Aggies Have:

Best Coaches . . .

Best Players . . .

No Awards . . .

But Champions!!
Littles Reaches Top Ladder

By Archie Bass

He never really wanted to be a professional basketball player or a college basketball coach, yet he has reached the top of the ladder in both areas.

As a pro with the Kentucky Colonels of the American Basketball Association, Gene Littles was a vital part of their world championship team.

And now, in his first year as head mentor at the helm of the Aggie basketball team, Littles has brought the team from the cellar of an embarrassing 3-24 record of a year ago to the limelight of an 18-8 record and a first place finish in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

While winning 16 of its last 17 games, several of A&T's players have come over prominent sports figures and prime contenders in the conference both home and away.

Littles will direct the Aggies tonight in semi-final action in this the seventh annual Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Basketball Tournament in the Greensboro Coliseum.

"From the very beginning I felt that I could do the job and, if we worked hard enough as a team, we could have a successful season," said a likable Littles, a 1969 graduate of High Point College. "We started out slowly and, after nine games, our record was 2-7." The former ABA star during this restless stage felt that the pressure was not on him to produce wins, but the primary target from the spectators in his analysis was his system.

"When we were 2-7, I felt that the fans and alumni were critical of my patient attack and pattern/defensive style," recalled Littles. "So, I told the guys not to get upset with the record because we still had 19 games left.

In light of his coaching philosophy of being patient, the fans might have booed Little's head coach reveals his strategy behind his style of play.

"I felt we had to be patient and deliberate in order to keep from getting blown out," admitted the head coach. "I didn't know the players here; and the recruits, I only saw them play a few times.

Besides, last year they lost so many games by as many as 30 and 40 points.

Ironically, losses against nationally ranked Cincinnati and tough Cleveland State launched the first-year coach and the young Aggies on their way to solidly thrashing every school in the conference.

"Playing these two great schools really gave us the exposure that we needed diferent settings, different officials--so that, when we played in the conference, we felt that we could beat the teams," vowed Littles.

The young team of only one senior player really found itself mentally on the surface and, as a unit, on a dreadful note mid-way the season against S.C. State.

The guys came together for Marvin Brown who was in a car accident. They showed him that they appreciated him and this winning spirit just kept on throughout the season," claimed Littles.

But, if his chance to represent the conference and the university is only wishful thinking, Littles still feels his first year mission has been accomplished.

"I'm satisfied with our won-loss record. It's been a great season for us, regardless, of what happens," concluded Littles.

Tom Bynum - Head Trainer

One factor that will play an important part in any basketball team's success is the number of injuries sustained during the course of the season. Tom Bynum is without question one of the finest trainers in collegiate basketball today. A former basketball standout for A&T, Bynum served as the trainer for the 1974 United States track team in Europe. In 1975, he served as an assistant in the U.S.-United States team in Durham, N.C. He recently toured China with the U.S. track team. Soft spoken and well respected, Bynum is one of the favorite personalities connected the A&T athletic program.

Cal Irvin - A&T Athletic Director

Cal Irvin is a familiar to most people in the sports world for his outstanding basketball teams which amassed 401 victories for him during his coaching career. His most famous protege is probably Al Attles, now head coach and General Manager of the Golden State Warriors of the National Basketball Association. And then there are a number of educators, coaches, and those making a meaningful contribution to our society.

Irvin has served on a number of national committees and was a member of the National Invitation Tournament Selection Committee in 1976. He has always been involved in decision making situations, representing universities that have been traditionally omitted from the mainstream of intercollegiate athletics.

Although he is no longer the center of attraction on the basketball floor, his presence is felt by the entire collegiate athletic world as North Carolina A&T makes strides for excellence.

Gene Littles - Head Coach

Gene Littles joined the Aggie staff after head coaching stints at Menchville (Va.) High and at Hampton Institute.

A former three-sport standout at Elizabeth City State, Buggs works primarily with the frontcourt players.

"Joe has a lot of experience and he will be extremely helpful in developing our young frontline players," Coach Littles said. "His contacts throughout the east coast will aid us in our efforts to recruit top student-athletes."

Besides his coaching responsibilities, Buggs also served as the team's chief scout. The A&T opposition included Cincinnati, Virginia Commonwealth, UT-Chattanooga, Fairleigh Dickinson, Western Carolina, and teams in the tough MEAC.

Joseph Buggs

By Archie Bass

George Felton

George Felton, a 1975 graduate of the University of South Carolina, was named assistant basketball coach at North Carolina A&T.

Felton, who lettered in basketball for the Gamecocks under the guidance of Frank McGuire, took one year at Swansea Elementary School in South Carolina and was a graduate assistant at Appalachian State University before accepting the A&T position.

During his career at South Carolina, Felton, 24, played on some of McGuire's best college teams with such stars as Alex English, Brian Winters and Kevin Joyce. Felton made his trademark among his offensive minded teammates by hustling and playing good defense.
The use of gymnastic stunts and cheerleaders in fight songs.

Cheerleading is an easy task that does not require any outside preparation. A&T cheerleaders refute this idea because they spend two hours every day in practice sessions. "If we don't practice, it will show in the routine," said one veteran on the squad.

Cheerleading is not the only job for the nine Aggie cheerleaders. One of the main jobs is choreography. The cheerleaders need to learn new steps for their dance routines at each game.

"Angela Watson and Debbie Browning do most of the choreography. It is vital to our cheering," said Ms. Robinson, four-year veteran on the squad.

Learning cheers is not the only job for the nine Aggie cheerleaders. One of the main jobs is choreography. The cheerleaders need to learn new steps for their dance routines at each game.

The questions begin to creep up at the guard spots. Surely Kenny "Chick" Simms is a bonafide star for Maryland-Eastern Shore. He led the MEAC in scoring at 27.6 points.

Then, there's Harry Nickens. True, Nickens has been on the All-MEAC first team since his freshman days. But he isn't the great factor this year despite having a satisfactory shooting effort.

It would seem that A&T's Joe Brawner deserved a place on the covered squad. The 6-7 Glover averaged 18 points and eight rebounds while leading the Aggies to a 14-7 mark and a third place finish in the conference.

Sparrow, a 6-6 junior, was second in scoring at just under twenty points and was the most exciting player in the MEAC.

The Aggies are run the offense, make steals, and shoot with a great deal of confidence. Sports writers who follow the MEAC asked why? But A&T wasn't the only team to get the shaft. So did S. C. State. Remember Eric Evans? If you don't, no big deal. Evans has been quiet this season and seems to be just along with some of his teammates at Morgan State.

Carl Green, SCSU's pivot man, showed far more zeal and just plain performance than Evans. Yet, Evans got the spot over Green. No doubt it was because Evans had made the grade for the last two years and was the MVP last season, not that it was earned.

They say that coaches are supposed to know more than writers, fans, and the rest. But, then again Gene Littles was the coach-of-the-year, wasn't he?

Morgan, Howard Win In Thursday Tourney Play

The battle cry of the Seventh Annual MEAC Tournament was billed as the balance of power. However, that wasn't the case Thursday evening as both Morgan State and Howard University made their way into the semi-finals with a pair of easy victories.

Morgan danced past N. C. Central 79-69 while Howard humiliated Maryland-Eastern Shore 97-69 in the evening session. But the scores were certainly not indicative of the onslaughts.

In the Morgan-NCCU contest, the Bears fought with the Eagles for most of the first half which witnessed the defending champions going ahead 34-31 at the half. Coach Aaron Johnson decided to go to his strong inside tandem of Eric Evans and Anthony Young. That shut the door in the face of Sterling Holt's Eagles as the Bears ran off a 12-3 spurt at the (See Hawks, Page 4)
Coach Emery Gets Votes For Coach-of-the-Year

(Continued From Page 3)

Maryland-Eastern Shore is perhaps the most explosive team in the tournament and probably the least consistent as well. The Hawks had a major change near the middle of the year when Dan Jones resigned as coach.

In came Kirkland Hall and the Hawks went off and running. The bulk of the running was done by the nation's seventh leading scorer in 6-4 Kenny Simmons. The powerfully built sophomore is averaging 27.6 points per game including one 52-point outburst this season.

But it takes more than just scoring to win games and the Hawks have found this to be true because of the lack of height. Rebounding is a sore spot because of 6-1 Robert Dash as a forward.

Dash makes up for a lot of defensive woes with 15 points per game. He is averaging 27.6 points per game including one 52-point outburst this season.

But it takes more than just scoring to win games and the Hawks have found this to be true because of the lack of height. Rebounding is a sore spot for 6-1 Robert Dash as a forward.

This team is too good to leave in the first round but the S.C. State story has been the same under Autry. SCSU is capable but the Hawks' defense is too good.

A year ago S.C. State was considered the odds on favorite to win the MEAC.

Morgan State is the defending MEAC tournament champion but the Bears in the tournament.

If North Carolina Central is to salvage anything in the MEAC this year they will have to do it this week. For the third time in the conference, Central has been blown out of the tournament.

Maryland-Eastern Shore is perhaps the most explosive team in the tournament and probably the least consistent as well. The Hawks had a major change near the middle of the year when Dan Jones resigned as coach.

In came Kirkland Hall and the Hawks went off and running. The bulk of the running was done by the nation's seventh leading scorer in 6-4 Kenny Simmons. The powerfully built sophomore is averaging 27.6 points per game including one 52-point outburst this season.

But it takes more than just scoring to win games and the Hawks have found this to be true because of the lack of height. Rebounding is a sore spot because of 6-1 Robert Dash as a forward.

Dash makes up for a lot of defensive woes with 15 points per game. He is averaging 27.6 points per game including one 52-point outburst this season.

But it takes more than just scoring to win games and the Hawks have found this to be true because of the lack of height. Rebounding is a sore spot for 6-1 Robert Dash as a forward.

This team is too good to leave in the first round but the S.C. State story has been the same under Autry. SCSU is capable but the Hawks' defense is too good.

A year ago S.C. State was considered the odds on favorite to win the MEAC.

Morgan State is the defending MEAC tournament champion but the Bears in the tournament.

If North Carolina Central is to salvage anything in the MEAC this year they will have to do it this week. For the third time in the conference, Central has been blown out of the tournament.

Maryland-Eastern Shore is perhaps the most explosive team in the tournament and probably the least consistent as well. The Hawks had a major change near the middle of the year when Dan Jones resigned as coach.

In came Kirkland Hall and the Hawks went off and running. The bulk of the running was done by the nation's seventh leading scorer in 6-4 Kenny Simmons. The powerfully built sophomore is averaging 27.6 points per game including one 52-point outburst this season.

But it takes more than just scoring to win games and the Hawks have found this to be true because of the lack of height. Rebounding is a sore spot because of 6-1 Robert Dash as a forward.

Dash makes up for a lot of defensive woes with 15 points per game. He is averaging 27.6 points per game including one 52-point outburst this season.

But it takes more than just scoring to win games and the Hawks have found this to be true because of the lack of height. Rebounding is a sore spot for 6-1 Robert Dash as a forward.

This team is too good to leave in the first round but the S.C. State story has been the same under Autry. SCSU is capable but the Hawks' defense is too good.

A year ago S.C. State was considered the odds on favorite to win the MEAC.