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THE A&T REGISTER

"COMPLETE AWARENESS FOR COMPLETE COMMITMENT"

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY, GREENSBORO

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1987



Bethune-Cookman
Daytona Beach, Fla.



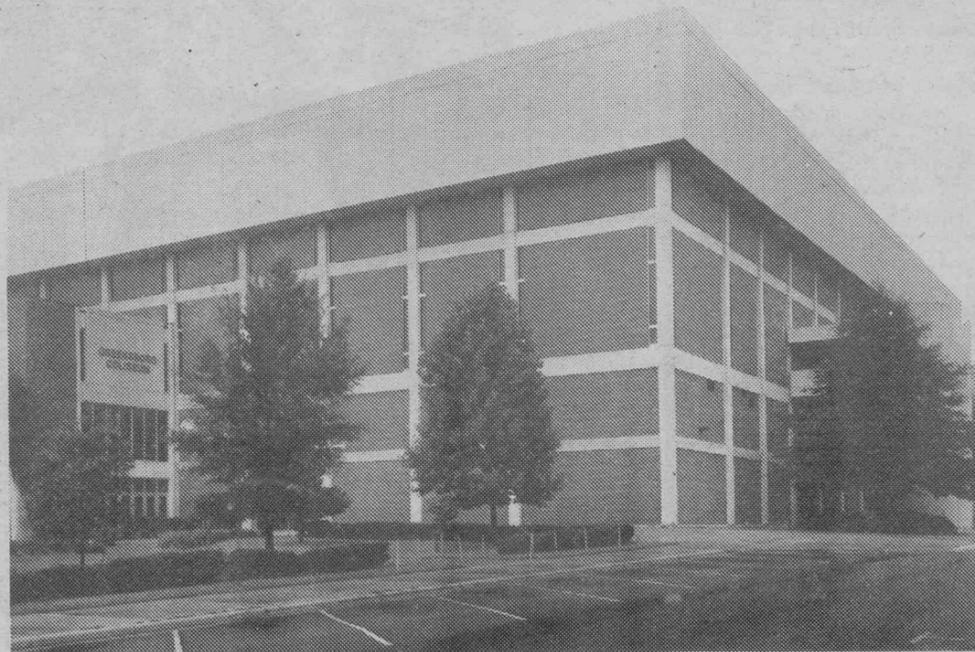
N.C. A&T
Greensboro, N.C.



Morgan State
Baltimore, M.D.



S.C. State
Orangeburg, S.C.



Coppin State
Baltimore, M.D.



Delaware State
Dover, Del.



Howard Univ.
Washington, D.C.



Univ. Maryland, E.-S.
Princess Anne, M.D.



Florida A&M
Tallahassee, Fla.



MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Basketball Tournament Guide

1987

Sports Supplement of The A&T Register

Tournament returns after two-year absence

Larry Barber

MEAC Service Bureau

After a two-year stint in "the City of Brotherly Love," the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Men's and Women's Annual Basketball Tournament is back in the glorious "Gate City."

You might say the 16th annual tournament is back where it belongs, at least for now.

Not only has A&T won five of the last six tournament championships, the contest has received its greatest support in Greensboro where it was held in 1983 and 1984 and 1976 to 1979.

The three-day tournament begins today at 9 a.m. with a women's quarterfinal match. The first men's game will be 7 p.m. today.

The tournament is shaping up as another "anybody-can-win-it" contest.

Since the women began their multi-team confrontations in 1982, the champions have failed to repeat. And, although

the men's last six finals have matched Howard University against A&T, the margin of victory has been seven points or less in each of the last four years -- including a two-point heartstopper in 1985 and a one-point thriller in 1986.

It will be the MEAC women's eighth tournament. They played championship games in 1978 and 1979, then skipped two years.

In the women's first action today, Howard, the No. 1 seed, plays Coppin State, the No. 8 seed. The morning action will continue as the South Carolina State women, the No. 2 seed, take the court against Morgan State, the No. 7 seed.

The first men's game will follow as Bethune-Cookman, the No. 4 seed, clashes with Delaware State, the No. 5 seed.

Another women's matchup will follow. Bethune-Cookman, the No. 3 seed, will play A&T, the No. 6 seed.

At 5:30 p.m., the final opening day contest featuring the women is scheduled to take place with Delaware State, the No. 4 seed, battling Maryland Eastern Shore, the No. 5 seed.

The other two men's games will round out the day of hoops. A&T, the No. 2 seed, will play Florida A&M, the No. 7 seed, and South Carolina State, the No. 3 seed, will play Maryland Eastern Shore, the No. 6 seed.

Howard, the men's No. 1 seeded team, does not play in the opening round because of the seven-team format.

Coppin State and Morgan State men's teams are not

eligible to play in the tournament until next year. Both teams moved up from Division II to Division I status and have to wait three years before they are eligible to participate in the tournament.

Semifinals will be played tomorrow.

The women begin the action at 2 p.m. with the survivor of the Bethune Cookman-A&T confrontation playing the winner of the S.C. State-Morgan State game. At 4 p.m., the winners of the Howard-Coppin State and Delaware State-Maryland Eastern Shore games will play.

Men's games will follow at 6

p.m. matching Howard against the Bethune Cookman-Delaware State winner and at 8 p.m. matching the A&T-FAMU winner against the S.C. State-Maryland Eastern Shore survivor.

Saturday is championship day.

The women's championship game is scheduled for 5 p.m. and the men's for 7 p.m.

For the seventh consecutive year, the MEAC men's champion will be rewarded with an automatic slot in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division I tournament.

(continued on p. 7)

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IT'S SHOWTIME!

3 Aggies all-MEAC; Cale Player of Year

WADE NASH
Sports Editor

A&T placed three players on the men's all-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference team announced last night, including George Cale who was named Most Valuable Player in the conference.

Making all-conference were Claude Williams and Thomas Griffis.

Sportswriters who cover the MEAC and sports information directors at MEAC schools made the selections.

Cale, a senior guard, averaged 15.8 points a game and grabbed five rebounds for the Aggies who are 21-5.

"George Cale has meant an awful lot to the program over four years," said A&T coach Don Corbett. "He came through two philosophies of players and we used him as a model for the younger players to what we wanted academically as well as athletically."

"We depended on him two years to score and this year for defense. He's played every position on the court. He

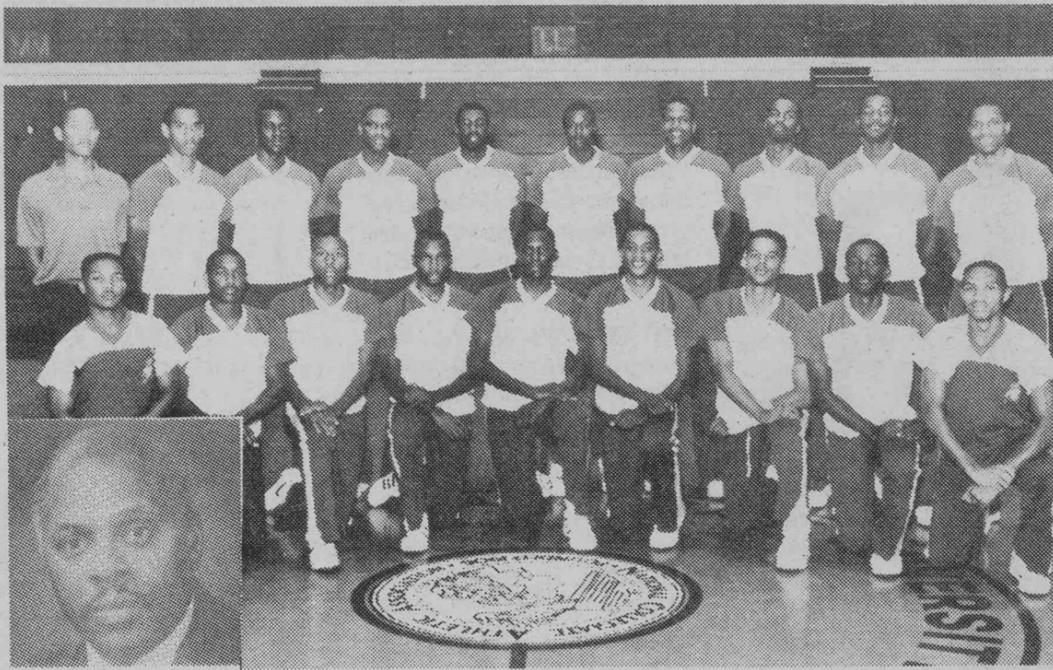
makes adjustments on the court for us without having to call timeout."

Junior center Claude Williams, like Cale, was a member of the all-conference team last season. Williams averaged 15 points and eight rebounds.

"Claude is the money man," Corbett insisted. "When he goes, we go. Claude would probably play guard in some major programs. He rebounds, handles the ball and always shows up in the big games. The bigger the challenge the better he plays."

Thomas "Ice" Griffis rounds out the trio of Aggies on the first team. Griffis is considered the glue that keeps the Aggies together.

"Griffis is a coach on the floor," Corbett said. "He's probably improved more in his play over a three-year period than any player we've had. He plays 40 minutes a game and never makes the same mistake twice. Griffis is a clutch performer and his free throw percentage is around 90 for the last five minutes of a ball



Front Row (L-R): Thomas Griffis, Corvin Davis, Charles Ricks, Lloyd King, Travis McRae, Charles Howard, Don Williams, Rodney Bowens, Arvis Cates. Back Row (L-R): Elrico Harris (team manager) Donald Corbett, George Cale, Claude Williams, Zachary Hooks, Nolan Hill, Jeff Ellis, Kenny Cox, Lee Robinson, Carlton Becton. Insert: Coach Don Corbett.

game."

Howard Spencer, a Goldsboro native who plays for Howard, and Coppin State's Earl Lee round out the frontcourt. Coppin State guard Steve Miller tied Griffis for all-conference honors in the backcourt.

Howard coach A.B. Williamson, who piloted the Bison to a controversial regular season championship, was selected Coach of the Year.

The conference's all-rookie selections were Julious Grant of Bethune-Cookman,

William Crandall of Coppin State, Tracey Walston of Delaware State, Henry Cuffee of University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Damone

Williams of Morgan State and Darrell Gilmore of South Carolina State,

Old place, faces favorite for finals

WADE NASH
Sports Editor

The location of the tournament has changed again. Now, the question is, will the outcome of the finals change?

Probably not.

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference tournament, played in Philadelphia the last two years but now back in Greensboro, is still a two-team race between A&T and Howard University.

Don Corbett, the Aggies head basketball coach, is bitter over losing the regular season crown to Howard in a controversial end-of-the-game play. But that's all behind his team now.

"We've got to play," Corbett said before leaving his office to prepare the team for today's game with Florida A&M.

"It seems like everything is stacked against us. We're playing in a bracket with the toughest teams. If Florida A&M had played everybody in the conference, they'd be seeded third or fourth."

FAMU coach Willie Booker shares Corbett's sentiments but hopes his Rattlers can pull an upset.

"We feel good about playing in the conference and having the chance to win the championship, but we don't think we should be the seventh-seeded team," Booker said in a phone conversation from Tallahassee.

"We beat S.C. State twice and Bethune-Cookman twice. It will be a tough test for us and both teams have something to prove. "The crowd is angry and we know it's going to be tough playing the Aggies on their home court.

The Rattlers compiled a 12-15 record playing 18 games on the road. They had an eight-game win streak but it was abruptly halted Feb. 21 as the team began a four-game skid.

Booker said a trio of his players must perform up to their potential for FAMU to upset the Aggies.

"We're playing erratic but

the return of (6-4 forward) Derrick Byrd should help," Booker said. "Byrd gives us 100 percent hustle, he rebounds, plays good defense and is the catalyst for our team. Marcus Johnson (a 6-7 forward) and Reggie Henry (guard) will also play key roles in the tournament."

The Aggies, 21-5 this season, have not forgotten the tough battle FAMU gave them last year in Greensboro.

"The last time we played A&M here they played us tough," starting forward Kenny Cox said as he prepared for practice Tuesday afternoon.

"They have a real good team and we've got to be at our best and play up to our capabilities in order to win the FAMU game and the tournament. Concentration is the key to our success."

The team has had a lot of distractions during the past week because of the Howard controversy. A&T had a point taken away from them with three seconds left in the game

that would have won it.

The supervisor of officials who made the call, Larry Hill, later admitted to making a mistake and has been suspended.

Chancellor Fort visited the team in the locker room after Saturday night's win against S.C. State that ended the regular season and gave a pep talk.

"The Howard game is behind us," Fort said Tuesday. "I've talked to Corbett the past three days and I'm convinced that the team is ready.

"Corbett is the best coach in the MEAC and the country as far as I'm concerned and the staff is not going to let the Howard loss become an impediment to our team's performance. When the last ball is tossed through the hoop, A&T will be the winner."

George Cale, the MEAC Player of the Year, leads the Aggies with 15 points and five rebounds a game.

Also, major contributions come from all conference center Claude Williams who

averages 15 points and eight rebounds a game, and all-conference point guard Thomas Griffis' who averages nearly six assists a game.

In the bracket with the Aggies are S.C. State, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and then a possible rematch with Howard if they survive the winner of the game between Bethune-Cookman and Delaware State game Friday.

"S.C. State has the best physical talent with two seven-footers and two 6'9" players," Corbett said.

"It seems they've stacked the cards against us but we have risen to challenges before. It's been a pretty good year and we do have a lot to prove in the tournament."

The Aggies boast a loyal following and Dr. Fort believes A&T fans will turn out in great numbers.

"It's my hope and belief that our fans will be out and loyal to our team," Fort said. "I think they're going to come out in numbers and help cheer our team to victory."

Howard's trademark is balance

The trademark of the 1986-87 Howard University men's basketball team has been balance and depth.

The team is one that has no one super player but rather a group of players of equal ability who fulfill various roles in the offensive and defensive schemes.



Williamson

With only four games remaining in the regular season, Howard has compiled a 20-4 mark overall and a 10-1 MEAC record. This has been achieved through mixing and matching.

Eight different players have either tied for the lead or led the team in scoring and seven have done the same in rebounding.

Guard George Hamilton was the leading scorer at press time with a 12.5 points.

The scoring has been spread out evenly. Guard William Stuart has led the team in scoring six times while forward Howard Spencer has performed the feat in four games.

Junior forward John Spencer has emerged as perhaps the top power forward in the MEAC.

The 6-7 native of Goldsboro, who has led the squad in rebounding in 18

games, was averaging over nine rebounds per game after 24 contests.

The Bison's depth has been in evidence all season. The reserves are averaging over 30 points and 17 rebounds per game. Bench players, former starting guards Fred Hill and Mike Jones, forwards Earl Smith and Rocky Gholson and center Derek Caracciolo, have all had their moments during the season.

The Bison's starting five, guards Hamilton and Stuart, forwards John and Howard Spencer and center Landreth Baugh, all have their strong points.

"This is the deepest team I've had since I've been here," says Howard Coach A.B. Williamson

Hamilton, who is a strong candidate for MEAC Player of the Year, has emerged as the team's best all-round player.

Stuart, always an outstanding point guard, has developed into a dangerous outside shooter, particularly from three-point range.

John Spencer is the team's most physical player while his brother, Howard, is a serious threat with his outside shooting. Baugh, at 6-9, is one of the top shot blockers in the nation, averaging 3.4 blocks a game.

At times, the team has lost some continuity due to the substitution pattern.

But there has always seemed to be one or two players to pick up the slack. The Bison are 3-0 in overtime contests

this season.

"This is the deepest team I've had since I've been here," says Howard Coach A.B. Williamson, who recently surpassed the 200-victory mark in his career.

"We have different people who have accepted their roles and performed when they have had to. It is something we hope will be fine-tuned by the time we get to the tournament."



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George Cale eyes 4th MEAC championship

DREXEL BALL

Special to the Register
If A&T wins the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship, senior point-guard George Cale will join former teammate Eric Boyd as the only players in A&T's proud basketball history to have

played on four consecutive championship squads.

No other player is more deserving of the distinction than the 6-foot-6 Cale, who was named MEAC Player of the Year Wednesday night.

Cale a native of Mid-

dletown, Del. has played a vital role for the Aggies ever since earning a starting berth.

But more importantly, Cale has shown great versatility.

During his A&T career he has played high-post forward, wing forward and now he's the team's off-guard.

He has been the team's leading scorer for most of the season, averaging nearly 16 points a game. He was the squad's leading scorer last season.

Scoring, however, is nothing new for Cale. He came to A&T recognized as a prolific scorer. A first-team all-stater, Cale led all of Delaware in scoring in both his junior and senior seasons at Middletown High School.

He averaged 28.6 points during his senior year, and in his junior year he averaged 25.7 points, including a career high 50 point-game and a 49-point game.

He had a four-year career average of 21.6 points.

This season at A&T, Cale joined the exclusive 1,000-point club.

The unassuming, soft-spoken senior says he has no regrets about his decision to attend A&T rather than one of the major college powers.

"It (college career) has gone great for me," Cale said.

"Everything has gone fine. We've won three conference championships, both regular-season and post-season and we've got a chance to win another."

While Cale has excelled on the court, he also has been a steady performer in the classroom. Cale is expected to graduate on time in May with a degree in business.

A&T coach Don Corbett becomes effusive when asked to talk about his standout senior.

"George is just a fine athlete," Corbett said. "He's been a three-year starter for us and our most consistent player. He is an excellent stu-

dent and will graduate on time. We are very, very proud of him.

"What makes us most proud is that he has been the kind of leader that young kids can mold themselves after. He's worked hard with basketball and has worked hard with academics."

Cale also is satisfied about his college career because he has had the opportunity to play against some of college's more celebrated athletes.

Cale has gone up against the likes of Reggie Williams and Patrick Ewing of Georgetown, Wayman Tisdale of Oklahoma, Danny Manning of Kansas and Dell Curry of Virginia Tech.



Cale

Cale is well thought of by his teammates.

"George is our leader and we go to him when the game is on the line," junior guard Thomas Griffis said.

"He's just a pleasant guy to be around," added junior forward Claude Williams. "We've had a successful season and I'm sure it would not have been possible if George hadn't been around."

Cale isn't thinking about a professional career. He has adopted a realistic view about his chances.

"If I get drafted, I will give it my best shot," Cale said. "But I know only a handful of college players make it to the pros. That's why I prepared myself for another career. I think I going to like working in the business world."

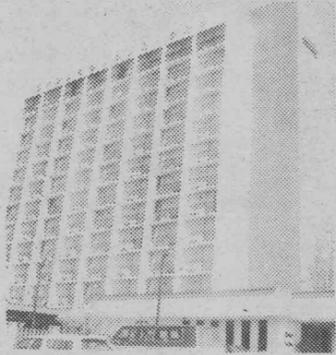
Cale has been all business while playing four years for the Aggies.

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Moss criticizes Marquette's policy

Wade Mash
Sports Editor

A&T Athletic Director Orby Moss has taken his name out of the running for the position of athletic director at Marquette because he says the school did not show a commitment to hiring minorities.

"After the interview, I decided that Marquette's commitment to hiring minorities in the top levels of administration was not what I was looking for," Moss said Wednesday.

He was one of six finalists for the athletic director's job.

Marquette is in Milwaukee, Wisc. Moss grew up in La Crosse, Wisc., and attended the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse.

"I guess what it all boils down to is, Marquette's financial commitment to athletics is super," Moss said, "but I question their commitment to minorities."

Moss has been a finalist for other jobs at Division I schools but has chosen to remain at A&T.

"I will never turn down an opportunity to listen to an offer that could be considered advancement," he said

"I interviewed with Marquette because they were at

one time one of the top 20 programs in the nation and they expressed a commitment to rebuild their program in all sports to a national level and specifically men's and women's basketball."



He said he talked to James H. Scott, Marquette's vice president of affairs, to withdraw his name.

Scott said he did not understand Moss' complaint.

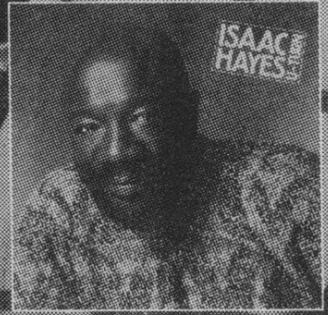
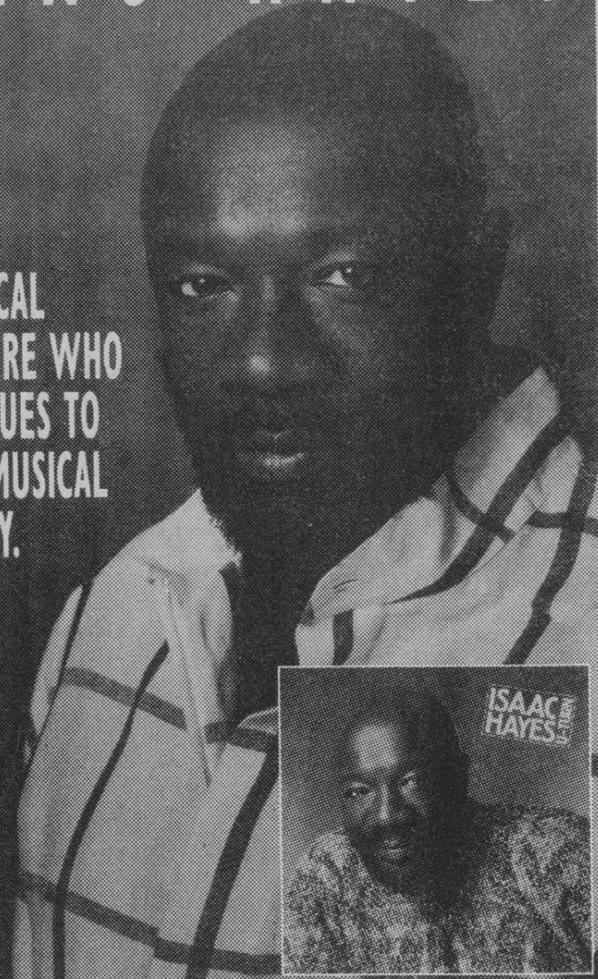
"Anybody can check my record and they'll know what my record is for hiring ethnic minorities and females," Scott said.

Moss said only a lucrative job at a major school could lure him from A&T.

"I would only consider leaving A&T for a job that is recognized as one of the best in the NCAA," he said.

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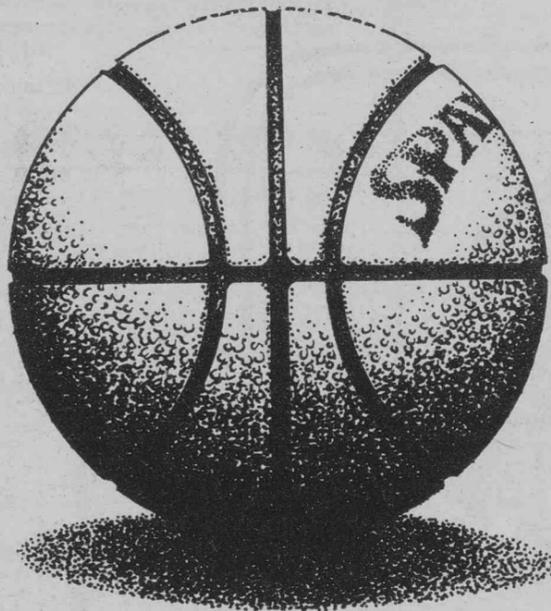


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MEAC

(continued from p. 2)

Since Howard and A&T have won more than 20 games each, they have excellent chances of receiving a bid to the National Invitation Tournament, if they do not get an NCAA bid.

The MEAC women's champion has not had an automatic berth in the NCAA Division I Women's basketball tournament since 1983. An at-large bid to the tournament is still a possibility.

Defending MEAC women's champion S.C. State appeared

in the NCAA tournament in 1983 and beat LaSalle before losing to Tennessee.

Five-year defending MEAC men's champion, A&T, was matched against Kansas in the Midwest in last year's tournament. A&T lost 71-46.

For MEAC basketball tournament ticket information, contact the Greensboro Coliseum box office at 919-373-7474, or the MEAC office at 919-275-9961.



Front Row (L-R): Kim Zachary, Lynette Ramseur, Paulette Dennis, Sheila Rivers. Back Row (L-R): Yvette Estep, Deidra Cheeks, Kim Broadnax, Angelique Satchel, LaWanda Southerland, Kim Wells, Sharon Pratt. Insert: Coach Tim Abney.

Side Effects

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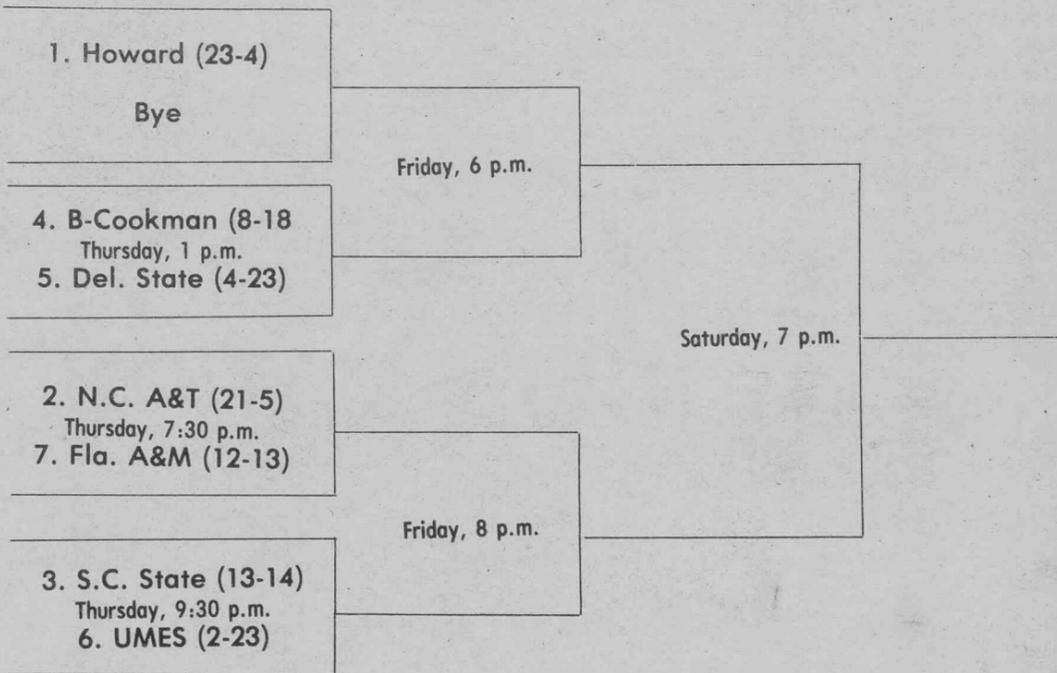
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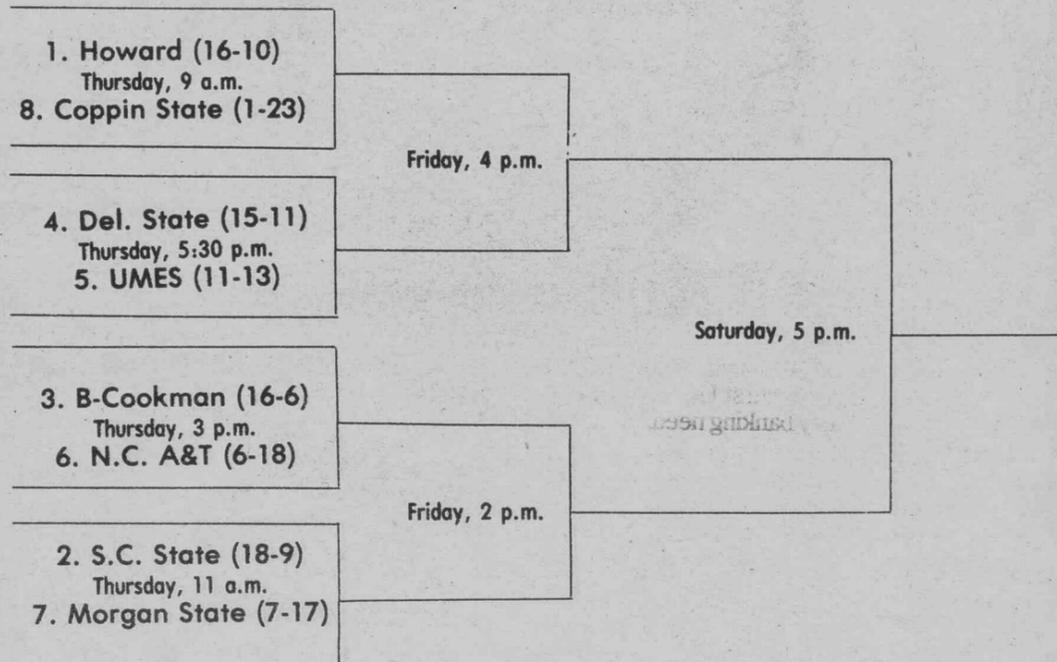
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S.C. State improves

Wanda Pittman, the 6-6 Atlanta native who has been the key to the success of the South Carolina State women's basketball team the last four years, really proved her worth to the Lady Bulldogs this season.

During the first three years of her career, when surrounded by other talented players, Pittman averaged 14.2 points, 49 percent accuracy from the field, 10.9 rebounds, 5.7 blocks and one assist.

Then, after finding herself as the only returning starter in the Lady Bulldog lineup this

season, Pittman improved in every category.

Through the team's first 22 games, she averaged 20 points per game, six points better than her career mark; made 53 percent of her shots from the field to lead the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; pulled down 12.5 rebounds per game; rejected almost eight shots (7.9) per game; and handed out close to two assists (1.7) each outing.

She has literally carried her team, pulling out several nail-biters with her scoring, rebounding and shot-blocking.

Howard women aim for finals

The Howard women's basketball team has reached the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference finals the last two seasons on a combination of tough, aggressive defense and tenacity on the boards.

The Lady Bison won the tournament championship in 1984-85 and lost to S.C. State by two last year.

The 1986-87 version of the Howard women's basketball team possesses those characteristics. Howard Coach Sanya Tyler is confident her team meet the challenge.

"We have played a very tough schedule," says Tyler, who is now in her sixth season. "We have been in just about every game and we have also responded to pressure situations."

"That, along with our tournament experience, should be a definite plus for us."

The Lady Bison don't have much depth but they are a well conditioned group.

The focus of their opponents all season has been center Darlene Beale. The 6-2 junior, who was the 1985-86 MEAC Women's Player of the

Year, has again been a dominant factor despite double and triple teaming.

Beale was averaging 17 points and 15 rebounds through 23 games.

It has been Beale's presence in the middle that has allowed guards Roslyn Bell and Vikki Kennedy and forwards Lynette Funches and Artine Hector to be productive.

Bell, in particular, has been a major beneficiary. The 5-8 junior from High Springs, Fla., has more than doubled her career scoring average (16.0 ppg).

Accounting

Economics

Mathematics

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English

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AT&T at A&T

INFORMATION SESSION

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Murphy Hall

6:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

North Carolina A&T State University

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