

# HOOF PRINTS



## Tennis Players Seek Following And Recognition

By ROOSEVELT MCPHERSON

Fayetteville State University's tennis season opens in April, but how many black participants will be on the nation's court? It seems that tennis is the forgotten sport among blacks.

The Bronco team is currently in practice for the upcoming season. Several members are striving to expose and bring recognition to the sport so that fellow Broncos will become interested.

Tennis Coach Page Saunders said he is proud to have with him again this year veteran players Henry "Bar" Berry, Connie Davis, Duane Lightfoot, and Jay Scruggs, who performed well last year.

Newcomers, Willard Bass, Kenneth Conwell, Ronald Ennis, and Henry Ray, are expected to help promote the sport on campus. "Bar" Berry was runner-up last year, which placed him number two in the CIAA tourney singles.

"Whites for a long time in the past have propagated the myth that tennis is exclusively a gentleman's game and there weren't any black gentlemen," said Berry, who is from Clinton.

"Limitations were placed on the sport in the past and that's why we didn't have blacks playing tennis as we have in other well known sports such as baseball, basketball, and football," said the 23-year-old sophomore.

Team members agreed with Berry that the number of black tennis players are low because of lack of exposure to the sport. "When I was a child, I saw a few people playing tennis, said Berry. "And they were white."

Davis, another top veteran

player, is back this year and his feelings toward the popularity of tennis is similar to Berry's. "My hometown is known as a tennis town," said Davis, a native of Wilmington. "Most of the time I find myself playing with white opponents."

"Tennis has been at FSU for 45 years and its the most winning sport on campus, but it is unrecognized," continued the 19-year-old sophomore. "Probably because black people haven't been around the sport as they have others."

The team members complained, although tennis has a very good record at Fayetteville State. "We don't have the spectators that make it exciting and worthwhile."

The VOICE found a faithful tennis fan who has followed the sport since junior high school. Terecia Melvin, a twenty-year-old junior and native of Roseboro, was asked what attracted her to tennis. "It's simply interesting and I like the way they play and also the sportswear."

"I don't feel blacks care too much for tennis because they don't have a background in tennis. You find most people saying they don't like it because they don't understand it."

She added, "I've never played tennis before, but Connie Davis promised he would teach me in his spare time."

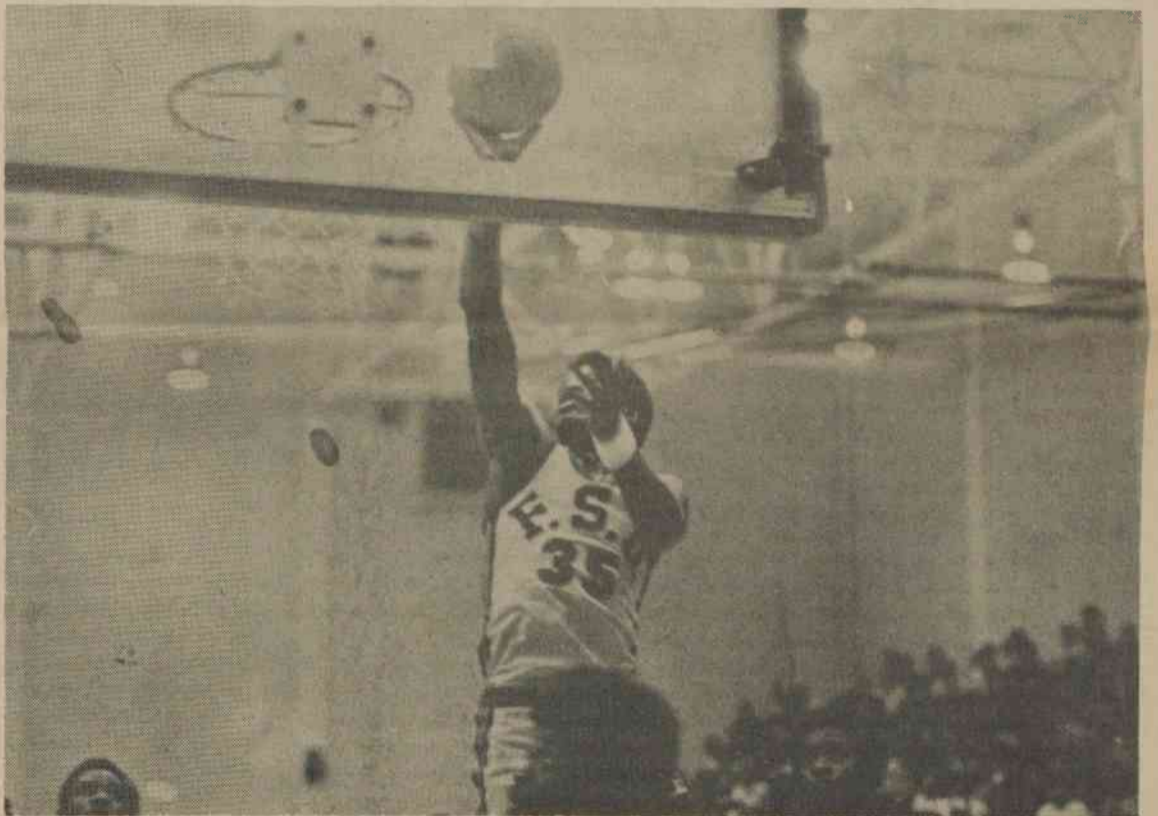
Perhaps this season will be better than previous seasons, spectators or no spectators. The FSU tennis players have that Bronco spirit and have vowed to go all the way to the CIAA championship again this year.



Connie Davis Valleys



Duane Lightfoot Returns



AL COGDELL goes up for one of his patented drives against Elizabeth City. Cogdell scored a gamehigh of 24 points in the 90-87 loss.

### TENNIS SCHEDULE 1972

DATE	TEAM	PLACE
April 6	Campbell College	Home
April 7	J.C. Smith University	Away
April 8	Shaw University	Away
April 11	St. Augustine	Away
April 12	Livingstone	Away
April 14	Livingstone	Home
April 15	Shaw University	Home
April 18	Pembroke	Home
April 19	St. Augustine	Home
April 22	Winston-Salem	Home
April 26	Winston-Salem	Away
May 1, 2, 3	C.I.A.A. Tournament	
May 12, 13	N.A.I.A. Tournament	

### Despite 90-87 Loss In NAIA Finals:

## BRONCOS ON THRESHOLD OF GREAT THINGS

With just over 15 minutes remaining in their District 29 finals showdown against Elizabeth City last Wednesday night at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, The Broncos were a hopelessly outclassed and beaten team. But for the next 15 they showed what championship teams are made of, except it brought them only their second straight tournament runners-up finish and high hope that next year will be the year when they can "win it all." The tournament tested Vikings held on, and won for themselves a second straight trip to the NAIA finals in Kansas City when for a while it looked

as if the Broncos would be singing, "I'm going to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come."

Cold as ice in the first half of the 90-87 thriller when they trailed 45-33 at the half, Fayetteville State found itself even further behind, trailing by 19, 61-42 at the outset of the second half. The Broncos, runners-up to Norfolk State in the CIAA affair in Greensboro last month, and first round winners over Elizabeth City in another cliffhanger, turned on the afterburners and roared up and down the court in such a devastating fashion that they had outscored their foe 18-5 in just a little over three minutes and

were in the lead for the first time with over seven minutes still to play, 71-69.

The Broncos then went into their keep-away offense, which may have been their undoing. Robert Tyus, the quarterback in the comeback was out with his fifth personal, a ball control violation as he tried to sneak in for a layup less than two minutes later and it was nip and tuck the rest of the way. Two traveling violations against Earl McNeill down the stretch, the last coming in the final 30 seconds drove the final spike in the coffin when a foul on the ensuing in-bounds gave the Vikings a 88-85 lead. After Terrence Murchison closed

the gap to one with two free throws with 15 seconds remaining, Little Leonard Carmichael hit both ends of a one and one to cement the victory.

Mike Sneed, the most valuable player in the CIAA extravaganza, closed out his career in fine style, and was a demon on the boards in the second half. Alton Cogdell was the ringleader for FSU, pacing the comeback and scoring a game high 24 points. The Broncos were also hurt by the unexplained absence of "City John" Safford who did not play in the tournament.

The Broncos appear on the threshold of great things to come in the conference, if this is any

consolation to Pony followers. A fine nucleus remains for the coming season, with Cogdell a likely player of the year candidate and good prospects from Rubin Ruffin, Robert Tyus, Sam Smith, and Terrence Murchison who has already proven himself as one of the league's premier rebounders. This Year's team, even while winning, lacked just a little of the cohesion found in the truly top teams, but should be there in another year. Coach Tom Reeves, with his white boots, has established himself as one of the league's most colorful coaches. The Broncos will be back, bucking harder than ever. Of this there is little doubt.