

Initiates New Era

A&T State Announces New

Football, Cage Coaches

GREENSBORO - A&T State University recently initiated a new era in its athletic program by naming James McKinley as head football coach and Gene Littles as head basketball coach.

McKinley, 32, resigned as head coach at Central State University in Ohio to accept the A&T position. Littles, 35, had served the past two years as assistant basketball coach at Appalachian State University in North Carolina.

The new appointments, both effective immediately, were

announced by A&T Chancellor Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy, at a Friday (March 25) noon press conference.

"We are confident that we have in Jim McKinley and Gene Littles, two highly qualified and talented young coaches," said Dowdy. "We are certain that they will pursue a course of excellence in guiding these two important segments of the A&T athletic program."

Dowdy commended the A&T Search Committee and athletic director, Cal Irvin, for their nominations. He said the

committee interviewed more than 100 applicants for the two positions.

McKinley, who starred in football at Western Michigan University, compiled a 32-4 record in five years of high school coaching at Allegan (Michigan) High School and won three conference championships. His record in three years as head coach at Central State University was 17-15.

McKinley also served one year as defensive linebacker coach at Eastern Michigan. As a player, he earned All-American Conference honors as a tight end in 1965.

He was born in Chicago, grew up in Bangor, Mich., and is married to Mrs. Connie McKinley. The McKinleys have a daughter.

McKinley holds a bachelor's degree in physical education from Western Michigan and the master's degree from Eastern Michigan University.

Littles is considered to be one of the finest college players ever to play in North Carolina. In four years as a player for High Point College, he earned NAIA All-American honors three times and All-Carolina Conference four times.

From 1969-1975, he played professional basketball with the Carolina Cougars and the Kentucky Colonels of the American Basketball League.

A native of Washington, D.C., Littles holds a bachelor's degree in physical education from High Point College, and he is working on a master's degree at Appalachian State University. He is married to Mrs. Rita M. Littles. They have two sons, Darren and Travis.

McKinley will replace Hornsby Howell who resigned as the Aggies' head football coach. Littles will succeed Warren Reynolds, who also stepped down as A&T's basketball coach.

Fayetteville

Announces New

Tennis Slate

FAYETTEVILLE - Tennis Coach Page Saunders recently announced the 1977 tennis schedule for the Fayetteville State University Bronco net men.

"The success of the team will depend upon two freshmen and five upperclassmen," said Coach Saunders.

The team will be playing more than 20 matches, according to the coach with a roster consisting of four seniors, one junior, one sophomore and five freshmen.

The 1977 roster includes Stacy Burrs, senior, Fayetteville; Larry Farrow, senior, Sanford; Linel Williams, senior, Sanford; Wayne Williams, senior, Elizabethtown; Jeff Capel, junior, Southern Pines; Eugene Westry, sophomore, Rocky Mount; and Keith Hatch, High Point; Lavern Marshall, Wilmington; Christa Nwachukwu, Fayetteville; Carl Jones, Wilmington; and Michael, Goldsboro, all freshmen.

Check the ads in the Charlotte Post each week for the best bargains in town.



Alfred Thompson
...Star secondbaseman

Alfred Thompson Signs With Texas Rangers

Flashy Alfred Thompson, 20-year-old secondbaseman, who was a standout with the Morris Field Rangers last summer, has been signed by the Texas Rangers of the American Baseball League.

He is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thompson of 3106 Capitol Drive. Bobby Thompson, an older brother is playing Triple A ball in California with a Los Angeles Dodgers' farm team. Alfred expects to be assigned to Asheville in the Western Carolina League until the Rookie League School begins in early June.

"With the assistance they can give him in several areas," Rangers manager Herman Thomas said Tuesday, "I believe he has an excellent opportunity to make it. He has great attitude and is one of the best defensive performers in the game. He has a good arm and he can hit with consistency."

Thomas said Thompson "loves the game and he hustles all the time." The flashy youngster hit Triple County League pitching for an impressive .327 average while stealing 23 bases and driving in 53 runs in 25 league contests last year.

Thompson is a graduate of Harding High School where he was a standout baseball player. He is not married.

According to Thomas, Thompson is the third Ranger player to sign a professional contract in little less than a year. Outfielder Mark Funderburk was picked up by the Minnesota Twins shortly before the end of the 1976 campaign and pitcher Larry Wright signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers at the end of the season.

UNCC To Host Canoe Race

When you picture a canoe, you think of a sleek vessel gliding through the water. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte will be host to a canoe race with vessels that aren't exactly sleek on April 2.

However, the fact that the canoes float at all is remarkable considering that they are made of concrete.

The event is the annual Concrete Canoe Race sponsored by the Southeastern American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapters and Clubs.

The race will take place at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 2 at Cowen's Ford Country Club at Lake Norman, off N.C. Highway 74.

Thomas Says

Morris Field Rangers Progressing Slowly

"We're progressing very slowly," is the way coach Herman Thomas assessed the development of his Morris Field Rangers baseball team Tuesday following three weeks of spring training.

"We do not have the personnel we had a year ago," Thomas explained, adding that eight of the athletes who led the speedy Rangers to the Triple County Semipro Baseball League Championship in 1976 are no longer with the outfit.

Thomas is presently working with 13 young men each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, with hopes of building the squad to a full contingent of 25-men prior to the opening of the new season a week from Saturday.

"We'll have more players when school is out," Thomas

said. The Rangers' mentor does have some bright spots on his team. Ricky Summers, a newcomer who appears to have won the shortstop position, is one of them. A 26-year-old righthander, who stands 6-foot

tall and weighs 175 pounds, was a standout in a semipro league in Winston-Salem a year, according to Thomas. He led the league with 26 homeruns. "I believe he'll also help to improve our pitching," Thomas explained.

Thomas is also pleased with the improvement infielder Bobby Reynolds is showing. "We may reach his potentials this season. He is hitting and fielding well and he appears to have a fresh, new approach to the game," Thomas said of his veteran firstbaseman.

The Rangers are interested in "players who would like to go all the way to the professional leagues. If there is such a player our league would be an excellent place to start. I think the fact that three players were signed off our team by professional baseball

teams last year indicates that the Triple County League is a good training ground for the young players," Thomas concluded. Players interested in trying out for the team are asked to contact Mr. Thomas at 394-1863.

CBS Sports To Cover

Masters Golf Tourney

Marking its 22nd consecutive year of providing exclusive live coverage, CBS Sports will broadcast the two closing rounds of the prestigious Masters Tournament at the world famed Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, Saturday, April 9, at 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 10, at 4:00 p.m., on WBT, Channel 3.

S.C. State Sets 21st Invitational

Track Meet

ORANGEBURG, S.C. - The 21st running of the South Carolina State College Invitational Track and Field Meet will be held Saturday, April 2, at Bulldog Stadium.

Trials for the running events will get underway at 9 a.m. with finals scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. All field events will start at 9 a.m. and run continuously.

Host S.C. State is two-time defending champion in the event which will have a 13 team field this year. Heading the field are Norfolk State, Fayetteville State, Florida A&M, Johnson C. Smith, St. Augustine and the Bulldogs.

Other teams participating are Edward Waters, North Carolina A&T, Livingstone, Allen, Benedict, Voorhees and North Carolina Central. Absence from this year's field will be Pembroke State, runner-up in the event the past two years and Delaware State, winner of three of the last five Invitationals.

Competition is expected to be stiffest in running events where Fayetteville State, Norfolk State, Florida A&M, Johnson C. Smith and the Bulldogs, all boast speedsters.

Top contenders in the sprints will be Fayetteville State's James Wooten, Michael Keys of Norfolk State and the Bulldog's Charles Burgess.

Wooten, most valuable participant in the 1976 meet, has run a 9.2 in the 100 yard dash, while both Keys and Burgess have turned in 9.4's in the event. Other challengers are J.C. Smith's Albert Barnes and Edward Water's Ernest Ross.

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