The Chronicle, Saturday, January 31, 1981-Page 15

Austin Benjamin

Atlanta Backcourt Duo Sparks Aggie Cage Attack

Throughout its championship basketball camp aigns, it has been the backcourt which has served as the hub of the North Carolina A&T success.

Beginning with Al Attles-Joe Howell, June Harris-James Outlaw, to contemporary standouts James 'The Bird' Sparrow - Joe Braw-

ner, the Aggies have been able to overwhelm opposition because of superior guard play.

But as A&T enters the 1980-81 season, opposing coaches and unsuspecting followers were curious to see what second year Head Coach, Don Corbett, would do to find two replacements at the most watched positions in basketball.

All Corbett did was come up with a combination that had been playing together since the 5th grade in the College Park suburb of Atlanta and would later go on to post one of the longest prep winning streaks in Georgia history (60 games).

James Anderson, a 6-3, 190 pounder who combines scoring, prowess with tremendous defensive intensity, and Ron Stinchcomb, a 5-10 speed merchant who has perhaps the quickest hands of any backcourt player in the MEAC, have lead A&T from the depths of an 8-19 season a year ago to at one point in the present campaign, a number one ranking in the Sheridan Broadcasting Poll.

Just sophomores, and according to Corbett, still adjusting to their environment and competition, Aggie followers will probably be muttering the names of Anderson-Stinchcomb in years to come.

Their matriculation to A&T and Greensboro was a long one.

After leading College Park High to four consecutive state championships, a 60 game win streak, and setting numerous individual scoring and assist records, the college scouts surprisingly, were not really knocking on their doors.

In fact, the pair almost decided not to even attend college.

It's not that we didn't get offers or that the college coaches did not see us," the pair agreed. "We played against some great competition and we beat teams that Al Wood played on in the state playoffs and Reggie Johnson, who later went on to play at the University of Tennessee.

studies which would eventually lead to problems and Avenue YMCA since 1941 unhappiness. pen."

"So instead of going to school, we decided to go to Distinguished Service To work and although we knew we wanted to get a college Youth Award Monday education at times it didn't look like it was going to hap-

Enter Don Corbett.

Corbett had coached Anderson's older brother at Lincoln University, and when he found out about James, im- tend the banquet due to ilmediately offered him a scholarship. Anderson's first lness, said he had been inyear at Lincoln was nothing short of sensational as he terested in boxing for most was named to the All-MIAA team. Corbett accepted the of his life. A&T job the next season and Anderson came with him.

One weekend, Stinchcomb came to visit his buddy, scrimmaged with a pickup team and Corbett offered him a scholarship, putting the pair together again.

"Sure, it's great playing together again," said Stinchcomb, who has a 3.2 academic average in his Physical Education major. "We have been playing organized basketball together ever since grade school, and we know what to expect from each other and what the other is capable of doing offensively and defensively.

"James has always been a tremendous scorer and good defensive player. My role has always been to set the offense up, establish some tempo, then turn the show over to him.

"Our role hasn't changed that much in Coach Corbett's system."

Anderson is presently averaging better than 18 points a game, and his all around play makes him a leading contender for MEAC "Player of the Year" honors. Stinchcomb is averaging nearly six assists per outing and his court speed and slick ballhandling forces opposing defenses to play the Aggies honest.

"We are both happy here at A&T and with the MEAC tournament champion going to the NCAA national playoff, we all have something to strive for at the tournament," they said.

"The league is strong this season and now that South Carolina State appears to be coming around any team can win. We feel that if we can execute offensively and defensively we can be the team to continue its season in the national playoffs."

Regardless, A&T fans will still have two more names to add to their list of back court stars.

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was presented the 1939, and has been live with their children on employed with the R.J. Gray Avenue. night at the YMCA Board of Directors meeting held at the M.C. Benton Convention Center.

Austin Benjamin, boxing

coach at the Patterson

Benjamin, unable to at-

"I got involved with amateur boxing in my youth and it got in my blood, I fought in the middleweight division. I received 39 wins and suffered only 1 loss," he said.

"In 1939, while in New York a gym owner suggested that I become professional. I didn't like what I saw up there. Fighters got all cut and bruised. The managers had complete control over the fighters. You felt almost like you

were a prisoner," he added. Giving up the opportuni-

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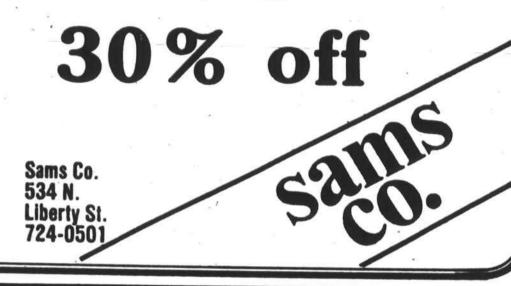
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James Anderson

We both received offers from the schools in Atlanta but felt that because we knew so many people in the area, we would probably have trouble concentrating on our

Black College Sports

Landing The Big One

Some say black college schools just can't land blue chip football players. Don't say that too loudly in Jackson, Miss. Jackson State feels it has signed six of the best high school linemen in the state of Mississippi. Heading the lsit is Frank Sutton, a 6-foot-4, 230-pounder out of Jackson. Sutton was the top lineman in the state of this year, and was on everybody's list including Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State and others.

CIAA Sellout

CIAA basketball tourney looks like it'll sell out again this year. Johnson C. Smith writes to say its initial allot- skills and drills, McLendon, ment of \$25 and \$30 tickets for the Feb. 26-28 tournament have been sold. More are on the way, however, reports JCS spokesman Philip Busher. CIAA tourney will be held, as usual, at the Norfolk (Va.) Scope ...

Madhouse is "badhouse"

Toughest arena to play basketball in? Inside Sports Magazine thinks it could be Johnson C. Smith's Brayboy Madhouse. However, the gym at Bethune-Cookman is no picnic. It's a crackerbox that seats about 1,600, and its so hard to win in the place that opposing coaches dread having to travel to Daytona Beach.

Among problems with the gym is that it's poorly lighted and the fans practically sit on the floor. All that's fine with Wildcats' coach Cy McLarien, however. He thinks his squad can use that advantage as they challenge for the MEAC crown.

Shaw University Breaks Streak

Let's here it for Shaw University, which recently broke a 39-game losing streak. The record for most consecutive losses was 47, set by Clemson a few years ago.

Former Florida A&M football coach Jake Gaither is recovering nicely from minor surgery

Piles of Points

Seems Johnson C. Smith basketball games are always high-scoring affairs. The Bulls average 90.2 points per game, but allow an average of 82 points on defense. One of highest scoring games in CIAA history came recently when JCS outlasted Livingstone 125-110

Bob Lanier - Look out

ductee, Johnny McLendon, and former National Basketball Association standout, Willis Reed, will conduct a workshop and skills clinic at the l0th annual Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference basketball tournament at the Winston-

Salem Coliseum.

MEAC

Clinic

In W-S

Recent Hall of Fame in-

The clinic will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 6 with all area male and female teams invited to attend. In addition to demonstrating basketball

presently a national sales representative with the Converse Rubber Company will show a highlight film and test the individual basketball knowledge of all participants.

"Johnny McLendon is generally recognized as one of the greatest minds ever in the sport of basketball," said MEAC Commissioner, Ken Free. "McLendon, along with the Converse

Rubber Company, has sponsored the clinic prior to our opening round for the past few years and each year the interest and participation among the future stars of our league increases.

"Willis Reed, probably the most celebrated member of the New York Knicks. along with McLendon will provide the youngsters in attendance this year with an unlimited wealth of infor-

mation about the game of basketball." The clinic will last about an hour and a half and will be followed by the opening round games of



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Just Say 'Charge It'

James Terry, a 6-foot-ll basketball player for Howard, scares you when he is asked what his role is for the Bison. "My role is mainly to be an enforcer," he says. No, Terry, breaks no artis. What he does, however, is mix it up under the backboards for rebounds. He's one of the chief reasons Howard will be tough to beat come MEAC tourney time championship.

the conference championships. This season's MEAC Tournament winner willreceive an automatic bid to the NCAA National Tournament and the chance to compete for the coveted 601 W. 4th St. Open 7:30 to 6:00 Daily

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