

# Short College Student Is Long In Basketball Scoring

By DALE GADDY

Snow covered the sidewalk of the new gymnasium at Appalachian State one day last week as the short college student approached the glass front of the physical education plant. The figure paused momentarily at one of the front doors as he knocked most of the snow from his boots. He removed his white-laden toboggan and entered the lobby of the building.



JACK LYTTON

He hurried through the lobby with a business-like walk, stopping for a second to exchange greetings with an acquaintance. The two spoke a few inaudible words then burst into laughter as the shorter of the two moved away towards the stairs.

Ten minutes later he was on the basketball court tossing in a few set shots. He missed the first two, then sank five straight. He went in for an occasional lay-up, and popped a few jump shots. He gave the appearance of being an athlete, to be sure. But to say he looked like a basketball player—well, that could be something else.

In short, he seems too short. After all, in a sport which today calls a six-footer short, a 5'8" boy is a midget. But to ASTC's Jack Lytton this is the least of his worries. He's made it a practice to whittle down to size the giants of the hardwood. And he's managed to pump in more than his share of the points in games for the Mountaineers.

Last year the little Tennessee won a starting berth on the Mountaineer squad and sealed his position by averaging 10.7 points per game.

"Back at Surgoinsville (Tenn.) High School the only sport we had was basketball. And I've always liked playing basketball," Lytton said in easy flowing southern drawl.

Asked what awards or honors he had been presented in high school, Lytton reluctantly replied, in an aw-shucks manner,

"Oh, I was named to the All-Tournament team my junior and senior years and to an All-Christmas-Tournament team in '59." It was during his senior year that he scored 30 points in one game, his highest tally in a single contest to date.

Lytton took a chance when he came to ASTC, he confides. He tried out for the team in the autumn of 1960 "without much hopes of making it." But the 150 pound whiz gained a uniform and even appeared in 13 of ASTC's encounters that year.

He did not letter, however, until last year, his second season. He has always played at the guard position.

Now a junior, Lytton is majoring in mathematics and physical education at ASTC. He hopes to teach and coach either in North Carolina or Tennessee after graduation in 1964.

In addition to basketball, Lytton is active in the Men's "A" Club as chaplain.

Last year he was awarded a part-scholarship in basketball. And this year he is on full-scholarship.

Says Lytton of the 1962-63 Apps, "We're going to give several teams some trouble this year. Particularly Lenoir Rhyne.

"We have gotten started pretty well (with five wins and one loss) this year. With a couple of breaks we can be right up on top." And those are big words for a man who is 12 inches shorter than some of his teammates.

But if one were not impressed with his physical stature, he might well be impressed with

Lytton's ball-hawking. For example, Monday night of last week Lytton stifled an eager Belmont Abbey team with several steals and by breaking up a number of plays. And to make his taller opponents even more blushing, he pumped in 11 points to out-do seven of the nine Abbey players.

No, he may not make an impressive appearance on the courts before a practice session. And to some he may look like a joke when the Mountaineers take the floor before a game. But it's no laughing matter (for the opposing team) once the little App man gets in motion.

Quick, aggressive, and accurate, Lytton is a 19-year-old who is driven by determination—determination not to be put asunder because of his lack of height.

While the hunting season is now in full swing, it is just a question which hunter will have the distinction of being shot for a deer.

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