

A&T Has Four Top Candidates

GREENSBORO - In recent years, A&T has been somewhat of a proving ground for Little All-Americans, with four Aggies having been named to the national teams in as many seasons.

This season's A&T football squad finds itself with no less than four prime candidates for national honors.

Grambling Is Impressive Early Practice

GRAMBLING, LA. - Despite coach Eddie Robinson's alum-mouthing prediction, the Grambling Tigers have been downright impressive in early practice for the 1971 campaign.

While insisting that there is more than a smidgen of probability in his "doomsday" prophecy, Robinson half-heartedly admitted that he was pleased with the vigor and enthusiasm displayed by the squad.

"They came back in excellent shape," he said.

The Tigers lost 21 lettermen by graduation, and chances for improvement hinge on newcomers and mass improvement of a big line.

Size of the mammoth line suggests that the entire student body reported for practice.

It averages 248 pounds from end to end.

Of the 68 players invited to fall practice, 35 weigh 220 pounds or more.

They have speed, spirit and touchdown-stopping maneuverability.

Stalwarts include Sylvester Bates (300), Eddie Gibson (250), Gary Johnson (268), John Mendenhall (250), Solomon Freeman (256), Billy Norman (240), Oliver Alexander (240), Kerry Grant (266), Solomon Cannon (237), Damon Ashford (265), Iris Boden (268), Albert Dennis, Jr. (265), Andrew Howard (266), Andrew Jackson (240), Ralph Wayne (240), and Alfred Griffith (240).

All-Americans Frank Lewis and Willie Armstrong graduated to the pros after accounting for a combined total of 1,374 yards, and 18 touchdowns during the 1970 season.

Robinson hopes to offset the handicap with a reconstructed ball-moving corps featuring quarterback Matthew Reed (225), fullback Eldrie Turner (235), and halfbacks Lee Fobbs (190), Mike Jones (190) and Herman Christophe (185).

Turner, a hula-hipped breakaway runner, racked up 800 yards as a sophomore.

The Tigers will cavort in two-a-day drills until registration starts on Wednesday.

Grambling opens the NCAA weekly telecast on ABC against Morgan State from Yankee Stadium in New York on Sept. 11.

Aaron Crushes Cards

ATLANTA - Henry Aaron enjoyed his fifth two-homer game of the year and the 52nd of his career when the Braves beat the Cardinals, 8-5, last week.

Aaron, playing first base, had a single in addition to the 626th and 627th homers of his career and drove in six runs.

The round-trip wallops, both coming against lefthander Steve Carlton, were Aaron's 34th and 35th of the season.

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It is probably somewhat useless to try to rank these fine players, due to the diversity of football skills involved.

The Aggies opened pre-season drills under head coach Hornsby Howell last Monday. More than 85 candidates answered the initial call, although the roster will be trimmed to the time A&T opens against S. C. State on Sept. 18.

Already much in the spotlight for the Aggies in the pre-season polls and forecasts is lanky senior end Willie Wright, who enters his final season with 100 pass receptions. At 6-4, 210 pounds, Wright has the speed and size to make a pro receiver. Wright was an honorable mention selection on the 1970 All-America team named by the Associated Press.

Talented senior linebacker Ralph Coleman was named to the Pittsburgh Courier's All-America team. Coleman, 6-3, 225 pounds, can literally be destructive to the Aggies' opponents. He loves the rough contact and is agile enough to speed to the scene of action.

Pound for pound one of the finest players in the area is spunky co-captain Ben Blacknall, a linebacker. Although highly under-rated at the beginning of last season, Blacknall attracted attention as he averaged nearly 20 tackles per game and had five interceptions. He's only 6-2 and 210, but as solid as they come. He was also named to a number of all-star teams.

A&T's top offensive backfield candidate will be senior flanker Charles Middleton of Hopkins, S.C. As the Aggie's quarterback for much of last season before injuries sidelined him, Middleton had sports writers comparing him to the Baltimore Colts' scrambling Earl Morrall. This time around, Middleton will be even more at home from his flanker position and his speed and general running ability should make him outstanding. Aggie All-Americans: Mel Holmes, 1970; Merl Code, 1969; Willie Pearson, 1968; Elvin Bethea, 1967.



Charlotte Hawks Edge Hoskins Giants 2-1

The Charlotte Hawks edged the Hoskins Giants, 2-1, before 800 spectators at Griffith Park Sunday to win the championship of the Mecklenburg County Semi-pro Baseball League.

It was victory No. 20 for manager Walter Cuthbertson's red-hot crew which has lost only seven games this year. It was also the third win the Hawks have registered over the Giants this season. Hoskins, which finished the season with a brilliant 20-5 league record, has beaten the Hawks in two of five meetings.

Roosevelt Davis, who is unbeaten with six wins this year, outdueled a pair of Hoskins lefthanders - Steve Patterson and William Harlee -- for his biggest triumph this season.

Davis scattered eight hits, struck out six and didn't walk a batter in his best performance. Patterson and Harlee were equally as effective. The former allowed only five hits in six innings and the latter gave up four safeties in three frames. Patterson was the losing pitcher.

The Hawks took a lead they never relinquished when Palmer Gilmore led off the fourth with a single and then stole second. Jim Irvin stroked the first of his two singles to send Gilmore home with the game's first run.

With two out in the sixth, Willie Rorie polked a 410-foot triple to the center-field wall and raced home on a single by Calvin Wallace for what proved to be the insurance tally.

After pitching out of a serious jam in the third, Davis was touched for Hoskins' lone marker in the seventh. Hall Morrow singled and Pete Gwynn went in as a substitute runner.

Johnny Moore hit into a fielder's choice to move Gwynn into scoring position and Gwynn eventually came home on another infield out.

Hoskins threatened in the second and again in the ninth. Johnny Metts led off the second with a triple but Davis got the next three batters without any further harm. In the ninth, William Little singled with two out. Again Davis rose to the occasion and got the next batter without any further damage.

Shaw To Challenge J.C. Smith For Southern Division Title

RALEIGH - According to sports writers, there seems to be a toss up between the Shaw University Bears and the J. C. Smith Golden Bulls as to who will walk away with the Southern Division CIAA Football championship this year.

Shaw University Head Football Coach, George Clements, feels differently. He said, "The key to the Bears success will be their first two ball games. If we can win the first two we should be well on our way to a winning season."

No one knows better than Clements how much work lies ahead for his young team. With only nine returning defensive upperclassmen, the

sophomore coach is having to rebuild his total defensive team after turning in a winning season last year. To add to his problems, the Bears lost All-American, key running back, Roderick Wynecoff. Clements says that the man who will attempt to step into Wynecoff's shoes seems to be adequate, and may very well fill them. He was talking about 6 foot 190 lb. Virgil Shamburger who filled in for Wynecoff the last three years. Shamburger hails from Robbins, where he made All-Conference while playing high school ball.

Another key to the Bears offense is the fleet Co-Captain, William Hackett, who racked 442 yards on the ground last year. Clements said "I found last year that when Hackett was on the bench we didn't move."

It looks as though Senior Quarterback, Leroy Jones, will have little competition for his field general spot this year. Frank Binnis will not be able to work out for the next four to six weeks, having just come out of surgery with a knee operation.

Defensively, the "little big man", James Roseboro, who received little recognition in the conference last year, but led the league in pass steals will still be around. Rose-

boro grabbed 10 interceptions last year. Clements said a quarterback passes in Roseboro's area at his own risk. Clements said he has done some switching around. Van Green, another potential All-American, along with Roseboro, Hackett and Joe Johnson, will play cornerback instead of his usual defensive end slot. Clements said he had discovered that one of his quarterbacks knew how to catch the ball better than throw it. He was talking about Lionel Coleman who may very well end up with a first string of defensive end slot.

When he talks about line play, Clements has to talk about the entire front five, starting with Co-Captain Joe Johnson at center. Making the holes with Johnson will be: guards Sherman Crumpler, Stanley Price, Wayne Wilkshire and Herod Servant; Tackles Larry Paige, Alfred Minus, Larry Spence and Willie Nelson. "I just can't begin to name all of them," Clements said. "They all help

to make the backs look great. In fact, the whole team is shining, they just want to win ball games. They work together beautifully," he smiled. With a front wall averaging 231 lbs., George Clements and his Shaw Bears main ob-



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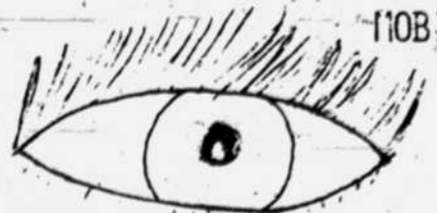
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