

SPEAKING ABOUT SPORTS

BY
CIL RILEY

Brains Behind The Brains
Coach Nelson B. Higgins is always creditably called the brains behind the Hillside Hornets, but always forgotten is the very capable assistant to coach Higgins, Carl L. Easterling. Coaches Higgins and Easterling came to Hillside together in 1944 and took charge of the athletic activities at the school and since that time the Hornets have been in the sports limelight of the state almost every season.

Coach Easterling, although one of the top coaches in the state, majored in mathematics at Shaw University where he was the "terror of the CIAA for the Bears. His terrific play earned him the nickname "Bear" Easterling, which still sticks today.

Coach Easterling is the head coach of the girls' basketball team of the school and the tennis team, which have accumulated records compared to any team in the state. His girls' basketball team has won 60 games and lost 4 in the past three seasons to give them the best record in the state against the calibre of competition that they encounter. The tennis team, coached by Easterling, won the state championship last year, and was runner-up in 1953.

Coach Easterling is also assistant football coach and has produced some of the greatest linemen in Hillside History. He has definitely been successful in embedding the fundamentals of the game in the minds of his subjects.

Coach Easterling is very interested in the progress of young people in the community as well as in the school. To provide the opportunity for exercising his desires during the summer, he works with the recreation department of Raleigh. During the past summer he coached his softball team to the state championship.

Because of his inspirational work in the community, his versatility in the field of coaching, his keen desire for the advancement of youth, we salute him.

First Class Football, Third Class Stadium

The North Carolina College Eagles, under the excellent leadership of their coach Herman Riddick have again shown their power on the gridiron by successfully defending their

CIAA championship this season. The team is rated by yours truly as one of the top small college eleven in the nation, yet they have a third class stadium in which to hold these spectacular contests. It seems that for the price of admission to one of these contests a seat could be obtained, but not at O'Kelly Field. Of the magnificent crowd that turned out for the championship game with A and T College, approximately 20 percent had to stand. Wake up, NCC, big time football requires a bigtime stadium.

It seems that a championship team is not enough to inspire the people of Durham, because the crowds have been very sparse at the first two Hillside basketball games, which were won decisively. When the Hornets are down and losing, the fans cry, "What's the matter with Hillside?" but now the Hornets are riding high. "What's the matter with the fans?"

Deral "The Toe" Webster, the margin of NCC's CIAA championship, is definitely destined for greatness on the gridiron at NCC if his toe continues its clusively for the art in which he guard, should see more action next season unless he is kept exclusively for the art which he has shown himself capable, Kicking. Webster's great moment as well as The Eagles' was when he trotted onto the turf at O'Kelly Field in the game against A and T and split the uprights with his tie-breaking extra point to give the Eagles the CIAA championship.

The question has been submitted to yours truly many times before as to why there isn't a YMCA or gymnasium available for Negroes of Durham? As the tempo of the basketball season quickens the question comes before us fresh.

There are many groups of youngsters in this City who like to play basketball and engage in other indoor sports, but can't because there is no gym available.

It is generally conceded that that athletics are important in building character and making good citizens. If this is true, then why not furnish our boys a building in which to play? Why not give them the facilities essential to making good citizens? I ask you, Mr. Public, Why?

North Carolina College Eagles Defeat Tennessee State University Tigers 19-6 In National Classic

GREENSBORO — Herman H. Riddick's North Carolina College Eagles, champions of the CIAA, defeated Henry A. Kean's unbeaten and untied Tennessee Tigers, champions of the Midwestern Conference, 19 to 6 here today in Greensboro Stadium to claim the national football title among Negro college teams.

The Tigers, undefeated in their past 27 contests over a three year period and first ranking team in defense among the nation's small colleges, scored only in the dying minutes of the fourth quarter. Some 2,500 fans were stunned at the power of the Riddick eleven which scored in the first two minutes of play against the Tigers who earlier licked the Eagles 13 to 3 in Nashville last October 30.

The Eagles ended the season with a record of 7-1-1. Only Maryland State among CIAA clubs were able to tie the Eagles in Durham 7 to 7. Kean's Tigers, featuring the work of some of the country's fanciest ball carriers, were outplayed by the inspired Eagles.

The North Carolina College Eagles hit paydirt in the first two minutes of the ball game as Al Montgomery, the quarterback, hit Amos Thornton with an aerial covering 61 yards who scampered across the goal line untouched. The drive started from the 17 yard line following the kickoff. Thornton and Montgomery had alternated in plays up the middle to bring the ball up to the 37 yard stripe. Deral Webster's try from placement was blocked.

second TD midway the second quarter as Claude Mayfield, 225 pound tackle, intercepted an intended pass by Tennessee's quarterback, Fred Valentine, which was knocked from his hands by a vicious tackle, and

ran the remaining 39 yards. Webster split the uprights to put his team out front, 13-0.

The Eagles went ahead 19-0 just before the end of the half as big John Baker, 290 pound fullback, crashed over from the 2 yard line. The drive began on the North Carolina College fumble on the latter's 37 yard line. The drive featured a 29 yard pass from Fred Valentine, the

Tennessee quarterback, to Mitchell who was thrown out of bounds on the 7 yard line. Valentine's try from placement was wide.

The entire fourth period was played in the Eagles' territory and the losers muffed three other scoring opportunities in the final stanza. They were held for downs by a rugged Ea-

gle defense on the latter's 5, 7 and 3 yard lines.

For the victors, best on offense were Amos Thornton and Al Montgomery, backs; and Henry Lewis, an outstanding end. The defensive standouts were Webster and Ralph Curry.

For Tennessee the best threats were Valentine, Mitchell and Lee Derricks.

A&T CAGERS IN WIN AGAINST FAYETTEVILLE STATE, 85 TO 62

GREENSBORO — The A and T College Aggies opened the cage season Wednesday night December 1, with a 85-62 win over Fayetteville State Teachers College, here at the college gymnasium.

Playing under a brand new coach, Cal Irvin, who joined the staff in September, the Aggie hoopsters went out front from the opening whistle and were never overtaken. The team led 40-24 at halftime which was shortened by nine points midway the second half. A rally

during the final few minutes of the game more than resorted the first period lead.

High scorer of the game was Aggie sophomore, Boyd Smith of Concord, who bucketed 22 points. His teammate, Wyatt Minton, dropped in 18 pointers. Leading Fayetteville were Ralph Mack with 17 and close behind, William Lewis who registered 16.

The conference clash drew one of the largest crowds ever to see a basketball game in the local gym, opened last year.

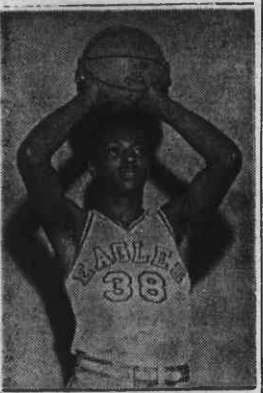
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Hairston, Lorenzo Bell and Randolph Reid. Lee W. Smith, Jr., Executive Director will accompany the team on the trip.



Harvey Heartley, 6'2 1/2 senior forward on North Carolina College's basketball team is one of the two veteran mainstays performing for the Eagles this season. Heartley is expected to be in the N.C.C. quint starting lineup in their December 9 clash with Maryland State College in Durham and again in Durham and again in Durham on December 13 when the Eagles entertain Bluefield State College. Heartley, an all "A" student, is a physical education major who is a native of Clayton.

John Avery Boys' To Participate In Pong Tourney

The John Avery Boys' Club Ping Pong team will travel to Newport, News, Virginia Sat., Dec. 11, 1954 to participate in the Boys' Club Ping Pong tournament. The Hampton Roads Boys' Club which has won the championship for the past two years will serve as the host team. The local Club team has placed second the past two years, but they are making every effort to win top honors this year. Members of the local team are as follows: Walter McCoy, Chester Jenkins, Roosevelt

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