

Cal Irvin

Relinquishes

A&T Position

Greensboro - Cal Irvin, athletic director at North Carolina A&T State University since 1971, announced Wednesday that he is relinquishing that post immediately. He said he will remain at the University as an associate professor of physical education.

In an afternoon press conference, Dr. Albert E. Smith, vice chancellor for development and university relations, announced that Jim McKinley, head football coach, will become acting athletic director at A&T.

"I advised our administration here sometime ago that I felt that the time would come when it would be in the best interest of the University and myself to step down as athletic director," said Irvin. "Therefore, I feel that now is the appropriate time. I have submitted my resignation to be effective immediately.

"During my 24 years of association with intercollegiate athletics at A&T, I feel that many personal goals and university goals have been achieved," added Irvin. "I am certain that progress at the university will continue. The program will always have my enthusiastic support, and I am pleased to be continuing as an associate professor of physical education."

Irvin also served as head basketball coach at A&T for 18 years, during which his teams compiled a 348-105 record. His overall college coaching record was 401-132.

Irvin's A&T teams won CIAA basketball tournament and visitation championships, and one tournament and visitation title in the new Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

His outstanding A&T players included Al Attles, now coach and general manager of the Golden State Warriors, and Hugh Evans, an NBA basketball official.

A native of East Orange, New Jersey, Irvin coached four years at Johnson C. Smith and also for two years at Atkins High School in Winston-Salem, N.C.

McKinley, Irvin's successor came to A&T as head football coach last year.

"I am honored that Dr. Dowdy and the University have selected me to direct this outstanding athletic program," said McKinley. "This is certainly an opportunity and a challenge to continue moving the program forward as Cal Irvin and his staff did."

McKinley, 33, is a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan. He came to A&T after serving as head coach at Central State University. He was formerly an assistant coach at Eastern Michigan University. He began his coaching career as head coach at Allegan High School in Michigan.

McKinley played football at Western Michigan University.



EDWARD ROPER
...N.C. Central star

Roper Named League's

"Most Valuable Player"

By Chase Vance
Post Staff Writer
During the summer, many of the top collegiate basketball players participate in recreational league basketball. One of the leagues operates at Grayson Park and Recreational Center during the off-season.

Recently named to its All-Tournament was one of North Carolina Central's top scorers and rebounders, Ed Roper.

At 6-5 and 195 pounds, he is the son of Mrs. Willie Bell Roper of 1549 Newcastle St.

In the championship game in the Grayson League, Roper scored 26 points to lead the Rams to the victory over the Nuggets for the title.

"Some of my former teammates were on the Nuggets," he said as he named Independence players Kenny Boyd and Mike Sloan.

The most valuable player trophy for the tournament was Roper's also.

The Ed Roper story did not begin yesterday. It started back in 1974, when the All-County center led his Patriot team to a high spot in the Southwestern 4A Conference.

Highly recruited, the extremely agile athlete with the spring in his legs decided on North Carolina Central University as a campus to showcase his talents. And that he has done.

Last year, he averaged 14 points and 11 rebounds as the Eagles faltered to a 6-20 record after finishing second in the conference his sophomore year.

The senior leader will join Robert McCeland of New Bern, Ronald James of Charlotte, James King of Kinston and John Robinson of Sanford as a nucleus for the Eagles to

build on next year in their first campaign under new coach Frank Silvia.

"I am really looking forward to this season," said Roper. "We lacked a big man last year and did not have much size. Being basically a running team without a big man who could snare rebounds, we were in trouble."

The starting forward of the MEAC wars expects to excite the McDougal Gymnasium fans that show up for Eagle ball games.

"I have been running a mile and a half every day to keep in shape," he said. "Practice officially opens on October 15 and I want to be ready."

It looks like the Eagles may be on the upswing with such talented athletes as Charlotte's own Ed Roper returning.

Queen City 200

Winners Will

Pocket \$12,000

The winner of the \$50,000 Queen City 200 Dirt Track Classic stock car race, set for Thursday, Friday and Saturday (Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and 2) at metrolina's Fairgrounds Speedway in Charlotte, will pocket a guaranteed \$12,000.

In addition to the posted awards, he will also be going for \$5,500 in contingency money from manufacturers, \$2,000 lap money, \$750 in qualifying time trial money (\$500 to the pole winner, \$250 to second fastest) plus \$500 to the leader of lap 100, \$50 to the leader of lap 50 and a \$500 bonus to the first leader of any 50 consecutive laps. The winner's share could possibly top \$16,000.

Grid Season Underway

Garinger Wildcats At Home;

West Charlotte On The Road

By Chase Vance
Post Staff Writer
The West Charlotte Lions and the Garinger Wildcats open the high school football season Friday night (August 25) when they pit their wits against Southern Pines Pinecrest and Wilmington New Hanover respectively.

The Lions will be on the road where Pinecrest will be trying to avenge a 14-0 defeat suffered in Charlotte last year.

The 8 p.m. contest will give Coach Rudy Abrams a chance to see if his team can match last year's 7-3 record. The Lions are suspect at quarterback, but they have always managed to come through with a good signal caller in desperation hours and Senior Don Davis may be the answer.

"He didn't get much experience last year," Abrams said, "but he has looked great so far and was adequate in our scrimmage game with Charlotte Catholic. If he performs well our offense will take off."

The Lions will feature Henderson Threatt and Ron McGriff in the backfield. Both are all-county contenders and

noted for their quickness.

Maurice Montgomery, will start at wide receiver and defensive back with Gene Barnes at tight end.

Offensive line will hold steady with Willie Able at left guard, Roger Williams at center, Carlos Scott at right guard, Ivan Chapman at right tackle and Ed McNeely at left tackle.

On defense the Lions will go with Ed McNeely at right defensive tackle, Sammy Moore at nose guard, Al Hartman and Billy Overcash at defensive end, Donnie Miller at left defensive tackle.

John Patterson, Keith Patterson and Ernie Maxwell are the contenders for nose guard.

The secondary with Eric Staley, Larry Crouch and Napoleon White is expected to be strong and quick.

The Lions appear to be ready. They have won more than seven games in each of the past five years.

The Garinger Wildcats of Coach Jim Holland will find the confines a little friendlier as they prepare to meet the Wildcats of New Hanover in Memorial Stadium.

Only 35 players tried out for the depleted New Hanover squad and the Wildcats expect to improve on last year's 12-8 win.

Garinger reeling off a 4-16 record has much to smile about this year. The offensive line returns in tact with Scott Hoffman at center, Brian Goins and Jim Holder at the two guards, and Bucky Tarleton and Ben McKinney at tackles. Alfred Hart will play guard and tackle.

"We anticipate a better year than last year," said Holland, and a good way to start would be with a victory over New Hanover.

In the backfield Ken Carpenter is the choice for quarterback for the run-oriented team.

Bob White, Robert Coleman, Vondell Carthran and Mike Rodriguez are expected to battle it out for starting positions in the backfield.

Rodriguez ran for 1,600 yards last year as he lead Amarillo's Tascosa High School to the state championship.



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