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## **The Register, 1978-02-24, MEAC sports supplement**

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

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# THE A&T REGISTER

VOLUME XLIX NUMBER V MEAC SUPPLEMENT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1978

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THE 7th ANNUAL

# MEAC

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

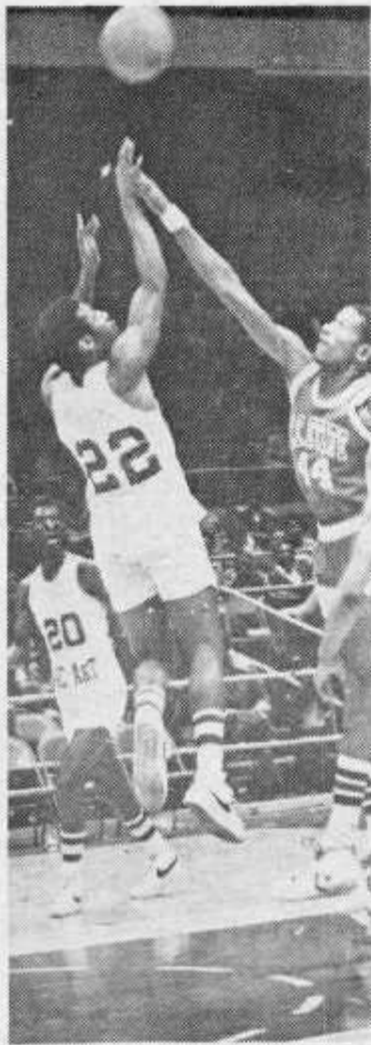
MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE  
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Greensboro Coliseum  
Greensboro, N.C.  
Feb. 23-25, 1978

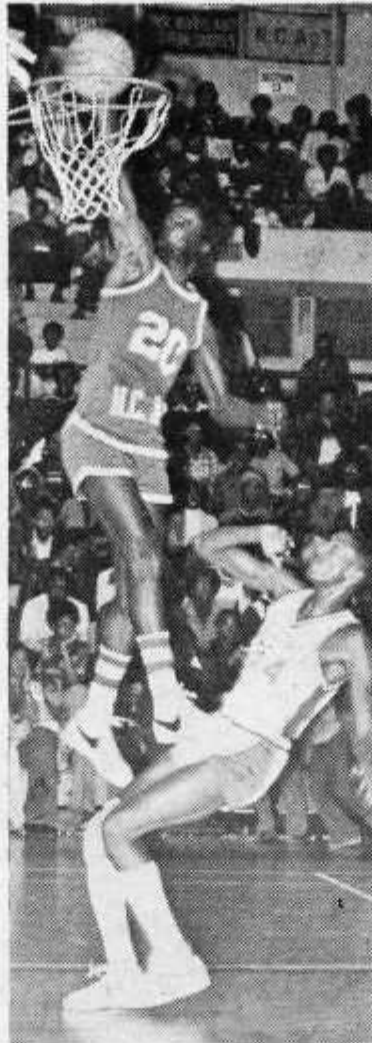
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## Aggies Have:

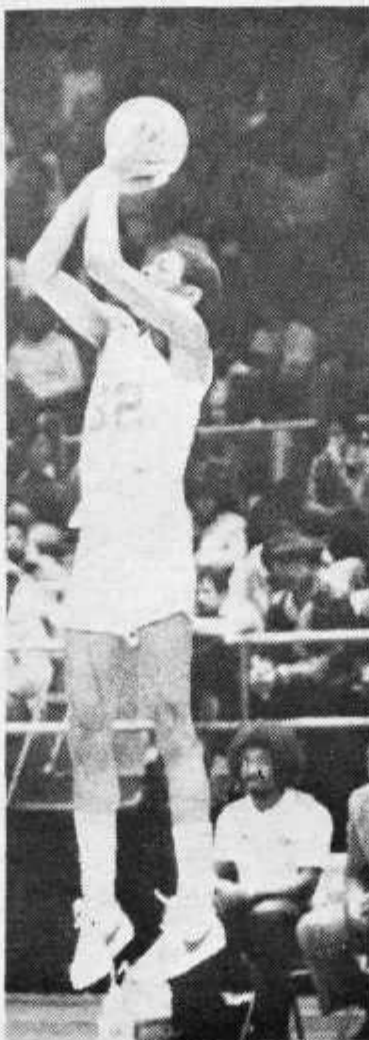
### Best Coaches . . .



Joe Brawler



James 'The Bird' Sparrow



L. J. Pipkin

### No Awards . . .

### Best Players . . .



Harold Royster

### But Champions!!

# Little's 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 Little's 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, Little's 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 have come over prominent sports figures and prime contenders in the conference both home and away.

Little's 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 Little's, 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 patterned offensive style," recalled Little's. "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, but the 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--different settings, different officials--so that, when we played in the conference, we felt that we could beat the teams," vouched Little's.

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 Little's.

Now that the regular season conference struggle is over, the seventh annual tournament begins the hope of the second season. However, Little's finds himself the king pin of the MEAC as he eyes the conference tournament championship and a possible bid to the NIT.

"The most rewarding experience this season has been seeing veteran players like James Sparrow and L.J.



Gene Little's - Head Coach

Pipkin blend in so well with our freshman starters Harold Royster and Joe Brawner," Little's said. "We've had our moments on the court and in the dressing room, but it has never carried over. They've always been able to see what I'm trying to accomplish."

The MEAC Tournament can be sloganized in the distinct proverb--"That there's no tomorrow." But Gene Little's may see beyond

the tournament for possible chances of going to the prestigious NIT.

But, if his chance to represent the conference and the university is only wishful thinking, Little's 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 Little's.

## 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 athletics 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 USSR - United States meet 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 to the A&T athletic program.



Bynum

## Cal Irvin - A&T Athletic Director



Cal Irvin

Cal Irvin is familiar to most people in the sports world for his outstanding basketball teams which amassed 401 victories for him during a brilliant 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 inter-collegiate 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.

One of the truly great sports personalities in the state of North Carolina presently occupies the post as Athletic Director at North Carolina A&T.

## Assistant Coaches

### Joseph Buggs

Buggs 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 Little's 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 position included Cincinnati, Virginia Commonwealth, UT-Chattanooga, Fairleigh Dickinson, Western Carolina, and teams in the tough MEAC.

### 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, taught 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.

# Cheerleaders Exciting Force

By Mary Partlow

One of the most exciting forces to watch during any athletic contest is the sideline performances of the cheerleaders.

The exhilaration of true school spirit and emotions erupt during game time at many different intervals. The cheerleaders provide entertainment and motivation for athletes and spectators throughout the contests.

A&T State University's cheerleaders have added a new dimension to leading spectators in fight songs. The use of gymnastic stunts has spiced up their routines and has given zest to their overall performances.

Senior cheerleaders Robin Dixon and Charlene Robinson say that their new routine pleases the crowd. "We must come up with new routines because the crowd grows restless."

To spectators, 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 routines. We take our jobs of cheering very seriously and we are very dedicated," explained 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.

"Angela Watson and Debbie Browning do most of the choreography. It is vital to our cheering," said Ms. Dixon, a native of Winston-Salem.

At the beginning of the fall semester there were 60 tryouts. "After exercises and workouts, only four came back. Out of those four, only one student made the squad," explained Ms. Robinson.

Presently, there are nine members of the cheering squad. They include Charlene Robinson, Robin Dixon, Florence Richardson, Debbie Richardson, Debbie Browning, Cheryl Ward, Angela Watson, Judy Westmoreland, and Art Statum, the only male member of the squad.

Statum is renowned for his acrobatic stunts. Ms. Dixon and Ms. Robinson explained that sometimes, if Art had not been around, the squad would have been booed off

the floor. "His daring acrobatics set the stage for our routine."

The Aggie cheerleaders, as they are called, feel that A&T's crowd wants to see stunts and creativity more than anything else.

"However, the athletes are one of our main concerns during a game," said Ms. Dixon. "It's a psychological thing; they notice when we are not there and they need someone to back them up."

The cheering squad has a very busy schedule. "People

want us to cheer for everything," said Ms. Robinson. "Even though we try to cheer for all events, the demand is still great."

The A&T cheering squad is rated number one in the MEAC conference. The credit does not belong to one individual, it belongs to the group. The cheering squad is proving that it is the best by continuing to give the Aggie athletes the motivation to go on and win games. Take a look at the A&T basketball team, and you can see how it is helping!

## All-MEAC Is Chosen From Previous Seasons

Commentary

By Craig R. Turner

If one observation can be made of the 1977-78 All-MEAC team, it is that the conference selects the proven veteran on a year-in and year-out basis.

The first-team All-MEAC picks are all returnees from previous seasons and read like a well-conceived plan to bolster the established stars in the league.

Not too many people will argue that Howard's Gerald Glover (the league MVP) and A&T's James "The Bird" Sparrow deserved a place on the coveted squad.

The 6-7 Glover averaged 18 points and eight rebounds while leading the Bison 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 questions begin to creep up at the guard slots. Surely Kenny "Chick" Simmons 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 wasn't the great factor this year despite having a satisfactory shooting effort.

It would seem that A&T's Joe Brawner seemed deserving of something. He was crucial in two wins against Howard, N. C. Central, Morgan, and especially S. C. State. Ask any of the coaches.

Brawner is a freshman. He isn't flashy nor is he a member of that group of upperclassmen who grab the headlines. What he does do

is 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 one 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 lost 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 Little 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 semifinals 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. 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 go-

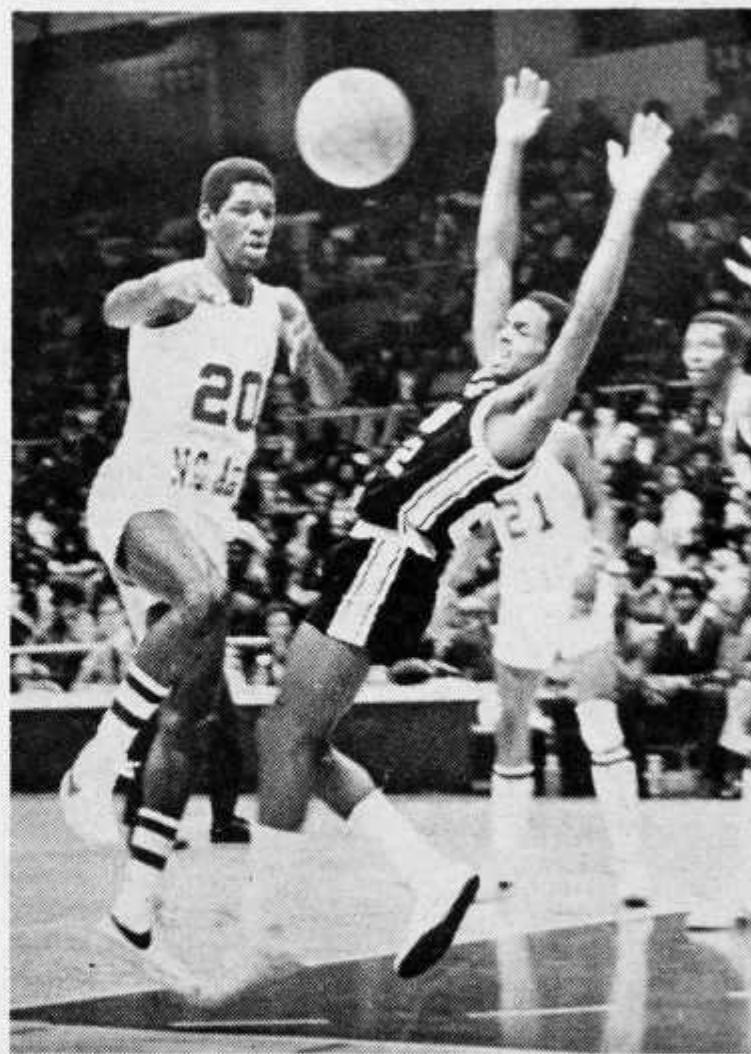


Photo by Love

James Sparrow passes to another player.

## Williamson Still Wonders About Bison Downfall

Commentary

Coach A. B. Williamson is perhaps still wondering how his Howard Bison started off so strong only to drop off season's end losing two of their last three games.

The Bison were at the top of the MEAC at midseason but ran into A&T twice and Morgan once to wash away any hopes of winning their first MEAC basketball title. Still, the Bison came through with a respectable 14-7 mark.

Most of Howard's troubles came in the

backcourt where the tallest entrant is a mere 6-2. The Bison have continually had trouble with teams that have taller backcourts.

If Howard has a weakness there, then the frontline has to be hard pressed. It has responded well with top performances coming from 6-7 All-America candidate Gerald Glover and 6-10 Dorian Dent. Mike Nettles and Carlton Richardson have given admirable efforts at the power, forward spot. Williamson claims his team will have to maintain composure and coolness to win the tournament. The Bison did not show it in the regular season.

ing 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)

Gerald	Glover	6-7
Dorian	Dent	6-10
Andre	Bryd	5-10
Gerald	Gaskins	5-9
Mike	Nettles	6-7
Mike	Pressley	6-8
Not	Speight	6-1

(See Coach, Page 4)

### IT'S THE EXCITING MEAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FEATURING:

- ▲ A&T STATE UNIVERSITY
- ▲ DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE
- ▲ HOWARD UNIVERSITY
- ▲ UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
- ▲ MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
- ▲ NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
- ▲ SOUTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE

# Coach Emery Gets Votes For Coach-of-the-Year

(Continued From Page 3)

Gary Adams	5-10
C. Riichardson	6-5
Jeff Beard	5-9
Louis Wilson	6-3

Marshall Emery got a lot of votes for Coach-of-the-Year by bringing the Hornets to a 10-14 record, the best in Delaware State basketball in three years. Much credit goes to Emery who inserted the free wheeling offense and pressure defense.

But the majority of the applause goes to the personnel of the Hornets which, in the first time in many games, has some talent. No one really stands out for the Hornets as "the man" but several persons can lead this team in the stretch runs.

Charles Shealey and Isaiah Faulkner are a pair of 5-9 guards who run the fast break as well as any two guards in the MEAC. The frontline is a mixture of power and speed although it is not overpowering in size.

Yes, Emery has done a fantastic job for the Hornets and it should continue right into the semi-finals of this year's tourney.

Charles Shealey	5-9
Joel Coppadge	6-5
Ed Wright	6-2
Mike Gaines	6-0
Isaiah Faulkner	5-10
Kenny Williamson	6-3
Henry Bishop	6-3
Bob Hunter	6-6
Charles Maybin	6-6
Gilbert Armstron	6-7

Maryland-Eastern Shore is perhaps the most explosive team in the tournament and probably the most inconsistent 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 were off and running. The bulk of the running was done by the nation's tenth 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; but, with only Simmons to help, the reasons for the 7-19 mark are understandable. Once UMES can play both ends of the floor, they may just make it past the first round.

Ken Simmons	6-4
Wayman Wilburn	6-7
Robert Dash	6-1
Brian McWhorter	6-7
Andre Armwood	6-4
Walter Dickerson	6-7
Meredith Armwood	6-5
Mark Isaac	6-7
Ron Shelly	6-7
Darnell Bryant	6-2

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

tourney after breezing through the regular season with a 10-2 conference mark.

The Bulldogs ran into a hot Morgan State team and were sent home in the semifinal round. This season the Bulldogs have run into all kinds of adversity with eligibility woes and a tough schedule although the record reads 14-10.

Harry Nickens was named to the MEAC all-star team for the fourth time in his career and is a deadly shooter when given the time. Art Snipe? turned out to be a tough power forward and Willie Brown slumped off considerably. Freshmen were a vital part of Coach Tim Autry's plan last season; that has changed.

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 it doesn't produce when it has to.

Arthur Snipe	6-6
Harry Nickens	6-0
Bishop Johns	6-6
Willie Brown	6-6
Marty Lane	6-3
Bruce Beasley	6-0
Carl Green	6-8
Gerald Henderson	6-3

Morgan State is the defending MEAC tourney champion but the Golden Bears will be hard pressed to repeat last year's stellar performance.

Gone is the catalyst of those glory years in Coach

Nat Frazier. His role was taken by former assistant Aaron Johnson and things have been less than rosy for the Baltimore, Md., school.

The Bears stand at 12-10 overall and placed themselves in the race for second place with Howard behind front runner A&T.

All five starters from that championship squad returns in what may be a record four straight appearances in the championship round. Whether the Bears return or not will depend largely on the improvement of 6-10 Eric Evans and 6-8 Anthony Young inside. Both have been sub par in rebounding and defense.

The Bears have been carried by guards Maurice Jennings and Darnell Davis and forward Jimmy Gorman throughout much of the year but it hasn't been enough. Still, the experts have to place Morgan as the team most likely to catch A&T in this year's event.

Eric Evans	6-10
Maurice Jennings	6-4
Anthony Young	6-8
Jim Garmon	6-5
Jerry Ghatt	6-6
Darrell Davis	6-2
Gracia Hopkins	6-6
Otis Brown	6-6
Bill Askew	6-5

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 four seasons, Central has b

up the rear of the conference and there is no help in sight.

Coach Sterling Holt is under fire and it is speculated that his contract will not be renewed or that he may even be fired at the conclusion of this season. That remains to be seen.

With or without Holt, the Eagles have solid players in 6-6 Ed Roper and forward Robert McClellan. Point guard James King either has to find some kind of offense or give up those duties to a more accurate shooter.

Most experts will testify that Central isn't that bad but is instead being helped there as quickly as possible. The expected changes will not affect the Eagles' situation this season. So long Eagles.

Ed Roper	6-6
Robert McClellan	6-6
Glenn Duncan	6-7
Stanley Melvin	6-5
James King	5-9
Ron James	6-0
Audwin Saunders	6-7
John Roberts	6-6
Charles Ellis	6-5
Bobby Frerar	6-3

**Bass**

AND

**Turner**

**BT Express**

# Hawks Not Difficulty For Howard Bison

(Continued From Page 3)

outset of the second half. Eric Evans led the attack with 32 points.

The Howard Bison did not have that much difficulty with the Hawks as the contest was in control from the start.

A. B. Williamson decided to use his big lineup of 6-10 Dorian Dent, 6-7 Gerald Glover, 6-8 Mike Nettles to overpower the shorter UMES squad.

That gave the Bison a 37-34 halftime advantage which they never relinquished. They blew the lead to as much as 30 points at 78-48 with just over ten minutes remaining. From there, the bench was cleared and the semis were set for tonight. Glover had 27 and Nettles added 24 in the effort.

This evening the Bison will

tangle with Morgan at 7 p.m. while league champion A&T will battle S. C. State in the 9 p.m. nightcap. The winners will advance into the finals Saturday.

*We wish to thank:*

*Wilbert Ingram,*

*Maxine McNeill,*

*William Love,*

*Shelia Williams,*

*Mary Partlow,*

*Larry Jenkins,*

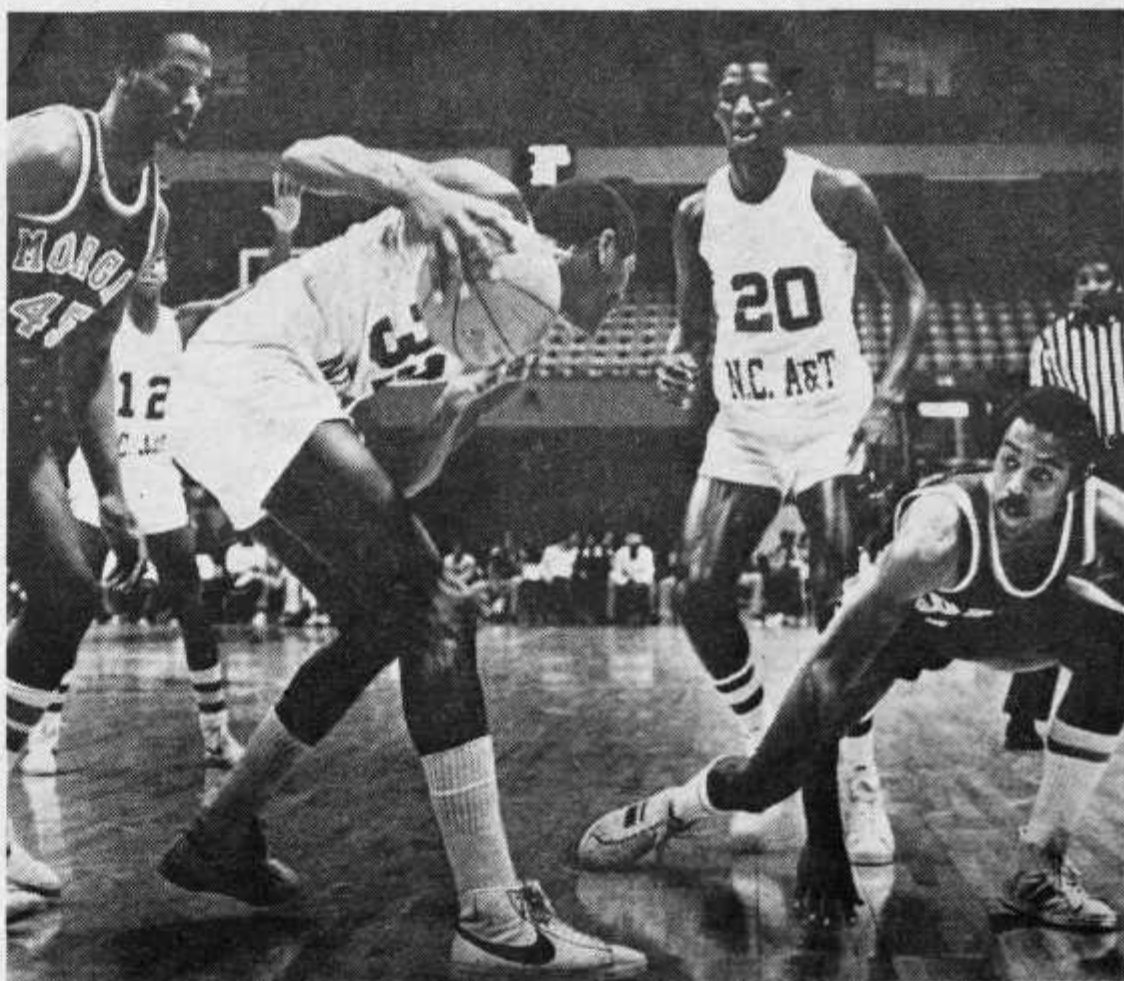
*Archie Bass,*

*Cathy Speller,*

*Terrance Marable,*

*and Craig R. Turner.*

*thanks to Joe Faust III*



L. J. Pipkin protects the ball from Morgan State players as James Sparrow watches.

Photo by Davis