

Dedication November 28

New A&T Stadium Fulfills Dreams

By Richard E. Moore
GREENSBORO — A&T State University will dedicate its new \$3 million football stadium complex on Saturday, November 28.

A&T alumni and friends had long been suggesting that the university needed its own football stadium.

Whenever they gathered, they talked about the Homecoming crowds jammed into Greensboro's Memorial Stadium (really a baseball field). In more recent years, they talked about the muddy track which ringed the field whenever it rained, or about the abysmal lack of restrooms at the stadium.

Playing in the old stadium was also a nightmare for those who accounted for the gate receipts. With no numbered seats, it was impossible to verify the large crowds which the sports reporters indicated were at the games.

On the other hand, Aggie football teams over the years distinguished themselves in Memorial Stadium by winning a number of championships.

But the continuous agitation for a new stadium ultimately produced an "idea whose time had come." Alumni began talking to Chancellor Lewis C. Dowdy as early as 1969, but the idea had gathered a full head of steam by October, 1973, when the A&T board of trustees approved a resolution authorizing the university to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of building a new stadium. Dowdy appointed a 12-person committee with athletic director, Cal Irvin, as chairman.

The committee reported to Dowdy that there was genuine interest in building a stadium, and some pledges and donations began dribbling in.

Impetus for a full scale fundraising drive for a stadium came into being with the return of Dr. Albert E. Smith to A&T in the fall of 1976 as vice chancellor for development and university relations. Smith had served as the Aggies' athletic director before becoming assistant athletic director at the University of Pittsburgh. He had also served several years as athletic director at

Eastern Michigan University.

Smith surrounded himself with campus and community persons interested in the stadium project. Greensboro architect, W. Edward Jenkins, an A&T graduate, was asked by Dowdy to draw plans for the stadium. After much planning, the committee decided on a stadium project which would cost in the neighborhood of \$1.8 million.

It was decided to build the stadium complex in phases. The first phase would include seating for up to 20,000 fans, with the funds generated from three sources: a \$1.8 million bond issue, \$380,000 from alumni and friends; and \$120,000 from the business community. Ultimately, a total of \$500,000 was raised from alumni, friends, and corporations.

Plans called for the committee to conduct a 12-week fundraising campaign. More than seventy volunteers participated in the solicitations throughout North Carolina A&T staff members, including Smith, Dr. Richard E. Moore, Joseph D. Williams, Mrs. Shirley Frye, and head football coach, Jim McKinley, carried to story to appeal to other states.

The volunteers met and reported weekly, and at the end of the campaign, they had raised \$320,000 for the project from alumni and friends of A&T.

Three of the volunteer captains, Fred Whitfield, Lonnie Goode, and Dr. Theodore Mahaffey, had combined to raise more than \$85,000. Whitfield secured cash and pledges totalling \$29,668 and Goode followed with contributions of \$29,000. Mahaffey secured \$24,155. The fundraising campaign was officially completed by June of 1977.

The fundraising campaign drew broad community support. Leading the way with corporate gifts were Cone Mills, Greensboro National Bank, WFMY-TV, Southern Bell, and the Greensboro News Company. The following companies also contributed "substantial" amounts: Southern Life Insurance Company, Ciba-Geigy Corporation, American Federal Savings and Loan Association, Berico

Fuels, Inc., Peat Marwick Mitchell and Company, First Union National Bank, the Richardson Corporation, N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company, Texfi Industries, Inc., Plantation Pipe Line Company, Arrow Exterminators, Inc., J. Hyatt Hammond Associates, Inc., Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, Residence Development Company, and Joseph Ruzicka.

An important benefactor for the stadium project has been Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Bryan of Greensboro. The Bryans and their family foundation contributed nearly \$15,000 during the fundraising campaign, then donated another \$81,000 for the stadium just prior to its completion.

Another highlight of the drive was a \$10,000 pledge by the A&T Aggie Club, the largest single donation by a club or organization and a \$5,000 gift from the Greensboro Jaycees.

A Radiothon conducted via radio stations, WEAL and WBIG, netted \$25,000 in pledges and contributions.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the stadium were held on June 11, 1977, with university, city, county and alumni officials participating.

Six months later, the project was fully underway, with the basic design having been modified somewhat from the original concept of a pre-cast concrete structure to one utilizing basically steel beams. The stadium was completed in time for the Aggies' opening 1981 football game against arch rival, Winston-Salem State.

The stadium complex includes seating for 17,000 fans, a pressbox, accommodating eighty persons, an eight-lane composition track, two team rooms, four concession stands, eight restrooms, a first-aid station, a stadium clubroom and an ultra modern solid state display scoreboard.

The stadium clubroom, completely furnished with gold and blue furniture, was outfitted with the assistance of a \$15,000 grant from the Greensboro Jaycees.

The scoreboard, one of the most attractive of its kind in the state, has become a focal point of A&T's football games.

The board, which allows the use of flashing, changing, and traveling words, messages and graphics, and limited animation, is a crowd-pleaser.

The scoreboard was donated by Greensboro National Bank, WFMY-TV, Burger King on East Market Street and Greensboro Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

A&T's new chancellor, Dr. Edward B. Fort, sums up the enthusiasm and pride which Aggie supporters have for their new

stadium:

"We fully intend for this exciting new stadium complex to be an asset for our students, faculty, alumni, the community and the state. The strength of this university's athletic program is predicated upon the thesis that such a phenomenon evolves from the character and academic development of its student athletes. We shall continue the Aggie tradition of academic excellence and sports excellence."



N.C. A&T Cagers To Open Season Against WSSU Dec. 1

By Raymond Moody

If you're a basketball fan and you like action-packed basketball, North Carolina A&T should be an exciting team to watch during the 1981-82 season.

A&T head basketball coach Don Corbett said his team will use a three guard offense most of the time this year, because, according to the coach, the Aggies are loaded with players at the guard position.

However, Corbett's primary reason for the using three guards is the unavailability of a "big man" on the squad. The

tallest man on the team is 6-7 forward Joe Binion, so Corbett expects to offset his team's height problem with speed. And the Aggies have plenty of speed in their guards.

The guards currently seeking positions are James Anderson, Ron Stinchcomb, Tony Thomas, Eric Boyd and Brian Booker.

"We are very heavy in guards," Corbett said, "I'm satisfied with their play right now, everybody's been working real hard," he said.

One guard spot is already filled. James

Anderson, a 6-2 native of College Park, Georgia, returns from A&T's 21-8 1980 team. Anderson led the MEAC in scoring last year with a 19.5 average.

The starting point-guard spot is highly competitive. Three guardsmen, Ron Stinchcomb, Tony Thomas and Eric Boyd, are the leading candidates to play opposite Anderson.

"The depth chart at the point seems to change daily," laughed Corbett, who has the envious position of choosing one of the three talented players to start.

"We don't know who'll be starting yet, but the players who come off the bench will see plenty of action on the floor."

"Corbett said he plans to move one of the three point guards (Stinchcomb, Thomas and Boyd) at the "big" guard spot behind James Anderson, apparently so the coach can shuffle players in and out at random.

"We're going to play the length of the floor," Corbett said. "I've never had a team with so many good quick guards, so I plan to use them all."

"I want to play pressure defense this year," Corbett continued. "We need to force teams into our game. We can't allow teams to come down and set up. We don't have enough height to let them do that."

"We have to set up the tempo and it's up to our point guards to do that." A phase of the game

that concerns Corbett is his teams' ability to rebound. The Aggies will probably be at the disadvantage height-wise this year in every contest, with the exception in one against Winston-Salem State.

Supporting Binion at forward will be James Horace (6-5), Antoine Collins (6-6), Joe Lopez (6-6), Willie Powell (6-4), Artie Gaines (6-4), Warren Berry (6-5) and Tony Glover (6-5).

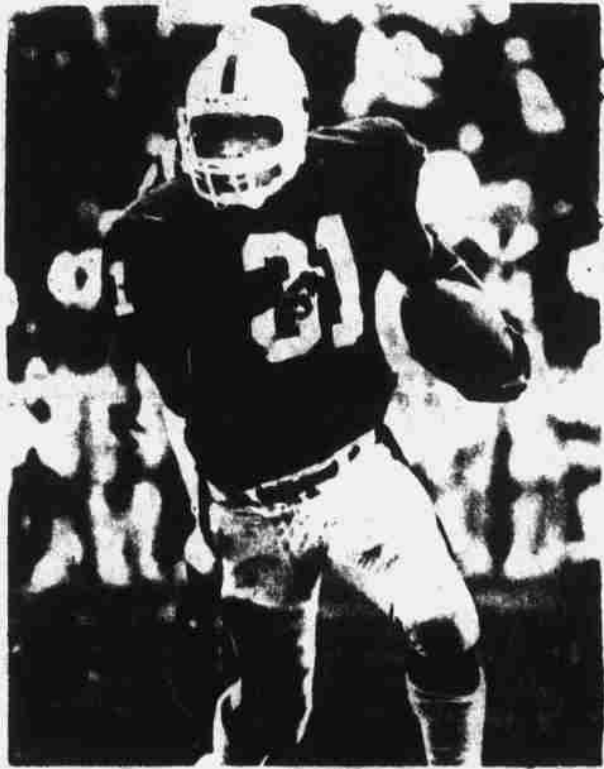
Powell and Gaines are both converted guards, who Corbett decided to switch to forward this year.

"Willie can play

guard, but he seems more comfortable at forward where he doesn't have to handle the ball so much," stated Corbett. "Artie has good ability and we need him under the boards where he is more effective."

The Aggies have one scrimmage under their belts already this season. The Aggies played a Blue-Gold game in front of the Charlotte Alumni at West Charlotte High School.

"The game was well attended by the people of Charlotte," Corbett said. "It was interesting. It will probably be an interesting year, too."



Breaks Record

Darrin Nelson broke the NCAA Career All-Purpose Yards record with a 197-yard performance which included two touchdowns in leading Stanford (Calif.) to a 42-3 victory over Oregon last week. Nelson is shown on an end-run going for an 8-yard touchdown in the second quarter. UPI

How to get the most from your bank

TAX CHANGES AFFECT ESTATE PLANNING

By David Buffington

On January 1, 1982, a law comes into effect that gradually reduces federal estate taxes over a period of six years. By 1987, many estates will no longer have to pay any federal estate taxes on property or money passing to heirs.

Under the present federal laws, when a person dies, up to \$175,625 of the estate can pass on to beneficiaries tax free. In 1982, that amount will be raised to \$225,000 and will rise every year until 1987, when it will remain constant at \$600,000. For most families, this will mean that when the second parent dies, an entire estate can be passed along to the children or other beneficiaries tax free.

Under the current law, a spouse may inherit tax free up to \$250,000 or one-half of the estate, whichever is greater. The new law specifies that when either the husband or wife dies, there is no limitation on how much property can be transferred to the surviving spouse tax free.

Because of these changes in estate tax laws, most people will find it worthwhile to review their wills. A person may want to change how much is given to a spouse or to a child. It is important to remember, however, that North Carolina residents will still be required to pay state inheritance taxes, which are not affected by the changes in the federal estate law. (The North Carolina tax, however, has always been substantially less than the federal tax.)

Other changes affect gifts that are made during a person's lifetime. Currently \$3,000 per year is the limit on how much can be given by each person as a tax free gift. In 1982, that amount will be raised to \$10,000 per person per year. This means that a couple can give a child \$20,000 per year tax free as a gift.

Giving children monetary gifts can be advantageous in two ways: usually the children are in a lower tax bracket, and any income resulting from the gift (such as dividends from an investment) will be taxed according to the lower tax bracket of the owner-child. Gifts to the children also reduce the amount of taxable property in the parents' estate during their lifetime.

The new law particularly benefits farm owners who would like to leave the farm to their wives in a "life estate" arrangement. In a life estate, the husband can leave his wife the farm for her to have during her lifetime. At her death, according to his pre-arranged stipulations, the farm would go to the children or other beneficiaries. Currently, the wife would be required to pay taxes on the farm's value over \$250,000 or one-half of the estate. The new life estate laws allow the farm to qualify for the unlimited marital deduction, regardless of the value of the farm.

An estate planner in the trust department at your bank or a qualified lawyer can explain the tax changes to you in detail. It is wise to review your will, taking into account these federal estate tax changes to see how they may affect the distribution of your estate.

David Buffington is a vice president in the Personal Trust Department at Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in Winston-Salem. He has worked in estate planning for 12 years.



David Buffington

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