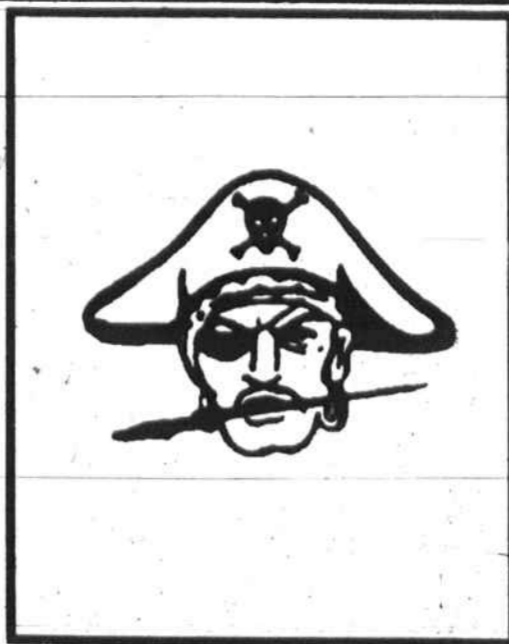


BASKETBALL

Roy Thomas has been selected as the new basketball coach of North Carolina A&T State University. **below**

**CIAA ROUNDUP**

Hampton University raptured the C.H. William Award, indicative of the CIAA's Men's All-Sport Championship. **page 18**

**POWERLIFTING**

Donald Simpson, a powerlifting champion, is on track to national recognition. **below**



SPORTSWEEK

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1994 Page 15

Champion Powerlifter Gains Sponsor, Hopes to Compete on National Level

Donald Simpson, a powerlifting champion from Winston-Salem, is on the track to national recognition.

Simpson's numerous titles include South Carolina State Champion, High Point Endurance Champion, Tar Heel State Champion and Lake Norman Champion. In November, he set a North Carolina State Powerlifting record in the Bench Press with a lift of 380 pounds.

Despite Simpson's immense talent as a powerlifter, financial resources have only allowed him to compete in the Carolinas. However, he has recently acquired a full sponsorship from Le Bleu Corp. that will allow him to compete in national and international events.

According to Jerry Smith, president of Le Bleu, "We chose to sponsor Donald because of his dedication to his sport and his dedication to a drug-free lifestyle. Our product, Le Bleu bottled water, is purchased by individuals concerned with purity and a healthy lifestyles. Also, our bottles water is in the North Carolina schools and we strongly advocate a drug-free position."

Simpson, who volunteers at the Boys Club in Winston-Salem, wants to be a positive role model for inner-city children. He feels the weightlifting help give kids the self-

esteem they need to confront and defeat the negative forces on the streets and in schools.

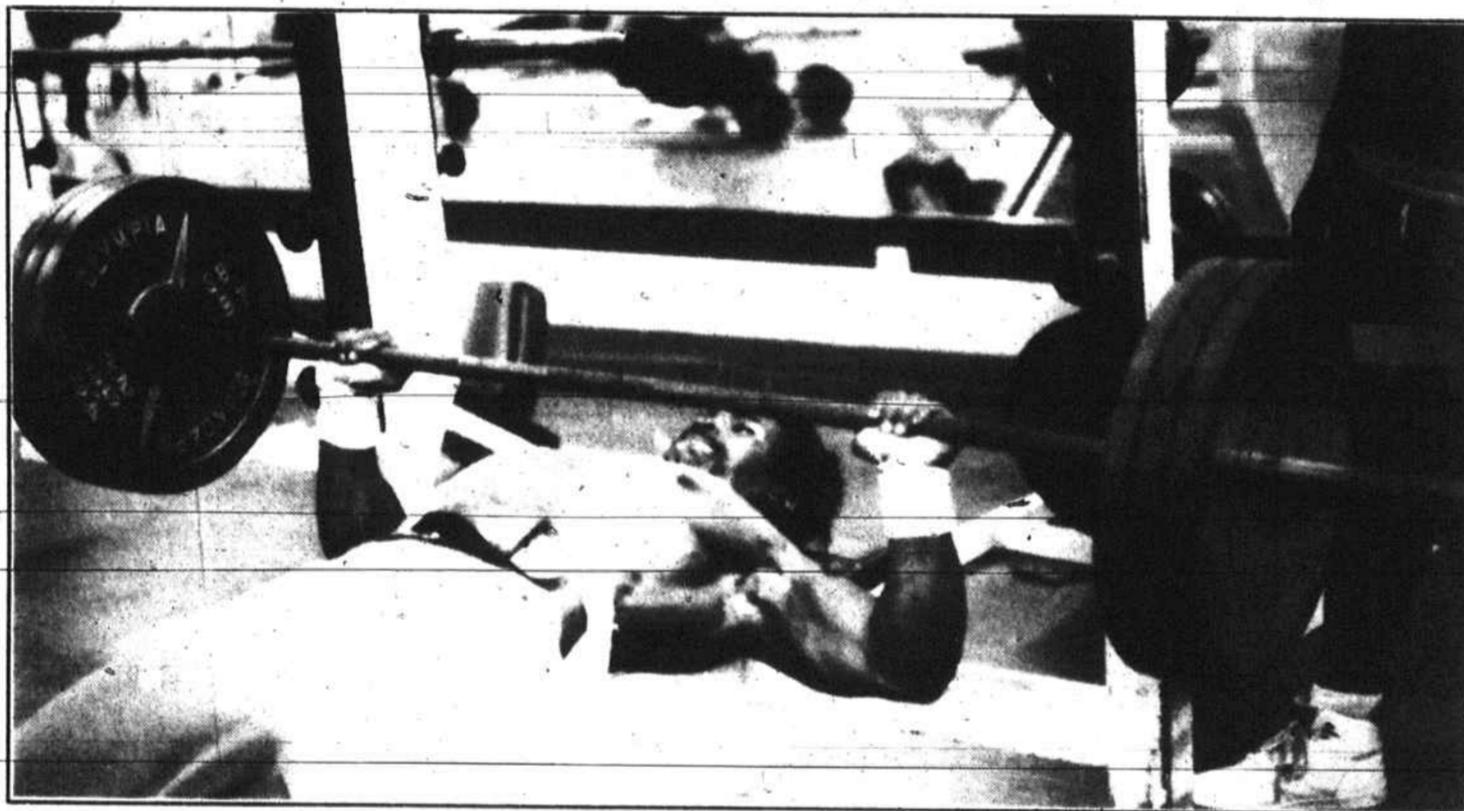
"I feel there are lot of poor role models for kids. There are so many negative things on the streets now and drug dealers are everywhere. The kids need all the help they can get now," Simpson said.

Simpson is very familiar with

the negative aspects of the streets. After graduating from Reynolds High School and fighting briefly on the Gladiators professional boxing team, he started abusing alcohol. Victory Faith Church was his salvation. "I'm a born-again Christian," states Simpson. "I don't abuse my body anymore and I know that God gives me the gift of strength. I feel I

can use my strength to influence kids not to take drugs or get involved in gangs."

Simpson has been invited to join Team USA in international competitions. He was recently invited to compete in Sweden, but could not finance his trip. With the major sponsorship by Le Bleu, the world awaits him.

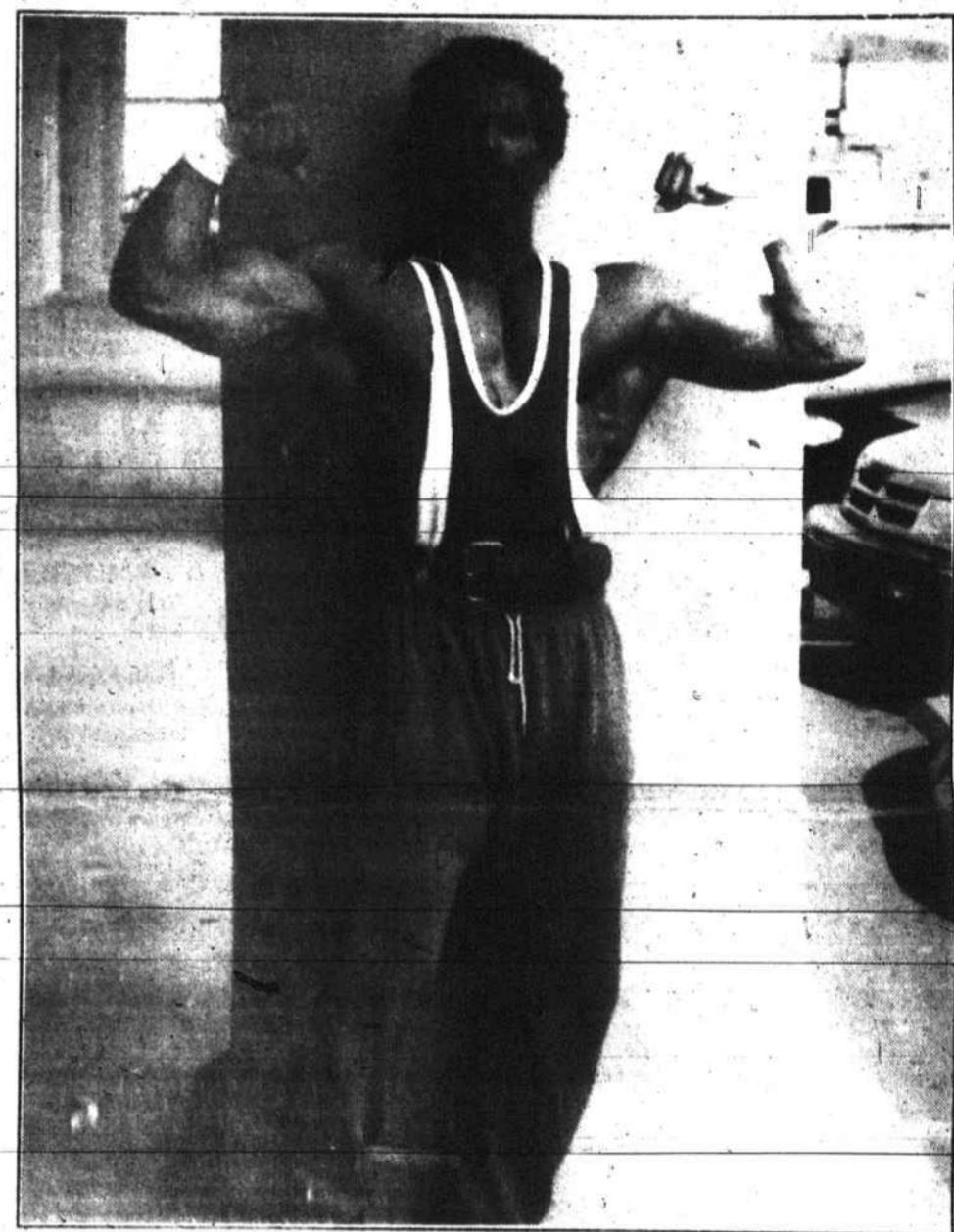


Donald Simpson practicing to lift weights for the international competitions.

Simpson believes you can accomplish anything if you are dedicated and persistent enough. His many years of training and positive attitude may place him on the Olympic podium with a gold medal around his neck.

Simpson's goal is to break the world record in the bench press. He modestly confesses, "I know I can break the record and wherever I go I'll spread the word of God."

He strongly believes that through God all things are possible.



Donald Simpson

A&T Selects Veteran Roy Thomas To Direct Aggies Basketball Team

Roy Chester Thomas, the successful coach of a nationally prominent basketball program at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas, has been selected as the new basketball coach of North Carolina A&T State University.

Thomas, 44, will succeed Jeff Capel, who resigned last month to accept the head coaching position at Old Dominion University.

"Almost as soon as it became known that we were seeking a new basketball coach, that superb championship coach Nolan Richardson of Arkansas, was contacting us and making us aware of the outstanding coaching acumen of Roy Thomas of Tyler Junior College," said Willie Burden, A&T's athletics director. "This is the kind of national reputation and respect Thomas has." Thomas' selection was accounted at a press conference Friday by Burden.

Thomas said he views the job at A&T

as a "fantastic situation."

"I am coming to a good program," he said. "I've kept up with the basketball at A&T and they are always at the top of their conference. I hope I can help to take the basketball program to another level. I want to keep the tradition going."

Burden said Thomas' selection came after an intensified search and screening of some outstanding basketball coaches across the nation. "We were particularly impressed by his outstanding record as a head coach and by the respect he has gained from his coaching peers. He clearly stood out as the new coach we should have for our highly respected basketball program."

A&T chancellor, Edward B. Fort, was also high on the appointment of Thomas. "I totally agree with athletics director Burden's recommendation to hire Mr. Thomas. His many strengths include a proven track

record with regards to the recruitment, retention and graduation of student-athletes at the colleges where he has been employed, including the fact that 85 percent of his players have gone on to Division I schools," said Fort. "He also had strong recommendations from some of the nation's best coaches, including Nolan Richardson of Arkansas; George Raveling of Southern California; and Pat Foster of Nevada-Reno."

Richardson, coach of the national champion Arkansas Razorbacks and a former successful junior college coach at Western Texas College in Snyder, Texas, said "Thomas' greatest strength, in my opinion, is his judgment. His judgment in recruiting, his judgment in motivation, his judgment in tactics and most important, his judgment of people have shown to be the keys to his success. I trusted him enough to let my son go play for him in the early 80s. Roy runs a disciplined program based on hard work and



Roy Chester Thomas

assistant coach at Division I Baylor University for five years and head coach of Texas A&I for three years, where he compiled a 34-44 record. Ron Harms, athletic director at Texas A&I, said, "Thomas did a good job here at a school which emphasized football and not basketball."

At Tyler Junior College, one of the nation's top junior colleges, he compiled a record of 218-96. Even in a down year in 1993, his team advanced to the Final Eight of the National Junior College Tournament.

Burden pointed out that over the years, Thomas has recruited and coached some outstanding players, including Terry Teagle, who became a first-round draft choice of the Houston Rockets; Ed Turner, who was a second-round choice by Houston; David Benoit and Robert Pack, currently with the Utah Jazz; and Vinnie (Microwave) Johnson, who recently retired from the Detroit Pistons.

Thomas received his B.S. degree in Physical Education and Business Education from Baylor University and also his M.S. degree in Physical Education from Baylor. Last season, the Aggies won the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Title (MEAC) and played in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

effort. I have seen few teams who play as hard as Roy's team play."

Fort also alluded to Thomas' outstanding coaching record, which includes an overall 14-year coaching record of 252-140; conference championship four of the past six years, and his three time selection as his conference's "Coach of the Year."

"In comparing the pool of finalists," added Fort, the Search Committee concluded that "his productivity of great players exceeded all other candidates, and he had solid Division I coaching experience."

Before going to Tyler, Thomas was an

ENTERTAINMENT

The Arts Council's Super Saturday for Kids Program will present Shirley Holoway, storyteller extraordinaire. **page 21**

**RELIGION**

Goodwill Baptist Church will host its Annual Youth Revival on June 8-10 at 7:30 p.m. **page 24**

**BUSINESS**

Model Pharmacy, located inside the Winston Mutual Building has been an institution in the black community for years. **page 20**