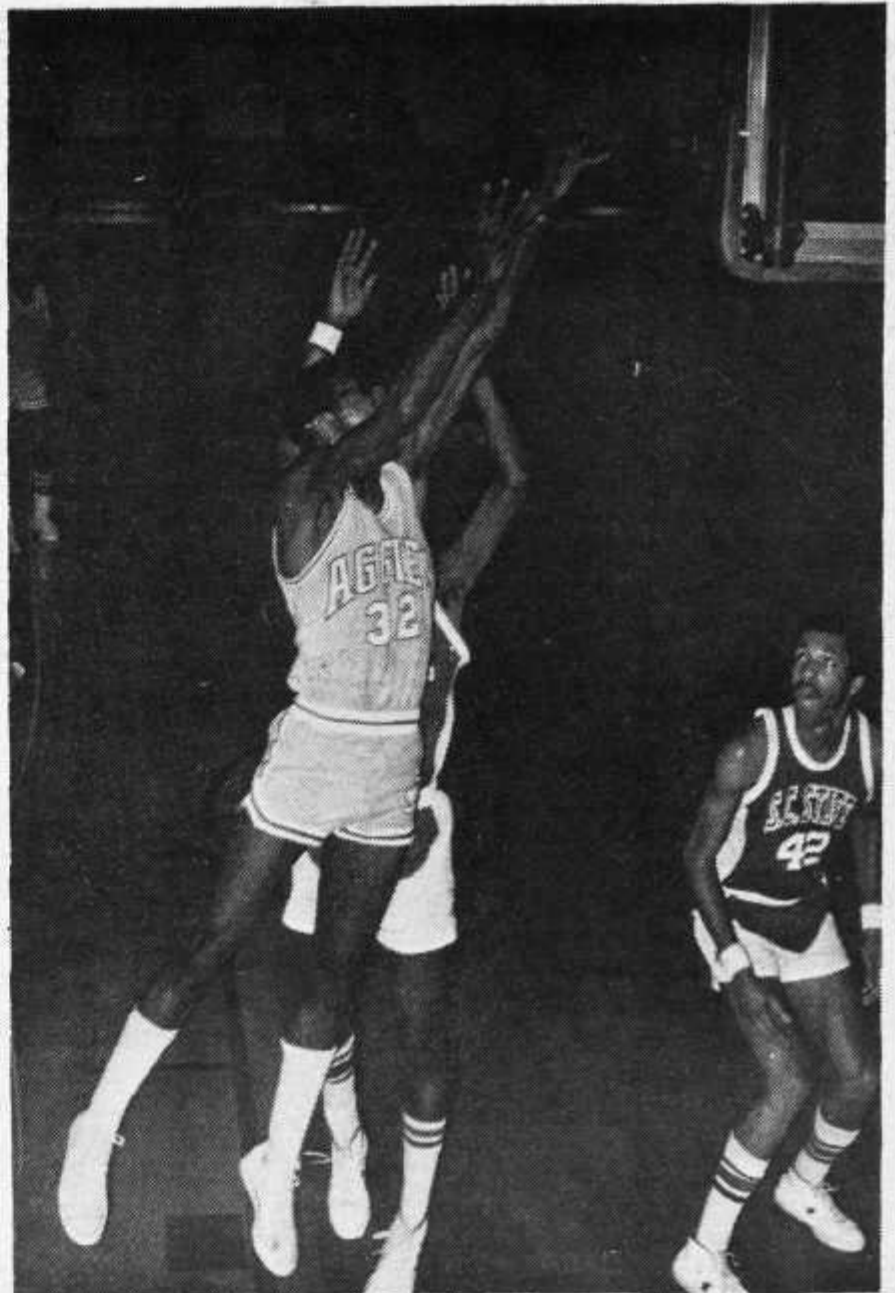
James Sparrow was selected as a first team All-Conference guard in this year's balloting.



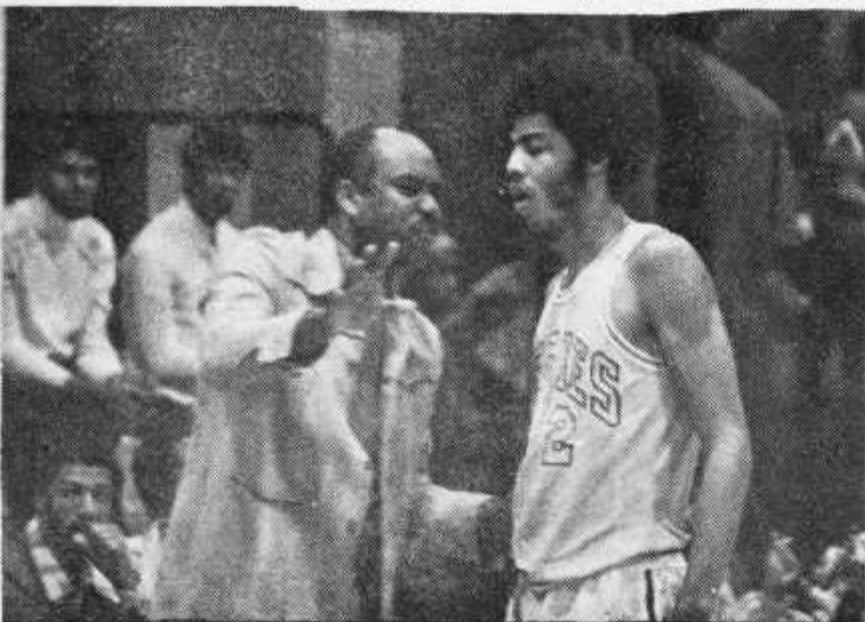
Ron Johnson (30) fires a hook shot over Morgan State's Eric Evans (30).



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



Forward L.J. Pipkin (32) pops a short jumper over S.C. State during a key MEAC battle.

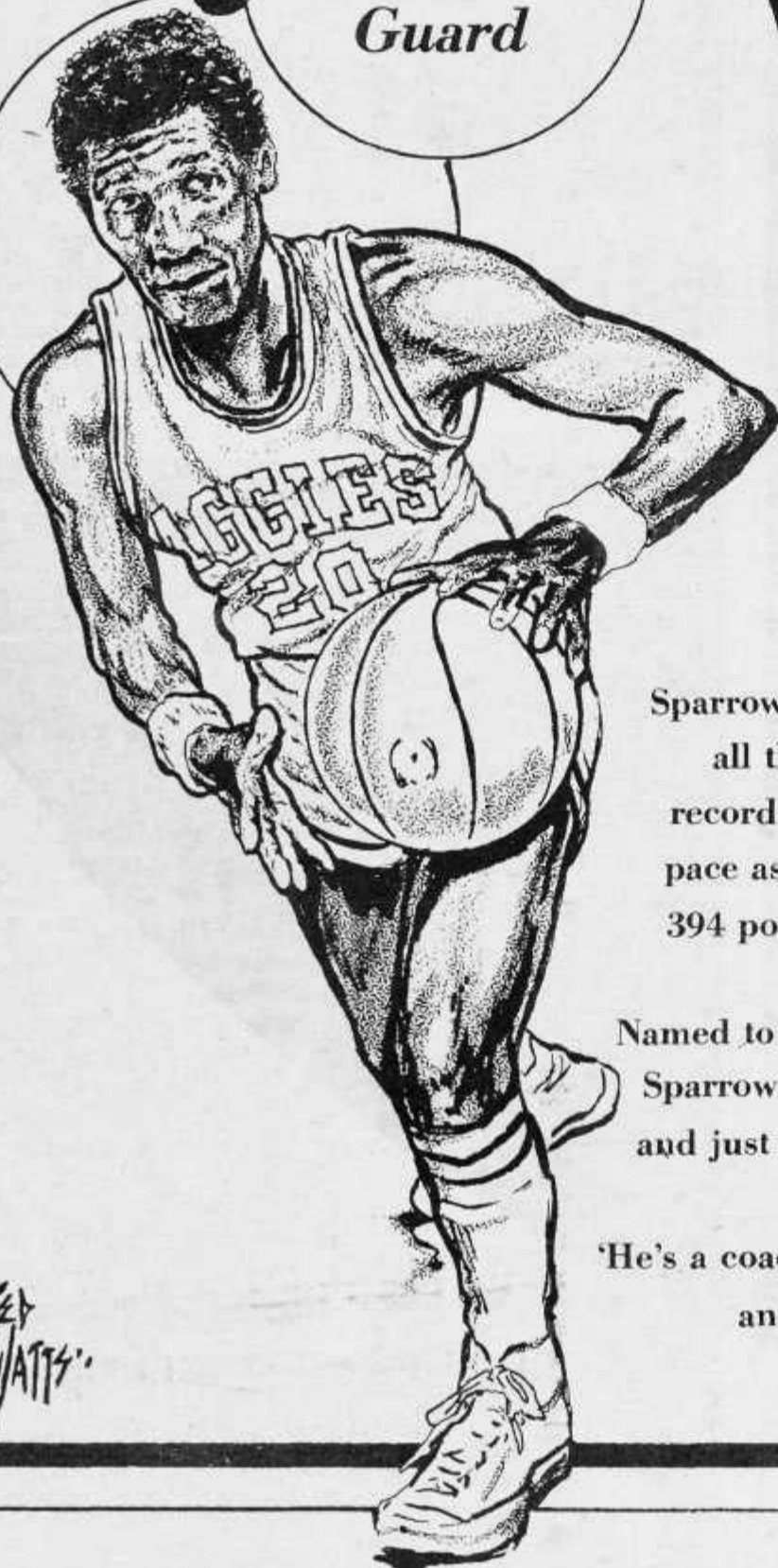


Coach Warren Reynolds points out his defensive alignments to 6-10 center, Sinclair Colbert.

*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 Lenoir (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.