



Howard



Riley



Horn



Tatum



Bitting



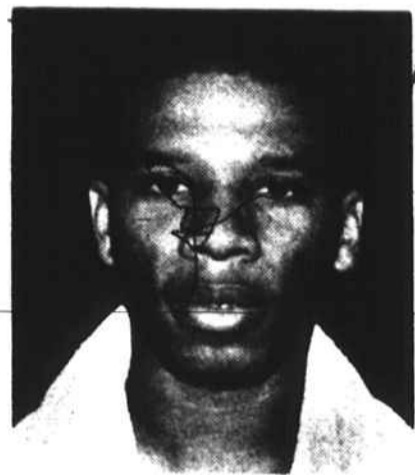
Upson



Canty



Denny



Sheff



Covington

Boys' all-star team tall and talented

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with Ray Agnew, Horn helped Carver annihilate opposing teams on the backboards.

An extremely quick and agile athlete for his size, Horn will probably become an all-conference player in both football and basketball on the senior high circuit.

Kennedy's William Tatum battled the likes of Howard, Horn and Sheff to standoffs all season despite an obvious height disadvantage. A mere 6 feet tall, Tatum was not intimidated by taller opponents and did a yeoman's job for Coach Swandell Cloud's Trojans.

Opposing coaches marvelled all season at the outside shooting ability of Mt. Tabor's Rodney Canty, who single-handedly kept the Spartans from being blown out of several games. Also, Canty's floor game was second to none this year.

Jeff Denny of Atkins was the Camels' version of instant offense for the past two seasons. According to Atkins Coach Vernon Cloud, the sophomore swingman was the Camels' most consistent player, as well as their best passer and shooter. Cloud says Denny has the tools to play with the best in senior high ball.

Hill's Jacques Bitting was a late bloomer for the Hornets in '83-84. Blessed with a well-developed, 6-2 frame, Bitting's leaping ability and bulky physique enabled him to challenge the top big men in high school basketball this season.

"Mr. Everything" this season for Coach Cal Stamp's Hanes Dragons was sophomore Chris Upson. Upson's court sense and competitiveness were the glue that kept the Dragons together. Stamp says Upson worked hard to improve his skills this season and was the Dragons' most valuable performer.

Rounding out the *Chronicle's* All-Star Team is Tony Covington, Anderson's fiery 5-6 point guard. Covington's heady play under pressure helped lift Anderson to an 11-6 record, quite an accomplishment for the Bulldogs, who returned no starters from a year ago.

Girls' play improves markedly

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unstoppable.

The outstanding performer among Coach Otis Hawkins' Lady Camels was Melinda Petree. Petree's overall game was vital to the Atkins team in '83-84 and she was one of the best shooters in the league.

Silky smooth Angela Glenn of Anderson lit up the scoreboard for the Lady Bulldogs despite playing alongside shorter, inexperienced teammates. Glenn's shooting was one of the bright spots in an otherwise disappointing season.

Although she was one of the shortest performers in 9-10 basketball, Cherry Crawford of Mt. Tabor played a

vital role in the success of the Lady Spartans. Blessed with a pure shooting stroke and good jumping ability, Crawford found the range from the outside consistently. Often overlooked because of her size, Crawford accounted for much of Mt. Tabor's point production during its stretch drive.

Jennifer Singer of Kennedy was the cog that kept the Trojans going. Not known for her shooting ability, Singer was the most adept passer and playmaker on the Kennedy team. At times, she also she was called upon to shoot and provided outside scoring punch for the Lady Trojans.

Aggies favored again to take tourney

By ROBERT ELLER
Chronicle Sports Editor

Some of the names will have changed when the 13th Annual Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Basketball Tournament begins March 1 at the Greensboro Coliseum. But, for the most part, the scenario will be the same.

The Aggies of North Carolina A&T, 20-6 on the season, and winners of the last two league tourneys and of eight of the 12 held thus far, will again enter the event as favorites after claiming nine wins in 10 league outings this season.

And, as has been the case more often than not, the only team given a real shot at derailing the Aggies' bid for a third straight NCAA playoff berth is Howard.

A.B. Williamson's team, which finished the conference schedule with a 7-3 mark, is the only MEAC club to defeat the Aggies this season. The Bison, 14-12, also are the only other team in the league besides A&T with a winning overall record.

But the records this season may be a little deceiving since MEAC teams have taken on such heavyweights as defending NCAA champ North Carolina State, UCLA, Maryland, Georgetown and Clemson.

Still, it looks like another A&T-Howard final Saturday night. No other team has reached the finals since South Carolina State lost to the Bison in 1980. And no team other than the Bison or the Aggies has won an MEAC tournament since Morgan State did back in 1977.

A&T still has the league's most dominant player in Joe Binion. The 6-8 forward, who became the Aggies' all-time leading scorer this season, will be looking for his third straight Player of the Year award and appears to be a cinch to get it after leading the league in scoring and rebounding this season.

New York Knicks center Marvin Webster is the only player ever to win three Player of the Year awards in the league in '73, '74 and '75. But Webster was never able to lead Morgan State to a tourney title.

As previously noted, a number of names have changed since last year, including the names of the coaches at three schools.

Joe Dean Davidson, who compiled an amazing 224-40

record at Dunbar High in Washington, D.C., during his 10 years there, will make his first MEAC tournament appearance when he brings his Delaware State team into first-round action.

Percy "Chico" Caldwell will also take a team to the tourney for the first time. In his first season at South Carolina State, Caldwell's team placed third in the league with a 6-4 mark.

Florida A&M also has a new coach in Tony Fields, but he won't be bringing a team to the tournament since FAMU is ineligible for the league title.

Maryland Eastern Shore Coach Kirkland Hall, now in his seventh season, brings his team into the event with hopes that the team will play as well as it did last season, when the Hawks put up a gallant effort against A&T before bowing 81-74 in the semi-finals.

Former NFL all-pro tight end Jack "Cy" McClairen again enters the event as the league's cellar-dweller, but the 22-year veteran at Bethune-Cookman was named the tourney's outstanding coach in both 1981 and '82 and seems always to have his team ready for the event.

As for picking a winner, it's extremely difficult to go against Don Corbett's Aggies. With Binion up front and Eric Boyd and Jimmy Brown in the backcourt, the Aggies are at least a head up on the rest of the field.

Howard is also a good bet to reach the finals. The Bison, like the top-seeded Aggies, will receive a first-round bye in the event since only six teams will take part in the tournament.

In opening-round action, look for Davidson's young and hungry Delaware State team to nip Maryland Eastern Shore just as it did early last week. DelState may even win by more than a single point this time around.

In the other first-round game, South Carolina State should get by Bethune-Cookman. The Bulldogs have been playing fine ball lately and recently defeated Alcorn State, which is tied for the top spot in the SWAC with Alabama State. But don't sell Bethune-Cookman short. McClairen has proved that he can get a team tournament-ready.

The Aggies should dispose of Delaware State with little trouble in semi-final action. If there is to be an upset, it most likely will occur when Howard and South Carolina State meet.

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