

History of Athletics at FSU

Athletics began at Fayetteville State Normal School shortly after the school was moved to its present campus. In the early days, baseball and basketball were most popular among the male students, while basketball tended to be the main sport for women. It is not clear exactly when each activity began, but there is photograph evidence that there was a baseball club in 1912 and a women's basketball team in 1916.

Students were the moving force behind athletics at that time. Athletic associations were formed in much the same manner as other clubs on campus. There was always a faculty advisor, as with other school functions, but the students organized and managed the operations.

Fayetteville State was a charter member of the North Carolina Athletic Conference (NCAC), which served as the governing body for its first athletic conference. Teams were fielded in baseball and football for men, and tennis for women. Basketball was added a short time later. Fayetteville State had a four-acre athletic field that was surrounded by a nine-foot fence. It had, what was called at the time, an impressive grand stand.

The program grew throughout the thirties. The football team of 1934 posted a 9-2 record, 1935 posted a 5-2-2 record, and 1936 posted a 6-1-1 record.

The crowning glory for Fayetteville State was the construction of Lilly Gymnasium. This was deemed one of the finest sports facilities of its time. It was not only the home for college tournaments, it was the home site of the National Association of High School Basketball Tournament for three consecutive years, a record. The tournament left only because the tournament rules prohibited playing at a single site more than three consecutive years.

Track was returned to the program in 1940 and continued until World War II depleted the athletic population in 1943. Fayetteville State fielded a competitive team that made its mark against the powerful CIAA teams.

The new gym sparked a rise in Bronco fortunes. Fayetteville State joined the Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (EIAC) in 1940. This conference was made up of

schools with small male populations. The conference members included: Livingstone College, Morris College, Storer College, Elizabeth City State College, Virginia State College-Norfolk Campus (now Norfolk State), and Friendship College.

In the first year, the Broncos lost only one game in football and one conference game in basketball. They were runner-ups in the first EIAC Tournament. The women were league champions with a 10-0 record. The 1941 men's team won the EIAC Tournament Championship while the women were maintained a high ranking despite three losses. The Lady Broncos took a 1,000 mile tour through the south and returned undefeated in eight games. They lost to Xavier University for the national championship held in Lilly Gym.

Throughout the forties and fifties the Lady Broncos were a force to be reckoned with. From 1949 to 1952, they posted impressive records of: 1949, 8-4; 1950, 13-3; and 1952, 9-1. Women's basketball continued its prominence until it was discontinued in 1960. Their last team featured Hall of Fame player, Shirley Autry.

Fayetteville State maintained a strong program through the forties. They suffered during the War like most other schools. In 1946 their fortunes began to climb as "Big Gus" Gaines took the helm. He immediately established the Broncos as a team to be reckoned with. There was a full program including tennis and track for men, and basketball and tennis for women. Beginning in 1946, the Broncos won the EIAC Tournament Championship five years straight. The 1950 football team took the EIAC Conference Championship with a 7-1 record, for its only recorded football championship. Their record was 7-1, possibly the best record in history.

During these years the Broncos placed a number of players on the All-EIAC team. In 1948 Randolph Worsley, Charles Mumford, Howard McAlister and William Harrison made First Team All-EIAC in football. Charles Black, Harold Cushingbury, and Henry Lawrence were members of the second team. The following year, George Colburn and Ed Johnson were named First Team All-EIAC, while Charles Black and Herbert Spruill were named to the second

team.

Thirteen Broncos were named to the 1951 All-EIAC team, with seven named to the first team. They were, Sam "Snake" Williams, Fred Tallner, Andrew Turner, John Cotton, Allison Stanley, Doug Jackson and Jim Eargle. Sam Williams later signed a free agent contract with the Baltimore Colts, becoming the first known professional football player from Fayetteville State. Other football greats from this era were: Wildman Brayboy, Denry Lawrence, James "Red" Paige, Earl Garnett, John Jackson, Harold Ford and John Jigette.

The glory of Bronco basketball dates back to the late forties. In a five-year span, 1948 through 1952, the Broncos won five consecutive EIAC Championships. Willie Carter and Smith Coston were members of the 1948 All-EIAC Tournament Team in basketball. Possibly the most remarkable team was the last champions in 1952. The team feature a line-up of seven sophomores: Ten Benner, Augustus Young, Frank Davis, David Williams, James Boyd, William Jones and Sam "Snake" Williams.

As a sign of things to come, the Broncos featured a superior golfer in William Carter. Carter, playing as an independent, won the Charlotte Tournament Championship in 1948 and 1949. He posted scores of 270 and 283. This feat he accomplished without any coaching or a real place to practice.

In 1954, the Broncos became a member of the powerful CIAA. From the beginning, things were tough in football, and the Broncos became everyone's favorite homecoming guest. Basketball maintained a measure of its glory.

With the departure of Gus Gaines after the 1956 season, the Broncos faced another sign of things to come: revolving coaches. Alumnus William Bryant took over for two years and won only two games. Hubie Doub followed him in 1959. Over the next four years he moved the program out of the cellar into contention for the conference championship. He stepped down after his fourth to devote more time to teaching. Frank Robinson took over in 1963, and the program flandered again. In three years, he posted only four victories. Doub returned to the sidelines in 1966, but this time he could not work his magic. Although

the Broncos played well, they lost games in the last minutes by close margins. This era featured Bronco greats, Willis McLeod, Jesse Williams and Fred Rodgers.

The seventies welcomed a new coach, Ray MacDougal. After posting a 3-5-1 opening, Coach "Mac" put Fayetteville State on the football map. He posted losing seasons in only three of his first ten years, with back to back 7-3 records in 1975-76. Some of the greatest Bronco gridders played during the seventies: James Godwin, Larry Walker, Karl Smith, Sylvester Ritter, Mike Wright, Ronald Crawford, Blenda Gay, Ronald Cox, Clarence Pointer, Maurice Franks, Burnis Travis, Ronald Goins and Bertie Wadford.

He was unceremoniously removed as coach at the 1979 season.

The 1980's saw the beginning of revolving coaches in the football program. Tom Harris stayed only one year, but long enough to start the program on a downward spiral before leaving for other pastures. He was replaced by William Head. Coach Head inherited a team in total chaos, and never quite got things rolling. He resigned after three years and moved on to Kentucky State. He was replaced by his defensive coordinator, Robert Pulliam. He was able to guide the Broncos to the only winning season of the eighties in 1987, 6-2-2. Pulliam never made the adjustment to working with the meager resources at Fayetteville State. The following year, unable to do the type of recruiting that he felt was necessary, he resigned after a losing season.

Ray McDougal was named his replacement in April of 1989. It was felt that he could work the same magic that he had as interim basketball coach. He took over the job far too late to recruit, and began the year with little replacement talent. While he remains the coach with the most wins in Bronco history, he is fast becoming the coach with the most losses.

Basketball remained a source of strength at Fayetteville State after they joined the CIAA in 1954. The team struggled under Frank Robinson and began to rise under Paige Sanders. Throughout this time, there were great players like Major Boyd and Fred Bibby. Gus Gaines returned to guide the Broncos in 1968, and was

handed one of his worst seasons in his career, 7-14.

Basketball reached its greatest heights during the early seventies under the guidance of a little man with a great smile, Tom Reeves. Coach Reeves knew how to win and was able to show his players how to win. Like coach McDougal, he joined the staff in 1970 when Dr. William Bell was athletic director. They both brought their programs up together. By 1972, Coach Reeves had built a contender for the CIAA Tournament Championship. The Broncos were runner-ups that year, but Coach Reeves promised the Bronco Family a championship. In 1973, he delivered. Before the dust had settled, tragedy struck. Coach Reeves died in the spring of 1973, and the Broncos have not reached such heights since.

Otis Hawkins replaced Coach Reeves at the helm of Bronco basketball. He continued a measure of success that had been established. Just when things were about to flourish, lightning struck. Hawkins was removed for allegedly slapping a player.

His replacement, Dr. Joe Robinson, also served as athletic director. He had hardly broken the ice at Fayetteville State when lightning struck him. After beginning the 1976 season on a high, it was discovered that one of the players was ineligible because he was a transfer student and had been on the team at Winston Salem the previous year. The Broncos were forced to forfeit all of their victories, more than a dozen. The team finished the year with only seven players. Among them were John Barrows and Arnold Chambers. These young men demonstrated the high level of Bronco spirit. They, along with their teammates, carried the fight to every team they faced. Barrows was named All-CIAA and Chambers deserved similar honors.

Robinson got the Bronco Express back on track with a team of freshmen, built around forward Ed Jefferson and Jeff Ballard. His efforts and good recruiting returned the Broncos to their winning ways. He was succeeded by his assistant and former player, Jake Ford. Ford posted good seasons in 1981 and 1982, but the program soon began to flander into a revolving door for players. Most stayed only

a year or two, then left for various reasons. One reason was the lack of viable scholarships to offer. Ford resigned after the 1985 season. He was hounded by media and unlearned fans who expected him to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

Jeff Jones was his replacement. A former assistant at Wichita State, Jones was expected to be a good recruiter. He stayed only two years, (more than many of his players), before moving on to Delaware State. While Jones may have been good in time, he made the mistake of underestimating the strength of the CIAA and its coaches such as Hartley, Vaughn, Robbins, Christian and "Big House" Gaines. He left in the summer of 1987, leaving the team depleted of talent.

Ray McDougal, then head of the intramural program, was asked to take over the basketball fortune of the Broncos with no time to recruit. With a team that consisted mainly of good players from the intramural program, he took on the impossible task. This team's lack of size and talent was far overshadowed by the tenacity with which they played. They posted ten wins, and numerous heart attacks and nervous breakdowns. By season's end they were one of the most feared teams in the conference because they forced such a high level of play.

After one year, Bronco alumnus Jeff Capel took charge of the athletic department and basketball. Again, slow decisions by the administration placed the coach in the precarious position of not being able to adequately recruit. Capel took this bunch of outcasts and molded the foundation for things to come. With a team led by a 6-4 guard, Otis Bellinger, playing center, the Broncos were again the terrors of the Double-AA. They won only seven games, but discovered the nucleus of the 1990-91 team, Sky Armstrong, Phil Hart and James "Slim" Allen.

With time and funds to properly recruit, Capel fielded the first winning team in nearly a decade. Winning ten consecutive games at one point, the Broncos fell victim to injuries at the end of the year, and finished 14-13. Losing two starters, they faced the new season loaded with talent and were picked to challenge for the CIAA title.

GOLF

Golf has traditionally been considered to be the domain of the White man. Fayetteville State has changed that myth. Golf is one of the newer men's sports at Fayetteville State, but it is the Bronco's most successful program. For various reasons, golf and golfers have never received the recognition within the Bronco family that it deserves. The fact that it is played totally away from the campus should have had little to do with this fact. Wake Forest has always made hay of the fact that their program dominated their conference. On the other hand, Fayetteville State took their program for granted and missed the boat. As a result, their program was far better respected by others than by their own.

The Broncos started the Golf Team in 1972 under the administration of then athletic director, Dr. Bill Bell. It was placed under the guidance of Dr. Moses Walker, a great golfer in his own right. There were recruited golfers the first year, just some young men willing to learn the game. At the end of the first year, there were no medalists; the foundation was laid for the future. Terrence Murchison is an example. An All-CIAA forward in basketball, he had never played golf. He was taller than most golfers and learning the game was quite awkward for him. Yet, with a lot of hard work, he made the team, and went on to become a great asset.

The Broncos were soon competitive with programs like North Carolina State, University of North Carolina, Pembroke, Methodist and Coastal Carolina College. They won major tournaments when many felt that they were invited only as a courtesy. The team average of 289 ranked them

at the top of NCAA Division II, and in the top ten among Division I schools. The first recruit was Vincent Reid. Reid had been well schooled on the game and possess a wealth of talent.



1975 CIAA Champion Golf Team

His best asset may not have been what he knew when he arrived. His willingness to continue to elevate his game and to share with others not only helped him, but the total program. The example he set, even with his star status is still evident today. He was a medalist champion as a freshman.

The following year, Andre Springs was recruited. He provided the necessary competition that helped to make the team competitive. He and Reid, along with Dr. Walker, helped the other players better their games. Springs would become a medalist champion as well.

The program continued to improve. In 1975, the Broncos won their first CIAA Golf Championship, and the rest is history. The Broncos have been a dominant force in the CIAA in golf ever since, winning twelve consecutive conference championships. They won thirteen

championships in fourteen years. At the same time, the Broncos have had five medalist champions: Vincent Reid, Andre Springs, Kenneth Simms, Gary Robinson, and Jeffrey Donovan.

To this list of champions must be added several other young men, and women, who added to the Bronco golf tradition: Lonnie Melen, Johnny Vaughn, Randy Combs, Dennis Williams, Walli Harris, Carolyn Johnson, Richardo Stevens, Tony Terry, Ridell Miller, Melvin Jackson, Terrence Murchison, Charles Peterson, Roger Pilgrim, Edward Hines, Philip Boone and William Dukes. Carolyn Johnson is the only known woman in the history of the CIAA to participate on a men's championship team. She developed her game to the point that she successfully beat out a good player on the team.

A strange hand of fate touched the Broncos. The consecutive string of championships was broken when the Livingstone College team edged the Broncos out for the championship in 1987. Livingstone was coached by none other than

Vincent Reid.

The Fayetteville State golf legend continues beyond the college level. It has placed eight players on the mini-tour: Vincent Reid, Andre Springs, Kenny Simms, Jeffrey Donovan, Ridell Miller, Gary Robinson, Richardo Stevens and Tony Terry. There are currently four teaching-pros from the Bronco program: Andre Springs, Cleveland Municipal Golf Course; Vincent Reid and Kenny Simms, Rogers Park Country Club, Tampa, Florida; Jeffrey Donovan, Sawgrass Golf Course, home of the Tournament Players Championship. No historically Black college has equalled this success.

Dr. Walker stepped down as coach at the end of the 1989 season. The present golf team is coached by Mark Cline, an assistant basketball coach. In the transition the team experienced a slight slump during the 1990 season, but came back to traditional levels in 1991.

The team is lead by Tim Duke, the only rising senior. Tim is a unique story in that he is the oldest college golfer at age forty-six. He is a military veteran and a true leader, as well as, the teams best player. Chad Walker won Freshman of the Year honors. Scott Crawford was the Baywood Invitational Champion. The team placed: first in the Mt. Olive Invitational; third in the Hampton and Fayetteville State Invitational; second in the CIAA Northern Meet; first in the CIAA Southern Meet; second in the CIAA Championship; and fifth in the HBCU Nationals.

The Broncos made it back to the top in 1993, starting another streak of CIAA titles. It has won the CIAA four straight years. In 1995, they took their place at the national level, winning the NCAA Division II Minority National Championship. They repeated in 1996.

Dr. Moses S. Walker



Dr. Walker

Dr. Walker is a native of Raleigh, North Carolina and a graduate of Shaw University. He earned a masters and doctorate from Iowa State University in business administration. He has taught at A&T State University, Bennett College and Elizabeth City State University. He has also owned and operated several small businesses.

Dr. Walker is best known for his exploits away from the class room. He is possibly one of the best self-taught golfers in the world. Moreover, he taught himself well enough to teach others. He was selected to coach golf at Fayetteville State University in 1972. He began the program from scratch, since Fayetteville State had no true golfers. Two years later, he had the CIAA medalist champion and after three years he won the first of his thirteen CIAA Golf Championships. He coached the Broncos to twelve consecutive conference championships. At the same time he won CIAA Coach of the Year eight consecutive years, a total of nine times. He has produced five conference champions, four teaching pros and eight mini-tour pros.

Dr. Walker's life has not been restricted to golf. He pursues his first love, music. He is a polished drummer, and has played professionally. Music was his major when he enrolled at Shaw University. The death of his father caused him to interrupt his education to join the army. While in the army, he was a member of the band for two years.

Golf came in a round-about way. As a youngster, Dr. Walker worked as a caddie at a segregated golf course. Caddies were allowed to play on Mondays, and on other days they would play in an open field. With a lot of hard work he became a scratch handicap. Dr. Walker, like other Blacks, was not allowed to play on a high school team, and he never had a professional lesson.

For his coaching, Dr. Walker was named CIAA Coach of the Year nine times. His playing, coaching and other contributions to the game of golf have earned him a place in the National Black Golf Hall of Fame.

Coach Harold Scott



HAROLD L. SCOTT

Coach Harold Scott is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and is a graduate of West Virginia State College. He earned masters degree at the University of Pittsburgh and further studied at the Universities of Pittsburgh, Connecticut, Indiana and New Mexico.

Mr. Scott came to Fayetteville State in 1946 as a physical education instructor and assistant coach in football, basketball and baseball to Coach "Gus" Gaines. He established and coached the first modern-era track team at Fayetteville State in 1954, both indoor and outdoor. His teams were the first Fayetteville State teams to go to the CIAA, Penn Relays and Madison Square Garden.

He was promoted to athletic director in 1957 and served in that capacity for twelve years. He was the Fayetteville State liaison to the Red Cross and was responsible for the certification of physical education majors. He chaired the physical education department from 1961 to 1970, and was president of the CIAA for one year. In 1973, he was appointed as the first director of the National Youth Sports Program and served as director for the first three years.

Coach Scott is a 1990 inductee in to the Fayetteville State Hall of Fame.

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

Women's sports returned to Fayetteville State with passage of Title IX, which required that similar sports activities must be provided for females at institutions that received federal funding. The first sport was basketball, and the Broncos hit the ground running. The 1974 team, coached by Ms. Laurreta Taylor, featured the awesome fire power of Barbara Smith and Gail Cameron. The following year, the unstoppable All-American Katrina Owens, joined the squad. The Lady Broncos won over twenty games each year, and were the CIAA Tournament runner-up. This set a pattern for things to come. Every team is noted for strong defense and tenacious play. This helped to establish the Lady Broncos as a national force in the early eighties.

With a solid program left by Coach Taylor, the Lady Broncos were able to attract excellent players like Dianthia Morris, Conceitha "CC" Smith, Sheryl Drayton, Joyce Vaughn, Dimple White and Sheila Seward. They also drew a solid group of support players with the will to win. This factor led to the CIAA Championship in 1978 and put the Lady Broncos in the NCAA playoffs in 1982. The 1992 and 1983 softball team won the CIAA titles, led by Dianthia Morris (Ford).

HALL OF FAME PLAYERS

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| James "Shack" Ellis | 1946 | Basketball |
| James LeBroi | 1947 | Basketball |
| Juanita Williams | 1948 | Basketball |
| Howard McAllister | 1948 | Football |
| James Burch | 1949 | Football |
| Ruth Hassell | 1949 | Basketball |
| William Harrison | 1949 | Baseball, Basketball, Football |
| Charles Mumford | 1949 | Baseball, Basketball, Football |
| William Carter | 1950 | Basketball, Football, Golf |
| Harold Cushingbury | 1950 | Basketball, Football |
| Smith Coston | 1952 | Basketball |
| Denny Lawrence | 1956 | Football |
| James Paige | 1956 | Football |
| Roger Scales | 1958 | Football |
| Coley Little | 1959 | Football |

