

# It's Official -- Eagles Are Champs

## Eagles Nose Out Virginia State To Win First CIAA Championship In Forty Year History Of Association

DURHAM — Herman Riddick's North Carolina College Eagle griders are the winners of the CIAA's 1953 football pennant, according to John B. McLendon, Jr., official conference statistician.

In Hampton, Va., last week, McLendon released figures that show North Carolina College's team finishing with a Dickinson rating of 25.00 to lead the field over such perennial former CIAA champions as West Virginia and Morgan, the clubs that finished with ratings of 21.66.

However, Virginia State was awarded second place by virtue of a Trojan victory over Morgan. According to the Dickinson system, Morgan drops to third place. In a fourth place tie are A. and T. and West Virginia with Dickinson ratings of 20.00 each. Hampton earned 18.57 points to cop a fifth place, and Johnson C. Smith came out sixth in the first division with an average of 17.85.

According to McLendon's statistics, these are the standings of the first and second division clubs:

FIRST DIVISION:	
1. N. C. College	25.00
2. Va. State College	21.66
3. Morgan State College	21.66
4. A. and T. College	20.00
5. West Va. State College	20.00
6. Hampton Institute	18.57
7. J. C. Smith University	17.85
SECOND DIVISION:	
Howard University	15.00
Shaw University	15.00
St. Aug. College	14.28
Union University	14.28
Lincoln University	14.28
W.—S Teachers College	13.33
Del. State College	13.33
Bluefield State College	12.85

St. Paul's Institute.....11.66

North Carolina College's win marked the first time in the 43 year old history of the college that one of its football teams won an undisputed conference crown. The NCC eleven defeated enough foes in 1942, but it was charged the Eagles had used an ineligible player and the pennant was forfeited.

NCC Coach Herman Riddick, a 1933 graduate of North Carolina College who was a sensational success as a high school coach at Durham's Hillside High School before he became head man of the Eagles in 1945, attributes his success to "splendid cooperation of the coaching staff and to a bunch of the finest boys that ever played on a football team."

Riddick's lavish praise for his associates on the coaching staff included several well-known CIAA personalities. Among Riddick associates at N.C.C. is his administrative aide, James W. "Jimmy" Young, who produced championship basketball and football teams at Morristown College (Tenn.) in the South Atlantic Conference in 1946 and 1947. Young is doing pre-doctoral work in physical education. As line coach, the N.C.C. eleven has a young mentor who won laurels as a lineman at Virginia State College and who later played professional football with the Los Angeles Dons. He is Benjamin "Big Ben" Whaley, who has proved himself one of the CIAA's truly astute strategists in forward wall work. Whaley earned the master's degree at the University of Indiana.

As special mentor for the Eagles' ends this season, Ross E. Townes, a graduate of Virginia State College and holder of the doctorate degree from Indiana, has done a splendid job of replacing one of the Eagles' all-time great flankers, Ernest E. "Hands" Warlick. Townes once did coaching duties at Wiley College in Texas.

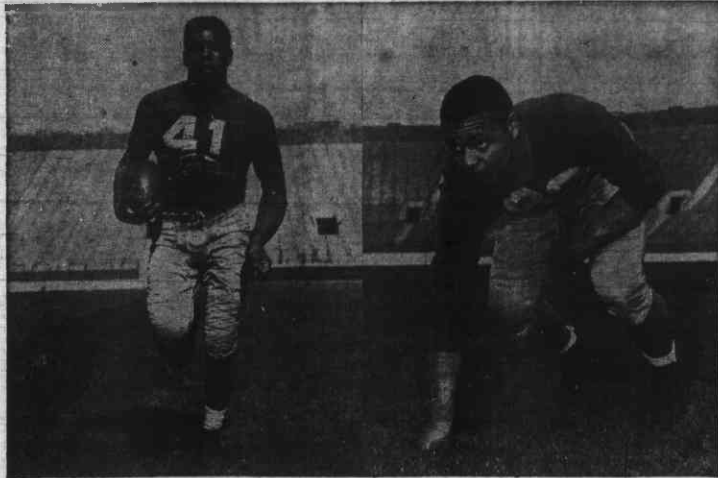
Another former head coach on the Eagles' roster in 1953 is Russell E. Blunt, who formerly guided the athletic destinies of teams at St. Augustine's College, Raleigh, and St. Paul, Lawrenceville, Va. Blunt did utility chores and gave special attention to centers.

Masterminding the Eagles' backfield for the second consecutive season this year was Floyd H. Brown, the North Carolina College head basketball coach, who developed this year some of the conference's most elusive ballhandlers. A graduate of N.C.C. who received a master's degree at Northwestern University, Brown this season takes his place among the CIAA's leading tutors of backfield play.

Functioning like a well-oiled machine, the coaching staff of Riddick, Young, Whaley, Brown, Blunt, and Townes worked with a bunch of 1953 griders who numbered 23 freshmen and seven experienced players in college football in their midst.

The Eagles' coaches started the 1953 season with some dozen of the squad's top offensive backs and linemen either gone by graduation or serving in the armed forces. Conspicuously missing were the canny field generals, Joe Battle, and James "Sixth Street" Robinson, the

## First With Fighting Irish



This Saturday, December 5, NBC TV will again bring to the nation's "armchair quarterbacks" the TV Game of the Week as Notre Dame and Southern Methodist clash.

Shown above are explosive halfback Dick Washington (left) and powerful end Wayne Edmonds, the first Negroes to play for the Notre Dame squad, who will probably be seen in action as the Fighting Irish attempt to remain one of the top ranking teams in the nation.

## DETERMINED NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE ELEVEN GETS 2 TD'S, FIELD GOAL IN 15-6 VICTORY

GREENSBORO — The North Carolina Eagles defeated the A and T Aggies 15-6 here Thursday in the 5th annual Carolina Classic football game and were virtually assured of their first CIAA championship in the long history of football competition at the college.

The game played in wind swept Memorial Stadium before some 7,000 chilled fans saw a grim and determined band of warriors from Durham take their first game from the Aggies in the past 7 years. It was this grimness which impressed the Turkey Day crowd, for it was evident from the beginning that the Durhamites knew where they were going.

Sticking to the ground for the entire game, passing just once in each frame, Herman Riddick had put all of his hope in his ground gaining backs of Amos Thornton, Jerome Evans and Linwood Johnson, easily the stars of the game. A lot of credit goes to Albert Montgomery, Gastonia, freshman, quarterback who field generated his team to victory. In addition to the yardage piled up by these fellows, it was the outstanding kicking of Montgomery, who kept the Aggies fighting in their own territory most of the way.

It took a freshman quarterback, also to get the Aggies moving. Howard Battle, a Rocky Mount youngster, was called in during the late stages of the fourth period to get his team in action. But the rally he inspired was much too late to pull the game out of the fire.

The Eagles hit the scoring column early in the first quarter as William Hollingsworth kicked a beautiful 25 yard field goal from an angle. After taking possession on the Aggies' 46 yard line, they made three consecutive first downs featuring the hard running of Amos Thornton, the North Carolina College halfback. Their goal line plunge for

(Please turn to Page Eight)

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## NCC Cagemen Beat A. & T. College, 70-56

GREENSBORO — Charles "Tex" Harrison, all-America pivot ace of the North Carolina College Eagles, scored 25 points here Thanksgiving night to lead the Eagles in their 70-56 victory over A and T College.

Harrison, one of the nation's high point artists last season, was trailed by his sensational teammate at forward, Samuel "Sad Sam" Jones, the pride of Laurinburg, N. C. Jones hooped 17 points in his first brush with an intercollegiate foe for the season. Ted Flowers of the Aggies got 11 points and Bill By-

rifle-armed quarterbacks. What would happen at quarterback was a problem that caused much concern at N.C.C. The ends were also significantly lacking in depth. Otherwise, it was believed, the Eagles would do "all right".

At the season's end, the total story about the Eagles shows the Whaley-coached line lived up to expectations. Perhaps the greatest tribute paid the Eagles' forward wall came from Bill Nunn, Jr., sports editor of a well known weekly newspaper, Nunn wrote, "The best line I've seen all season in Negro college football belongs to North Carolina College." Nunn's observations are significant because he was among the nation's few sportswriters to see all of the major Negro elevens in action. In Nunn's judgment, N.C.C.'s line was superior to the lines of Florida A. and M., Prairie View, Tennessee State, Southern, and Maryland State, the outstanding Negro collegiate football clubs of 1953.

num tallied eight to lead the hometowners in their first contest in their new gymnasium.

NCC's Charley Barrick bucketed fifteen points for third honors of the evening.

The Eagles open CIAA court play in Durham at 8:00 p.m. Friday night, Dec. 4, when they entertain Virginia State College.

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