

By Bill Johnson



Bill



EDDIE MCGIRT
Beloved JCSU AD

Eddie McGirt Inducted Into CIAA Hall Of Fame

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

Any football or basketball player who was coached by Eddie McGirt, probably learned more than the importance of winning a game.

"As a coach, I wanted to develop good teams and develop young men that could be a credit to their school, family and community," the athletic director at Johnson C. Smith University commented. While he never expected a pat on the back, McGirt, nevertheless, was honored at the recent Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) basketball tournament held in Norfolk, Va. Nearly 11,000 attendees witnessed McGirt's induction into the CIAA Hall of Fame. To be chosen as one of the select few by the CIAA Commission is one of the highest attainments associated with the CIAA.

"I was elated to be chosen," McGirt stated when he returned to Charlotte. "It let me know I've done something worthy of recognition." McGirt obviously had no preconceived plans for winning the honor. It all started when he was a student at the school which he now serves as athletic director.

"I played in the CIAA for four years," McGirt recalled. After graduating, he had several basketball coaching positions in high schools, and became the head coach of the JCSU Golden Bulls' football team in 1958. For two years, 1961-63, McGirt doubled his coaching challenges and took over the basketball team as well.

How could McGirt or any other coach bear to remain at the same school for nearly 22 years, and not lose any interest? "I did it because there was always a job undone at the end of each season," McGirt revealed. "I was offered other jobs, but Smith was the school I attended and I just couldn't leave."

McGirt discovered he wasn't only attached to his alma mater, but to the other 13 schools in the CIAA as well. It was his

undying dedication that led to a present 10-year position as a tournament committee member of the CIAA. From 1978 until 1982, McGirt was also the CIAA president.

It disappoints McGirt that black athletes believe they have better chances of being spotted for the pros if they attend a predominantly white school. "That's not true," McGirt insisted. "If a player is capable of professional sports, professional teams will find that player regardless of the school attended."

The primary reason McGirt is bothered about losing athletes to predominantly white colleges is exploitation. McGirt pointed out every college sports player can't make it to the pros. He implied these players often don't

have the education which makes them marketable in the business world, so they have no career to turn toward. McGirt stressed black colleges emphasize academics as well as athletics.

Looking on the brighter side of the CIAA, McGirt looks forward to achievements like the first televised CIAA tournament, and more invitations to participate in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II championships.

While McGirt couldn't think of anything better than coaching while he was coach, he says now that he's retired, he never has the urge to get back on the field to teach a few plays. "Maybe little league could be a novelty," McGirt laughed with uncertainty.

Key Club Roundball Classic

The 14th annual Roundball Classic, sponsored by the East Mecklenburg High School Key Club, will be held on March 16-18. Registration is now open for 128 teams with five to 10 members, any age from junior high through adult.

The single-elimination marathon basketball tournament will begin with a student-faculty game at 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 16, in the East Mecklenburg gym.

Tournament play will begin about 3 p.m. and continue non-stop through the weekend concluding with the semi-finals and finals at approximately 4 p.m. Sunday.

The tournament is open to the public. Proceeds from the Roundball Classic benefit

the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. According to Will McNair, Key Club president, the event was created in memory of Marcia Hansbury, a CF patient who was a student at East Mecklenburg 15 years ago. Each year Hansbury's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hansbury of Folger Drive, are honored guests at the tournament.

During the past 13 years, the East Mecklenburg Key Club has donated more than \$25,000 in proceeds from the tournament to the CF Foundation to support research. For information on registration or attendance for the tournament, call Will McNair, club president.

North Carolina University To Host Bass Institute

Greensboro - "If I didn't have bad luck I wouldn't have any luck at all!" Sound familiar? Well, there's more to fishing than just luck and fishing enthusiasts can now learn how to eliminate practically the luck factor in fishing by attending the American Fishing Institute (AFI) at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, N.C., on March 10-11.

Since 1972, this award-winning two-day fishing course, conducted by Indiana State University, has brought the fun and excitement of fishing to over 18,000 anglers across the nation by providing instruction in sound fishing techniques utilizing the talents of America's foremost professional anglers as instructors.

The primary instruction is conducted in eight one-hour long General Sessions. Three of the professional instructors are on stage during each of these sessions and, with the help of visual aids projected on three giant screens, present all the known facts and theories of bass fishing to the students in an understandable and useful manner.

Students have the opportunity to seek out the information of their choice during breaks between the General Sessions. They might select to attend a demonstration on lure techniques at the AFI 3,500 gallon aquarium, or visit the Informal Rendezvous where manufacturers' representatives provide one-on-one instruction on techniques covered in previous General Sessions, and help students make the right decisions in equipment selection. One might also select to attend one of the three new classes being offered in 1984 as instruction in Flycasting, Map Reading and Outdoor Photography have been added to the list of subjects available during the Concurrent Sessions.

Each full-playing student receives a comprehensive study manual, an AFI exclusive, detailing the techniques and information presented during the course of instruction. This manual will serve as a useful reference volume and working guide for improving one's fishing success. "Bassmaster Magazine" has called this textbook "one of the best bass fishing references in print."

It's all at the Bass Institute. Fifteen hours of practical techniques and know-how to help everyone catch more fish and, thus, enjoy it more.

Yes, there is a lot more to fishing than luck!

Registrations for this exciting learning experience are still available. Contact the Office of Continuing Education, University of North Carolina, 100 Foust Building, Greensboro, N.C. 27412, or call 919-379-5414.

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Lynch Named Minority Affairs Coordinator

Raleigh - Lucille Lynch of Charlotte has been named Minority Affairs Coordinator for the 9th District in State Attorney General Rufus Edmisten's campaign for governor of North Carolina.

"I've worked in Democratic campaigns from Adlai Stevenson to Jim Hunt," Lynch said in accepting the position, "and I'm proud to be a part of Attorney General Edmisten's campaign for governor."

In making the appointment, Edmisten said, "Lucille Lynch has been in the mainstream of political

and community activities for many years. Not only are we counting on her to work hard to mobilize the minority vote in our campaign, but we also know she will serve as a catalyst for good government if we are honored enough to become governor."

Lynch, a lifelong resident of Charlotte, is an active precinct worker, and does extensive volunteer work in hospitals and nursing homes. She is a member of the Cherry Community Board.

The 9th District includes Mecklenburg, Lincoln, and Iredell Counties.

THE \$1.98 RAP SESSION.....

There are people who discuss problems maturely and people who converse all day without saying a significant word.

If you're wondering what is happening to professional boxing, try to get excited about the April 6 heavyweight championship bout between champion Larry Holmes and former champ John Tate.

Grambling's football staff is excited over the signing of 6'1", 250-pound running back Darin Jones, the best ball carrier in the state of Louisiana last year. Stats include 2,000 yards rushing and 24 touchdowns. Grambling also inked Tommy Johnson, a 6'5", 287-pound defensive end from Houston.

Early reports out of Florida are that Florida A&M will have the toughest road schedule in small college football next fall. The Rattlers are scheduled to meet Eastern Kentucky, Jackson State, Southern University and Tennessee State, four powerful small college football teams on foreign field next fall.

FAMU will host Alcorn State in its annual Orange Blossom Classic and Kentucky State will be their homecoming opponent.

According to Barry Cooper, top young sports writer out of Tallahassee, Fla., Florida A&M will operate as an independent for the next two years before joining forces with several predominantly white schools in Florida, Georgia and Alabama to form a new Division I-AA conference. Cooper seems to believe that there's a strong possibility that FAMU will return to the MEAC in either 1984-85 or in 1985-86. Take your pick!

While playing the "guessing game," I would think the CIAA Basketball Tournament is going to remain in Norfolk, Va. Scope for many, many years to come. It's a very good marriage for both the CIAA and the city of Norfolk in that both are making lots of money.

Delaware State continues to sign the exceptional athletes. Coach Joe Purzycki landed Billy Teel, 6'1", 185-pound defensive back and 202-pound John Stone, who rushed for 1,160 yards last fall.

Remember Reggie Gaines, the former Winston-Salem State basketball shooting star? He's currently leading the Continental Basketball League individual scorers with a lofty 27.9 average. Gaines is the ace of the Louisville Catbirds squad.

ONE FOR THE BOOKS - Grambling football coach Eddie Robinson says he's not worried about chasing the victory record set by the late Paul "Bear" Bryant. You want to bet? Robinson needs only 10 wins to catch the legendary university of Alabama football coach.

THINGS I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW 'TIL NOW!Eight of the 26 major league baseball teams will have new managers when the 1984 season begins April 2. The teams expect to establish two new records in attendance this spring and summer. They played before 1,463,345 fans during the 1983 exhibition season and they attracted 45,540,333 during the regular season for their 10th record in the last 15 years.

The Los Angeles Dodgers may not pay Dusty Baker the remaining \$1,395 million due for the final two years of his contract. They contend they're off the hooks when Baker refused to report to the San Francisco Giants.

The television networks will air fewer college basketball games next season because of very low ratings. Several syndicates aren't meeting their original financial obligations because of the poor ratings.

Robert Morris, my golfing pal, says the new team he's fielding in the local semi-pro baseball league this summer is a winner. Morris declines to name any of his players, who are now practicing for the regular season competition. He just says it's "the best team ever put together in this part of the country."

GET TO THIS!North Carolina did not place an individual among the nation's top 50 individual scorers. Yet the Tar Heel finished the season with the 12th best offense among the major college basketball teams, with 1,963 points for a respectable 80.8 scoring average.

It's difficult for me to understand why an athlete, who has signed a contract guaranteeing him more than \$1 million a year, would have a need for a \$200,000 loan.

The NFL management council will meet shortly with the 26 NFL teams for a seminar on money management and contract negotiating. It's about time!

Would you agree that Greg Field has an uncontrollable temper? Policemen had to remove the big defensive end from the Atlanta training camp after he was cut by the Falcons. More recently, Field kayoed coach John Hadl shortly after failing to make the Los Angeles Express squad.

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