

# Aggies end classic with win

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

In a place like Las Vegas, things don't always go as planned. Make the North Carolina A&T men's basketball team the exception.

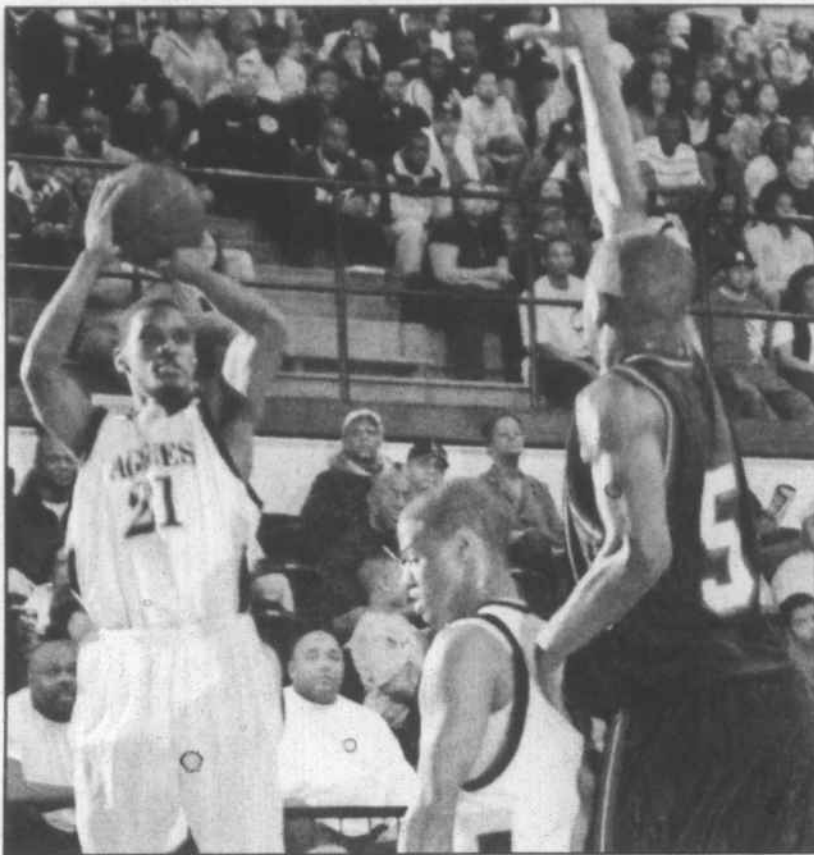
The Aggies defeated Coastal Carolina 72-60 last Saturday afternoon to close out the Global Sports Classic at UNLV's Thomas & Mack Arena. Junior guard Dwane Joshua led the Aggies with 21 points on 6-for-9 shooting. Tavarus Alston added 13 points, while Robert Johnson finished with 12 points and seven rebounds.

Going into the Global Sports Classic, head coach Jerry Eaves felt his Aggies could double down and go from two wins to four by the time N.C. A&T left Vegas. The Aggies are 4-3 on the season by beating the two mid-majors Eaves thought they could beat. They also put a scare into UNLV, and the Aggies will go into their first conference game of the season at home on Saturday against Norfolk State with a little momentum.

In all, the Aggies shined in the City of Lights. "This was a big win over a well-coached team," said Eaves. "I thought we could come away from this tournament with at least two wins and that is what we did. I enjoy coaching this team. This is an easy bunch of guys to coach. You can see us getting better and better each and every game."

As has been customary for the Aggies this season, they began to pull away from an opponent in the second half. After holding a 23-22 lead at the half, the Aggies gradually began to pull away six minutes into the second half.

The Aggies led 29-27 when Nic Wilson popped open for a 3-pointer to put the Aggies up five. Seconds later, Wilson would hit another three to complete the Aggies short 6-0 run



N.C. A&T's Ed Jones goes up for a shot. The Aggies will host Norfolk State on Saturday at 4 p.m.

that gave them a 35-27 lead with 13:07 remaining in the game.

N.C. A&T went back-and-forth with the Chanticleers over the next four minutes, keeping their lead between six and nine in the process. The Chanticleers' Mario Edwards finally broke through with a 3-pointer that put the Chanticleers down four, 41-37, with 9:53 to go. Joshua quickly answered. His three from the corner put the Aggies up by seven 16 seconds later.

Coastal Carolina never got the lead under seven again after the Joshua three. Joshua put the closing

touches on the Chanticleers with three minutes remaining when his layup gave the Aggies their biggest lead of the game at 60-49.

The Aggies return to Greensboro after a nine-day West coast visit. The Aggies will take on the Norfolk State Spartans, who will visit Corbett Sports Center Saturday afternoon at 4.

"They have great guards and they have kids who can light it up," said Eaves about the Spartans. "(Corey) Lyons and (Michael) Deloach are as good as it gets in our league. They will present a huge challenge to us."

# Curry is named Lott Trophy finalist

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Wake Forest senior linebacker Aaron Curry has been named one of four finalists for the fifth annual Lott Trophy.

Curry, a 6-3, 247-pound strong side linebacker, leads Wake Forest with 101 tackles and 15 tackles for loss. He has 2.5 sacks, three pass breakups, three fumble recoveries and an interception this season. Curry was highly recommended by his head coach, Jim Grobe, defensive coordinator, Brad Lambert, and Wake Forest academic counselor Hunter Willard.

"He is not only an outstanding football player but more importantly a great person," said Grobe.

"It has been an honor to be along for the ride this young man is leading our team on," said Lambert.

Willard added: "I can say that he is one of the most passionate and determined student athletes at Wake Forest."

The other finalists are James Laurinaitis of Ohio State, Brian Orakpo of Texas and Myron Rolle of Florida State. Each finalist receives \$5,000 for his school's general scholarship fund and the university of the winner receives \$25,000.

The winner will be announced at a black-tie banquet at The Pacific Club in Newport Beach, Calif. on Dec. 14. Named after Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott, The Lott Trophy is awarded to college football's Defensive IMPACT Player of the Year. Now in its fifth year, The Lott Trophy is the first and only college football award to equally recognize athletic performance and the personal character attributes of the player.

Sponsored by The Pacific Club IMPACT Foundation, the Lott award is given to a player who exhibits the same characteristics Lott embodied during his distinguished career: Integrity, Maturity, Performance, Academics, Community and Tenacity.

Voters for the award include selected members of the national media, previous finalists, the Board of Directors of the Pacific Club IMPACT Foundation and Legends Coaches, a distinguished group of former head college coaches.

This year's banquet is sold out. The keynote speaker will be long-time college football announcer Keith Jackson.



Wake's Aaron Curry celebrates.

## JV

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"Yeah, I was getting a little frustrated," Mitchell said. "We were turning the ball over in clutch time. That's when we need to tighten things up and secure the ball. We needed to make better decisions and take good shots. We go over that everyday. That's why it was frustrating to me."

North went almost three minutes without a bucket in

the third, and couldn't seem to stop Scrivens and Fair from getting in the lane to draw fouls. Scrivens also hit two big buckets to conclude the third quarter. Prep had a 43-42 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

But everything seemed to shift towards the Vikings after NHS center Tamaro Brown (9 points) muscled through the Phoenix defense for a tough bucket to start the final quarter. That gave North a 44-43 lead. North

didn't let that lead go either. The Vikings went up 47-45, 50-45, 56-51 and 64-55 before slipping away with a 5-point win. Coles put the Vikings up 65-55 after he hit a free throw with 1:50 left in the game.

But Brinson and Fair wasn't ready to surrender to North. Richard "R.J." Clement also hit some big shots for the Phoenix late in the game. Prep was able to cut the Viking lead to only 6 points with 39 seconds left.

Prep played strong defense to close the game, but couldn't find a way to connect with clutch free throws to end the game.

"This was a tough game tonight," said W-S Prep head JV coach Mario Price. "It was only our third game. We've had a few tough lay-offs this season. We're just starting to get to the bulk of our season. I was a little disappointed that we weren't able to do some of the things we usually do. Turnovers

happen. But we didn't execute like I know we can. Our first goal is to win the Lash (Chronicle Holiday JV tournament). I think we'll be fine by then. This was only a bump in the road. We're going to be a lot better."

Mitchell added: "I think this was a good game. I feel like Prep will be one of the better teams we play this year. I feel like we'll be fine if we execute what we practice everyday."

## Broncos

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McAdenville team, the coaches, and fans were even watching Glenn to see where he would run next.

On the Broncos third play, while everyone in the stadium was watching and pointing at Glenn, they missed Davis running untouched down the middle of the field for another long touchdown to bring the score to 12-0. On the next series, Glenn, Davis and Brinkley led the way for the speedster. Brown to chalk up his own 25 yard score. Mitchell caught the extra point pass from Jake Easter to make the score 19-0.

Although the entire team was at the top of their game, veterans Devin Klasic and William Hayes had career outings and were at the bottom of the pile on virtually every tackle in the first half. Some of the other first half standouts were Brinkley, Jackson, Southern, Jarred Scott, Zach Barefoot, Aaron Stamper, Michael Hines, Price, Spencer McNeely, Matthew Joyce, Nick LeCompte, Austin Purviance, Glenn and Squire.

The Broncos stuffed the Dolphins on four consecutive plays to go into halftime leading 19-0. Another highlight for the big D was the performance of Austin Raines. Raines stepped up during the playoffs and made several impressive tackles during the game, including a knee-buckler early in the fourth to keep McAdenville out of the end zone.

In the third quarter, the Broncos showed a lot of class by running the ball (and the clock). Zach Bodford, Logan Brown and Daniel Brown carried the load for most of the third quarter. Bodford scored the touchdown. Bodford had several carries on the drive and refused to be brought down, carrying tacklers with him as he ran until he finally reached the promised land to make the score 25-0. The Dolphins put across two scores in the fourth and showed a lot of pride by in the second half.

The Broncos will now move on to play their first game at Walt Disney World's Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando on Dec. 9 (next Tuesday). Joining the Broncos in Disney will be the Jr. Pee Wee and Junior Midget cheer squads, who won their Regional Championships last Friday. According to team reps, the Broncos have pushed each other all season, and have achieved an unprecedented, undefeated season and a trip to the National Championships.

## Carver

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pretty good too."

The first annual Carver Basketball Classic will take place Dec. 12 and 13, which is next Friday and Saturday. Four teams will battle in the two-day event. On that Friday, Greensboro Smith will take on Winston-Salem Prep, while Carver bumps heads with West Forsyth. The opening game is scheduled for 6 p.m. On that Saturday, West will go against Smith at 6 p.m. Carver, led by the exciting Richard Daniels Jr., will battle a talented Winston-Salem Prep at 7:30 p.m.



Bailey

"We really didn't know if we wanted Prep and Carver to play each other during the classic," Bailey said. "Those two schools already play each other two times this season. But some people on the committee felt like that would be a game people would want to watch. Overall, the event should be very entertaining. It's for a good cause too. That's the most important thing. That's the reason for this event."

Bailey said that a small committee of city leaders, Carver alum and others will select the group to go on the Wall of Fame each year. Some of the candidates for the first enshrinement are J.D. Williams, David Lash and Jim Bovender — to name a few.

"I actually think that coach Poe should be in the first class as well," Bailey said. "He's a little reluctant about that because he respects so many people that came before him. But you can't take away how important he's been for Carver athletics through the years. The first class will be small. We simply want to get it started, and give people an idea of what we're working toward. I think it's going to be a really good thing."

### Classic could be named after Poe

The CHS Wall of Fame will be located in the hallway leading to the weight room and coaches offices in the Carver Gym. Bailey said the committee is thinking about renaming the classic after Alfred Poe — calling it the Alfred Poe Basketball Classic. But that's something to discuss at a later time.

"When I first asked coach Poe what he thought about the idea of having a classic I told him that I'd like to name it after him. He tries to keep the attention off of him. Like I said, there's no denying what he's meant to Carver athletics."

Poe added: "Anytime people think enough of you to name something after you it's an honor. I don't know if I deserve that. But if people feel like you deserve something named after you it's a great honor. Everyone would love that. I don't have any control over that. We're really just looking forward to a good weekend of basketball."

Crown Trophy will donate plaques to all the participating teams.



The basketball action is expected to be intense during the classic next week.

Photo by Tim Wilson