

# Aggies Ready For Cage Season

By Joe Faust

Although the sound of clashing shoulder pads and helmets can be heard down on the North Carolina A&T football field, the steady patter of Coach Warren Reynolds' basketball team is making its impression around Moore Gym.

It's basketball time again with the Aggies rated one of the top teams in the powerful Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

The Aggies were first unveiled to the public on

November 16, when they played the first of four tentative Blue-Gold intrasquad games.

The November 16 game was played at Durham, N.C.'s James E. Shepard Jr. High at 8 p.m. At 7 p.m. the same evening A&T coach Warren Reynolds, who was named MEAC "Tournament Coach" during the 1972-73 season, conducted a clinic.

The Aggies are anxiously looking forward to dates in Lynchburg, Va., Charlotte and Greensboro.

The long wait for the indoor sports season is a welcomed one since the Aggies figure to be a top contender for conference laurels.

Coach Reynolds feels the enthusiasm generating throughout himself and the entire student body.

"Most coaches like to keep their practices closed to the public, but I like to see the students and the fans watch their team," Reynolds commented shortly after the Aggies began their workouts.

"You'll always have a tough time beating a spirited team with a spirited crowd behind them."

Besides spirit, the Aggies are tall on talent as ALL-MEAC forward Ron Johnson and All American candidate Allen Spruill head the list of returning lettermen.

Also in the Aggie camp is 6-8, 235-pound Lon Smith. Smith looks like a refugee from coach Howell's football team but just a few glides up and down the floor and you know he's in the right place.

Smith, who is the younger brother of L.A. Laker Star Elmore Smith, averaged 25 points and 18 rebounds a game during his junior college stay.

He will be joined on the boards by 6-10 Sinclair Corbett. Corbett came on strong last season and is rated as one of the top pivot men in the conference.

In 6-1 co-captain Stan Parham the Aggies have the conference's most accomplished defensive performer. Parham draws the opposition's finest and consistently turns in a fine performance.

Coach Reynolds had an excellent recruiting season as he landed one of the nation's most sought after prepsters in 6-6 guard James Sparrow.

Sparrow, a native of Brooklyn, New York, broke all of Charley Scott's scoring records at Laurinburg (N.C.) Institute. The talented freshman averaged 25 points, eight rebounds, and ten assists per game.

"Because of the complicated defensive patterns that we run it will be difficult for a freshman to come in and break into the starting lineup," Reynolds said. "Sparrow has unlimited ability and he is adjusting to our system well."

Raymond Perry, Dexter Boone, Vince Butler, Art Blackwell, and Charles Chamberlain are expected to see considerable action this season for the Aggies.



"Moe Luke," is always at attention when it comes to responding to the needs of the boys at Patterson Ave. YMCA.

## Chronicle Profile

### Father To 4,000 Boys

"Moe Luke", as the Patterson Avenue YMCA kids call him, started working at the Y more than 19 years ago. Since then he has coached, in more ways than one, some 4,000 boys; most of whom have been without a father.

Moses Lucas, WSSU graduate (1953), has spent practically all of his adult life trying to teach boys "the importance of being themselves and that they are an important specimen to society."

Back when the Shake Community was thriving (the only thing left of it now is the Merita bakery on 9th street) Moe Luke used to try to keep the kids out of trouble. He bought some basketballs and baseballs and had all the kids on the block involved. Everybody used to call Moe and the boys, "Moses and his Disciples."

"I remember a passage in the Bible," Moe reflected. "It said, 'My people were destroyed for lack of knowledge'. A kid can be destroyed by not knowing himself, not knowing the law and what not."

Moe knows that a lot of the boys come to the Y for fatherly guidance; a commodity that is void in many black families. "Some of the boys come here for father image," Moe said recently. In addition, he said, "This is really home to them. After they come here and get that satisfaction they go home and everything is alright."

Moe is concerned that kids do bad things because many times they don't have anyone to correct them. Many of the kids really want to be told the right thing to do. "Kids seek happiness no matter where or who it comes from. There are no bad kids," he explained. "Just bad adults."

Moe, a small man who blinks his eyes nervously, is partly responsible for the meanness with which Carl Eller has been tackling opponents in the NFL; and the aggressiveness with which Herm Gilliam displays on the basketball court for the Atlanta Hawks. They both came through the Patterson Avenue Y, and Moe.

"Carl was a big kid," Moe remembered, "but a little timid at times. I used to tell him, Carl, you're too big to sit there and cry like that. Protect yourself. He's been fighting ever since."

Moe gets deep satisfaction when some of the older fellows come back to see him. "When they come by I know that what I taught them did them some good. They tell me I played an important part in their lives. Some say they'd never made it through school if it had not been for Moe Luke."

He could have found a better paying job, Moe said. But, his goal in life "is to help a kid find himself and know himself. Best of all to know that he is just as important to society as anybody else and that he too must fulfill his role."

All of this may not have happened if Moe had married the girl he loved back in the 50's, but it didn't work out. So, Moe has devoted himself to being a father to all the boys at the Y who need one. He described his concern with a little story:

"I was down on Patterson Avenue between Liberty and 7th streets. On one end there were some winoes and on the other some junkies. Then some homosexuals came out from between some houses in the middle. And I said to myself, there's no wonder the kids spend so much time in the Y. They want to escape the chaos and confusion...they want peace. They can find it here."

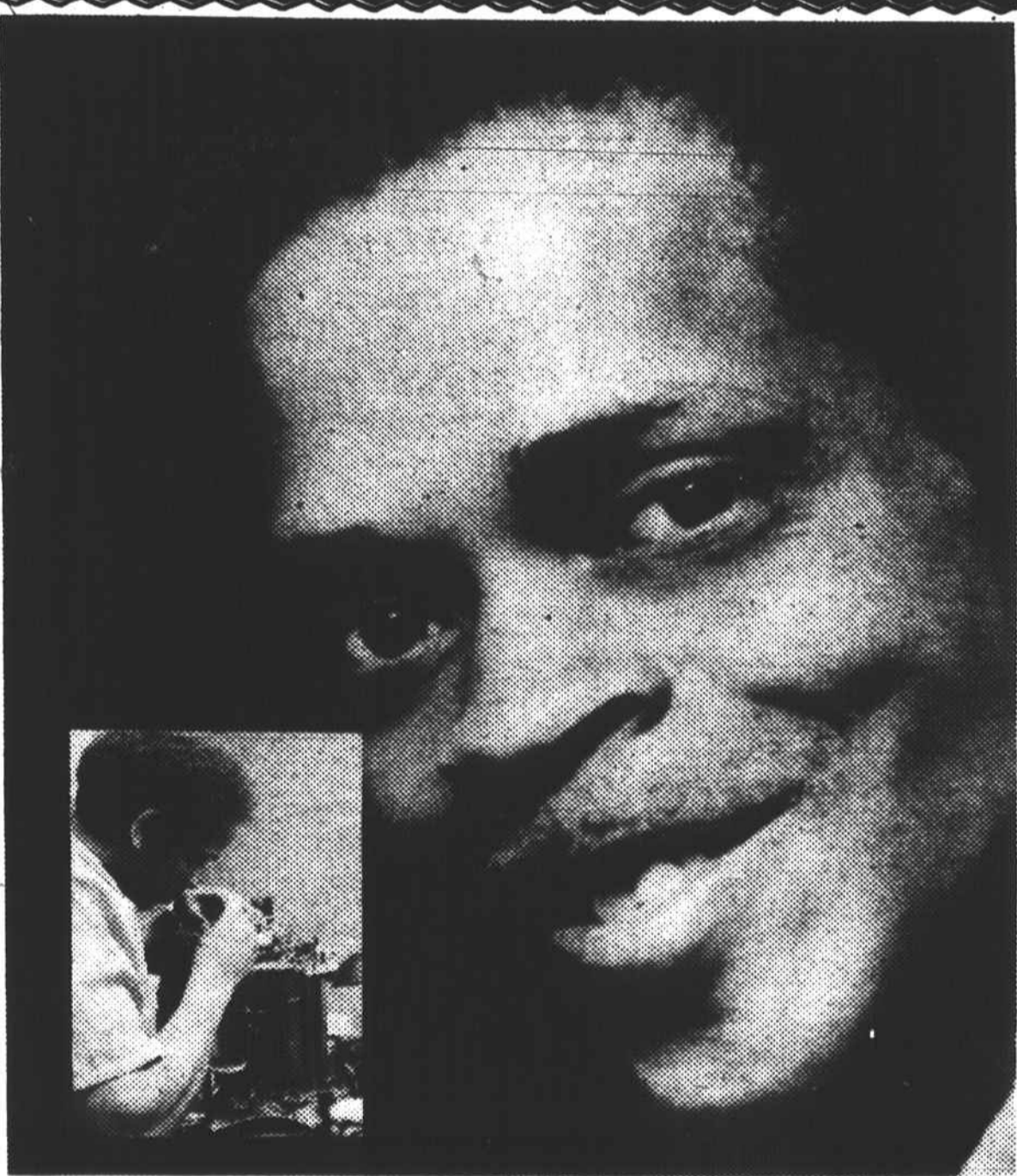
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