

BARELY MADE IT — A crucial offense "set" was kept alive last week in Central's showdown with Johnson C. Smith University when the Eagles made this first down by inches. Photo by Silas Mayfield

With An Eye On Charlotte

Eagles Face A&T Here Saturday

By Elson Armstrong, Jr. Going into Saturday's game with arch-rival A&T State University, NCCU's Eagles can take one of two points of view.

They can take the game lightly, for after all, they are the Southern Division champions, and they will face hard-hitting Virginia Union Nov. 20 in Charlotte for the CIAA championship.

On the other hand, they can take the game seriously, because this is the "classic", still known to some as "The Turkey Day Classic", and the Aggies from Greensboro can salvage a disappointing season by "sticking it to the Eagles."

The game is at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Central's O'Kelly Field. About 12,000 screaming fans are expected. Eagle coach Henry Lattimore who saw his charges hold off Johnson C. Smith to win the CIAA Southern Division crown last Saturday, says that since Monday, the team's only focus has been A&T. The Eagles go into Saturday's contest with a 7-2 season mark.

"Last Sunday, we congratulated our guys on winning their homecoming and with it the CIAA southern title," he said. "But as soon as Monday arrived, it was all business and the only game on our minds is A&T. It's a game that will be tough, hard fought and we've got to win."

It is what you'd expect

a coach to say, especially a coach with Lattimore's dilemma. He's got a good team this year, in many ways a superlative team. But combining mental mistakes at crucial points in almost all of their games with a flock of penalties, the Eagles have managed to not become a dominant team.

If the Eagles fail to dominate the Aggies, it could not only cost them that game, but it could also put them at a distinct mental and emotional disadvantage going into the title contest with Virginia Union.

Lattimore points out, for example, that A&T's 1-7 record this season is not important. "I don't really keep up with won-loss records of A&T or anybody else," he said. "If you get caught up in your opponents' won-loss records then you start playing against a record. You have to play the team not the record."

But however you look at it, this is a crucial game for the Eagles, not simply because of the rivalry, but more because the outcome of this game, plus the way Central plays, will probably set the tone of the championship game. In that respect, Central has a number of hurdles to overcome at key positions.

On offense, Gerald Fraylon, the Eagles' sophomore quarterback who has played well this season overall, has good statistics, but sometimes appears to be "not with it", must play his best

games of the season, both this week and next week.

"I'm looking forward to the Virginia Union game," he said during a recent interview. "I want badly to win this time, because I was embarrassed last time, losing in my home town and all."

Fraylon, who played his high school ball at Charlotte's Myers Park, confessed that he sometimes takes teams too lightly, and that affects the quality of his play.

Thus the problem he and the Eagles face is being able to take the Aggies seriously and go into the championship game with sufficient momentum to halt what so far has been a CIAA juggernaut.

Virginia Union has not simply beat people this year; they have crushed them. But they've had their problems too, such as losing to Morgan State last week. Central beat Morgan 27-7.

But if Fraylon has to be at his best Saturday and next week, Central's defense has to be superlative.

All season, the defense has "saved" the Eagles. Anchored by their defensive ends — Lorenzo Ingram and Nate Johnson — and the tackles — Eric Perry and Barry McLaughin — the defense has done what had to be done in each game the Eagles won.

Ranked second in the conference, the Eagles' defensive unit has allowed less than 200 yards total offense per game, and they are just slightly

better against the pass than they are against the run.

The principle feature of their pass defense is rushing the quarterback. Perry explains:

"We basically have three stunts (types of rushes). One is where both the tackles go between the guards and the center. Then sometimes, one of us takes an outside route to the quarterback, while the other tackle goes inside. And sometimes, both of us go straight up the middle. It apparently works. The Eagles have sacked quarterbacks 54 times, and Ingram leads the "sack pack" with 14. Right behind him is Johnson, the other defensive end with 12 sacks.

But the defense's problem for the next two weeks will be time and stamina. Can the defense hold the Aggies off until the Eagle offense gets untracked, and will the defense have the stamina to keep the game in reach just in case the Eagles play their "usual" mistake-riddled game. But Lattimore says he's had no problem getting his team ready for Saturday's game. "Ever since these kids arrived here," he said, "all they've heard is that A&T is The Game."

As for the penalties, Lattimore points out that officials, knowing of Central's penchant for penalties, come expecting "us to commit them."

"I don't think they are out to get us," he continued, "but they do call us more closely. Sometimes officials who are out of position have thrown flags on us."

So Saturday is "the game", and in more ways than one.

Central needs to win this game to give itself the momentum to face its biggest challenge of the season —

Hazel Plummer Bowling Scores

The Hazel B. Plummer Bowling League scores for November 8:
Ladies high game: 225-Illa Hill, 206-Rosalyn Leslie, 202-Nancy Pinckney.
Ladies high series: 548-Illa Hill, 528-Rosalyn Leslie, 514-Carolyn Parker and Bernice Sniggs.
Men's high game: 210-Linwood Taylor, 204-Willie Finch, 203-T-Bird Roberson.
Men's high series: 532-T-Bird Roberson, 531-Jarius Wilson, 529-Linwood Taylor.
Others: 202-Quinton Parker, 511-Barbara Harrington, 508-Alyce P. Little, 506-Nancy Pinckney, 528-Willie Finch, 523-Jim Dyer, 522-George Thorne, 504-Joseph Parker.
High Team Game: 859-Blasters.
High Team Series: 2359-Rovers.
Four Game Winners: Rockers, Rovers, Gutterettes.

Last Shift Bowling Scores

The Last Shift Bowling League scores for November 4:
Ladies High Game: 211-Barbara Harrington, 210-Flo Roberson, 195-Nancy Rowland.
Ladies High Series: 569-Flo Roberson, 550-Barbara Harrington, 492-Nancy Rowland.
Men's High Game: 203-Guster Lewis, 194-Bo-Jim Parker, 193-James Petty.
Men's High Series: 577-Guster Lewis, 546-Bo-Jim Parker, 505-Hervey Graham, 494-James Petty.
High Team Game: 836-Late Corners, 818-Mixed Company
High Team Series: 2345-Late Corners, 2328-Mixed Company, 2315-Hit & Misses, 2304-Harp's.
Four Game Winners: Harp's, Late Corners, Plaza.

Rivalries Flare In Triangle

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.

While the fireworks are flying between the Aggies and Eagles at NCCU, there will be two other heated rivalries taking place in Raleigh and Chapel Hill.

UNC, which just a few weeks ago was thinking major, bowl and national championship, will now be playing for pride and a winning season as Virginia comes to town.

Among older UNC fans, this game, not Duke or State, is "the" game for Carolina, but

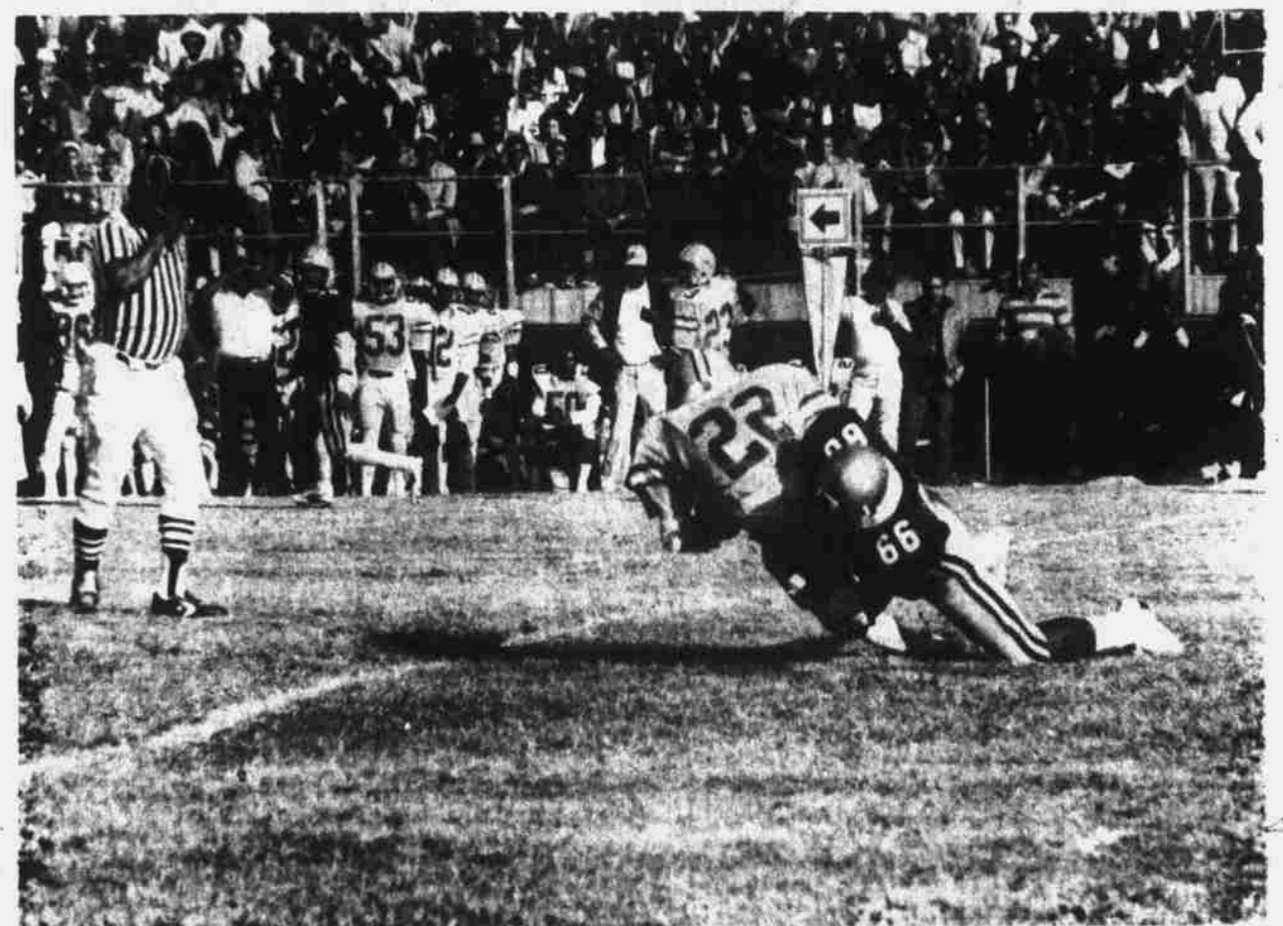
in recent years the rivalry between these two ACC members has been on the basketball court. Still Virginia could make its season with a win over (5-3) North Carolina.

In Raleigh, they're calling the Duke-State game the "Job Bowl". Both teams are 5-4 and a win assures one of them a winning season. But State coach Monte Kiffin is in hot water from disgruntled Wolfpack fans who saw their team shellacked 54-0 by Penn. State last week.

A loss to Duke could create such a fire storm that Kiffin could be blown out of a job.

For Duke, a win could give momentum to go into next week's big game in Durham against Carolina. A win there could also give Duke its first bowl trip since 1961.

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STOPPING THE PLAY — Central linebacker Maynard Smith (66) hauls down a Golden Bulls ball carrier in last week's 7-3 victory over Charlotte's Johnson C. Smith University. The game put the Eagles in the CIAA championship tilt in Charlotte next week against Virginia Union. Photo by Silas Mayfield

WELCOME To Miller Time

"Welcome To My Time."
When that workday's over, that's when my time begins. Time to say welcome to some ice cold Miller High Life. So go on. Get yourself a cold one. And welcome to my time. Welcome to Miller time.

Jeffrey Osborne
Jeffrey Osborne

Eagle-Aggie Clash

NCCU "Eagles"

vs.

A&T University "Aggies"

Saturday, Nov. 13th

O'Kelly Stadium

1:30 p.m.

TICKETS

ADULTS—\$7.00

STUDENTS—\$5.00

DAY OF GAME

All Tickets—\$7.00

1:30 p.m.