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ARMSTRONG'S Pirates
Pirates Are On Way To “Big Time”

General Outlook

For the first time we will tell.
Alexander said after a practice session a few days ago. Building a winner with limited funds is "no easy task," he said. Alexander still can't believe the talent and experience that the Pirates have.

Armstrong didn't have a big man a year ago. It's been a long, hard struggle for Alexander since he took the job, 8-12 in his first season and 15-12 last year. The lack of a big man and bench strength showed during the 1970-71 season. That was Alexander's major problem, and it had to be corrected with a good recruiting year.

That's what ASC had, a great year in the recruiting wars. Big 6'8" Sam Berry from Savannah High signed up, the first black athlete from Savannah to accept a basketball scholarship from Armstrong. Then the stars flocked in... Curtis Warner (6'5"), Ike Williams (6'4"), Ernie Lorenz (6'10"), Cliff Cox (6'7"), and Darrell Wilson (6'11").

Armstrong didn't have a great recruiting year after all... it was fantastic.

"It's impossible to have such good recruiting luck. Maybe you could call our recruiting success a once in a life time thing", Alexander says with a smile.

Regardless of how you look at it, at low post, Berry at high post and Cox on a wing... that's trouble, uncovered.

That's exactly what ASC will use, the high post. Although it's uncertain as to who will be at high and low post, the Pirates will have the boys to get the job done.

Stan Sammons (6'6"), the starting center last season, and Loren West (6'8") are far from conceding the starting jobs to Berry and Loren West (6'9"), Darrell Wilson (6'11").

Berry, all Savannahians know, was a superstar for Savannah High, leading the Blue Jackets to the state class AAAA runner-up spot last season. He was named to numerous "All-Something" teams, and was tagged a schoolboy All-American by several groups. Loren was redshirted at the University of Florida and Sammons and West alternated at center for the Pirates during the 1970-71 season.

When it comes to the wings (forward), Alexander once again can dip into an endless pool of talent. Robert Bradley, a 6'6" jumping jack; Cliff Cox, who played with the University of Florida last year; Ron Hankock (6'6"), a part-time player for the Pirates last season; Williams (6'4"), the city's and Region's 3-AAA's leading scorer at Johnson High School with a 25 plus point a game and is a strong contender.

All are fine shooters, have plenty of basketball experience and savvy, and can rebound with the best.

The one-guard offense will find a "traffic jam" for the starting job. Wilson, Warner, Brad Becker (6'6"), will vie for the job, with Williams mentioned, as a "swingman" between guard and forward.

Warren has the experience, savvy, etc., needed to run a basketball team. At 26 years of age, Wilson is a veteran of a Kentucky junior college. He hasn't played basketball in three or four years, but the reflexes, moves, etc., have returned.

Becker is returning at guard with the Pirates. He started for the majority of last season and proved to be a vital cog in ASC's offense.

Warner, like Williams and Berry, will be getting his first taste of college basketball. However, Warner was a superstar for Effingham County High as a forward-guard. He averaged more than 22 points a game and is a strong candidate to get the starting job with ASC.

Alexander still can't believe ASC has a suddenly a basketball contender.

"It's a good feeling," Alexander says, "and I like it... it's fun."

Now Alexander and his Pirates need the backing of the student body and the city of Savannah. If the ASC athletic program hopes to grow, the students must back it big.

Billboards, television and radio stations, newspapers, etc., are joining the ASC bandwagon. It's time for ASC's student body to shed its "non-support" image.

1971-72 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Season tickets for Armstrong's 14 home games may be purchased for $10 dollars from any of the Buccaneers, the Wander Restaurant, or from Coach Zeller (384-9133, ext. 322). A season ticket holder is holder to a reserved seat in the plush Ronnie area of the new Civic Center.

Nov. 27-28 Florida Tech--------Sports Center
Nov. 29 Florida Tech--------Sports Center
Dec. 1 Valdosta State---------Sports Center
Dec. 2 College of Charleston---Sports Center
Dec. 10 Savannah State--------Sports Center
Dec. 11 Babygators------------Sports Center
Dec. 12 Baldwin Wallace-----Civic Center
Dec. 13 Georgia College-------Civic Center
Dec. 14 Kansas City----------Civic Center
Dec. 15 Phyllis Clark--------Norfolk, Virginia
Dec. 16 Georgia College-------Civic Center
Dec. 17 August College-------Civic Center
Dec. 19 Campbell College-----Ruiz, N. C.
Dec. 20 null
Dec. 21 null
Dec. 22 null
Dec. 23 U. N. C. Wilmington--Civic Center
Dec. 24 Newborn-----------Wilmingon
Dec. 25 Valdosta-----------Civic Center
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Dec. 28 null
Jan. 4 null
Jan. 5 null
Jan. 6 null
Jan. 7 null
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John P. Rousakis

Savannah's Mayor Supports Armstrong

"Armstrong Basketball Is On The Verge Of Something Big!"

Savannah's mayor and Armstrong alumnus, John P. Rousakis, may have hung up his maroon and gold tennis shoes for the last time, but he's a long way from forgetting about his old alma mater. Mayor Rousakis is indeed one of the Pirates biggest supporters, supplying the necessary impetus to self Armstrong's basketball program on a community level.

Infact, it hasn't been too many years since Mayor Rousakis played his last game for Armstrong Junior College. "Yes," the Mayor hesitantly admits with a smile, "I may have seen my better days on the court." Those once quick moves, his flashy drives to the basket, and that beautiful arcing jumper, have all but disappeared — i.e. in the cheering of delighted fans... recorded in the yellowed pages of Savannah's sports history.

Today John Rousakis has traded in his maroon and gold uniform for a gavel and the helm of Savannah's city government. But even now with his mayoral duties followed Armstrong baskeball, as well as, on Armstrong. Armstrong's move upward in athletics, has received full support from Mayor Rousakis. In an interview with the INKWELL, Rousakis said, "I really think Armstrong's basketball program is on the upswing... the verge of something big. In fact, I'm as excited about the opening of the season as Coach Alexander is."

Rousakis confidently continued, "Of course, I've always followed Armstrong basketball through the years, but this year it's different. For the first time I think Armstrong basketball is going to make it to the top... Sure, it's a long shot, but we'll make the big time yet."

When asked if he thought the city of Savannah would support a collegiate basketball team at ASC, the Mayor replied with a strong affirmative. "There's no question in my mind. In my opinion, Armstrong basketball could really do a lot to promote community pride and spirit. The citizens of a city really take pride in producing a winner because they're a part of it. They see the team's success as a direct result of their participation — and they're right. "Savannahians are no different than the Pirates coaching staff looking as good on the court as they do on paper, you're going to find people standing in line to get tickets. Everybody enjoys a winner, and from all indications that's exactly what we've got—an honest-to-goodness winner."

Perhaps one of the biggest values of a successful basketball program at Armstrong would be the attention it would focus on the college as a whole. Mayor Rousakis pointed out, "I envision Armstrong's basketball program as a chance to develop the college to its fullest potential. Athletics can do wonderful things for a school—just look at Jackson State University. The same thing can happen for Armstrong. A successful basketball program could very well serve as that golden key to get many of the things we want for Armstrong. For example basketball could serve as a medium to open the door to recruiters for the school. It may be a long shot, but I believe it can happen."

Above all else, Mayor Rousakis looks forward to an improved intercollegiate program at Armstrong. "There would be a definite spillover of support from Mayor Rousakis in its ability to focus attention on the community in general, as well as, on Armstrong. "National recognition through sports can go a long way towards promoting a community's image. I've seen it happen too many times before. Because of the tremendous coverage given to sports in newspapers, magazines, radio, and television; athletics can be one of the best mediums for focusing attention on a particular area. America is a sports oriented country. Practically every body either plays a sport or is interested enough to read about it in the papers. If Armstrong gets national sports attention, the community is just as apt to reflect the same pride as Savannah. The community as a whole has as much to gain as anybody."

Concerning the relation of Armstrong to Savannah in general, Rousakis began, "Armstrong State College is an integral part of the community's most valuable assets, and consequently, the full development of Armstrong is as essential to the growth of Savannah, as anything is. A college is one of the best industries a community could ask for. After all, a college doesn't pollute, and it stimulates the economy by providing jobs and recycling state and national funds back into the community. In addition, the general life of a community is upgrade with a full and well functioning college. What more could you ask for from a business or industry?"

Mayor John P. Rousakis Is Invaluable Pirate Fan

What Basketball Can Mean To Armstrong

By Dr. Henry L. Ashmore

There are several prime ways in which a first-rate basketball program can help in developing Armstrong State College. The following list is not intended to be exhaustive, but it does point out specifically some beneficial effects of having a good basketball program.

1. The amount of publicity which would accrue at the college would be tremendous. An example of this would be the University of Jacksonville, a small, private, liberal arts university in Jacksonville, Florida, which was known only to a very few people until it developed one of the outstanding basketball teams in the nation. During the past couple of years the name of the University of Jacksonville has been printed and reprinted throughout the nation. The same thing could occur at Armstrong State College. Many people who have never heard of ASC could suddenly be exposed to Armstrong through the medium of basketball. Simply because of the interest in sports today, there is probably more written about sports in magazines and newspapers than almost any other topic. The purpose of this article is not to say this should or should not be, it is simply to say that it is. Therefore, if we were to develop a basketball program at Armstrong State College which attracted

President Ashmore Takes Jumper

From the President

national attention, then Armstrong State College itself would attract national attention.

2. A good basketball program would be very instrumental in developing an outstanding esprit de corps on campus. It is an apparent fact that most people enjoy being associated with a winner. There is simply more excitement when there is real expectation of winning. It is easily demonstrable that this is so: simply watch the crowds attending the games increase as the team wins more and more games.

3. The college could gain increased support in the city and surrounding areas if we had a nationally known team. Again, this is not to say this is the way it should be—it simply is the way it is. It is a breakdown point of being well financed. Inasmuch as state financing is geared to the number of students enrolled, the college needs at least a few hundred more. Thus a well-publicized team would help in narrowing the present gap.
Brad Becker, a 6 foot, 170 pound guard from Florida’s Citrus Belt, came to Armstrong from Deland High School where he quarterbacked his team to a 28-2 season and a third straight Orange Belt Conference title. In his freshman year at ASC, Brad was severely slowed by injuries—a broken hand and a ripped elbow. Brad was back at full speed last year, maturing quickly into a good ball handler and shooter. By the end of the season, ASC’s smallest Pirate had made a significant contribution to the success of last year’s team. As exciting player to watch, Brad will be called on this year to help fill the leadership roles left by graduated Steve Holland and David Rich.

PROFILE: A quick guard who likes to run with the ball ... an exceptional ball handler ... a flashy passer with an uncanny ability to thread the ball through the defense ... a good leaper who can rebound with much taller men.

COACH’S COMMENT: “I expect Brad to be the floor leader of the team.”

Sam Berry, a 6’9”, 310 pound forward-center from Savannah, set Georgia high school basketball on fire last year with his powerful rebounding and famous fade-away jumpers. An All-American at Savannah High School, Sam was one of the country’s top 100 basketball prospects, and was sought by such schools as the Universities of Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, and Alabama just to name a few. Needless to say, Sam is a welcomed addition to Armstrong basketball and will play a key role in determining the success of the 71-72 Pirates.

PROFILE: All City, All Region, All State, All American—Coach Alexander’s recruiting dreams come true ... quick for a big man ... strong moves underneath the basket ... “Super Cool” under pressure ... virtually impossible to stop when he’s hot.

COACH’S COMMENT: “Without a doubt, Sam has the greatest potential of any player ever to play at Armstrong.”

Robert Bradley, a 6’4”, 175 pound forward from Deland High School, has everything it takes to become one of Armstrong’s finest. A senior this year, Robert has started at forward for the past three years and is perhaps ASC’s most fundamentally sound player. Last year, Robert captured Armstrong’s career rebounding record with 538 caroms. This year, “Sky King” looks like a sure bet to join Armstrong’s elite 1000 point club.

PROFILE: Possesses great leaping ability and timing which offsets his lack of size under the boards ... an excellent shooter with quick moves inside ... a hustler, always doing a good job on defense.

COACH’S COMMENT: “I expect great things from Robert this season.”

Charlie Clarke, a 6’3”, 180 pound forward-guard from Savannah, is perhaps the most underrated player on the team. Charlie played a key role in last year’s winning season as a substitute forward who raised many a Pirate fans’ eye brow with his flashy moves and good outside shooting. This year Charlie should see a lot of game action adding depth and dimension to the 71-72 Pirates.

PROFILE: A good medium range shooter who finds the mark quickly and consistently grinds away points ... a good rebounder who blocks out well on the boards ... a serious basketball mind who persists in getting the job done.

COACH’S COMMENT: “Charlie perhaps fills the lanes better and gets down the court quicker than anybody else on the team.”

Clifford Cox, a senior transfer from the University of Florida, has got to be one of the tallest guards in the country at 6’7”. For his height, Clifford is an exceptional ball handler, but thats not all he does well. In addition to being a good rebounder, he is also a superior shooter from almost any spot on the court. Clifford will add experience, leadership, and depth to this year’s edition of the Pirates.

PROFILE: Combines a soft touch with exceptional range ... a fundamentally sound player, making few floor mistakes ... always hustling, getting his job done in perfect order.

COACH’S COMMENT: “Cliff has all the tools to do it all.”

Ron Hancock, a 6’6”, 166 pound forward from Evansville, Indiana, had an exceptional freshman season with the Pirates last year. Billed by many as the best shooter on the team, “Skippy” excited Pirates basketball fans last year with his long arching jumpers and lighting quick drives to the basket. There is no question that Ron will be a golden key to ASC’s success this season.

PROFILE: An excellent shooter who combines a good eye with a soft touch ... a strong rebounder who has graceful moves under the basket as well as the power moves to get the ball to the bucket ... big and strong, but quick and agile — a rare combination of basketball talents.

COACH’S COMMENTS: “Without a doubt, Ron has as much potential as any player on the team. How far we go this year will depend a lot on how well Skippy performs.”

Brad Becker

Sam Berry

Robert Bradley

Charlie Clarke

Clifford Cox

Ron Hancock
Ernest Lorenz, a 6'10%", 215 pound center, is a sophomore transfer from the University of Florida where he was an outstanding freshman basketball star. The tallest player ever to play at Armstrong, Ernie symbolizes the changing face of Armstrong's basketball program. This year Ernie will lend the Pirates invaluable board strength as well as good scoring potential from underneath the basket.

PROFILE: Finally a Pirate who can rebound with anyone and everyone . . . a good ball handler for his size who improves with everyday's practice . . . fires a sweet jumper that knows nothing but the bottom of the net.

COACH'S COMMENT: "With hard work and development of stamina, endurance, and an inside scoring game, Ernie can become a great player. He needs to become more agile, mobile, and hostile."

Stan Sammons, a 6", 220 pound center from Atlanta, has given ASC much needed board strength and scoring punch in tight situations over the past seasons. A three year veteran, Stan earned the team's most improved player award in his sophomore year. Above all, Stan is perhaps best known for his sweeping hooker, an almost impossible shot to block that rarely misses the mark. Stan combines a large stickly frame with an aggressive approach to effectively clog up the middle on defense and block out the best of rebounders on the boards.

PROFILE: An unbelievable hook . . . a good rebounder who uses his weight to the best possible advantage . . . a conscientious player, always striving to obtain his best.

COACH'S COMMENT: "Stan has continued to improve every year since coming to Armstrong. Without a doubt, he will be a definite factor in determining the success of this team."

Curtis Warner, a 6'5", 170 pound guard from Effingham County, was selected along with Sam Berry from the Coastal Empire area to play in the annual North-South basketball clash. A superstar at Effingham County, Warner averaged better than 22 points a game last season. This year, "Skippy" will get his first taste of college ball, and from all indications, he will live up to the expectations of area basketball fans.

PROFILE: Great ball handling ability . . . quick and agile with good moves to the bucket and a sweet outside shot.

COACH'S COMMENTS: "All Curtis lacks is game experience. He has the raw talent to become one of Armstrong's best ever."

Loren West, a 6'9", 200 pound center from Jacksonville, is the second tallest Pirate on the squad. As a freshman last year, Loren saw considerable action as a substitute center, contributing significantly to last year's winning season. Loren is probably the most aggressive player on the team, willing to fight anyone for a rebound or a loose ball.

PROFILE: Combines a "never-say-die" attitude with a strong desire to get his job done . . . always moving, providing the Pirates with an invaluable inside scorer . . . has an outstanding hook and a good turn around jumper.

COACH'S COMMENT: "With continued hard work and dedication, Loren will have a great career at Armstrong."

Ike Williams, a 6'4", 175 pound guard from Savannah, led the city and Region 3-AAA in scoring last year with a 26 point per game average. Ike is an exceptional guard prospect who combines speed with a quick start to lead one heck of a fast break. This season Ike will lead the Pirates good ball handling capabilities, as well as, a strong outside shot with the ability to take the ball under the bucket for the easy score.

PROFILE: The model college guard, lightning quick, flashy passer, exceptional ball handler, big enough to go under the boards and fight for rebounds . . . a strong offensive player who combines a deadly outside jumper with numerous good moves to the bucket . . . has the ability to develop into a superior defensive player.

COACH'S COMMENT: "Ike has the moves, speed, and desire to become an outstanding performer."

Darrell Wilson, a 6'2", 175 pound guard, is a veteran of a Kentucky junior college where he played outstanding ball for two years. Although Darrell hasn't played basketball in three or four years, his reflexes, moves, and shooting eye have returned. At 26 years old, Darrell is the team's "old man", and consequently, is the person Coach Alexander will look to for a level head and mature leadership on and off the court.

PROFILE: An excellent passer always seeming to find the open man . . . dedicated to the game, his teammates, and giving his best . . . the totally unselfish ball player.

COACH'S COMMENT: "With his mature attitude, Darrell will prove to be a great asset to the Armstrong basketball program."
Savannah's New Civic Center

A First Class Facility For A First Class Team

$10 Million Coliseum
To Be New Pirate Cove

With the completion of Savannah's new ten million dollar Civic Center complex, Armstrong's basketball program has "Big Time" written all over it. The new facility, located at the corner of Liberty and Montgomery streets in beautiful downtown Savannah, is rapidly nearing completion. Hopefully, the Pirates will be able to move into their new home for the opening of the 1971-72 basketball season.

The new coliseum is nothing but the best—"First class all the way," Coach Alexander says with a broad smile. "There's no question that this facility is one of the finest in the Southeast. I'm looking forward to playing our home games there ... I'm really excited about its completion, not only for Armstrong but for all of Savannah. We've finally got an facility that we can enjoy and be proud of." The ten million dollar complex is indeed "First Class" from its plush, cushioned box seats to the 22,000 dollar, four sided score board hanging high above the coliseum floor. One of the nicer aspects of the arena is that there are no blencer type seats, only individual seats for the maximum comfort of every Pirate fan. The cushioned box seats which are located on both sides of the playing court and at the north end of the arena, are of course the best seats in the house.

About The Front Page

The Pirates are hoping some new sails this year with the addition of male cheerleaders and the Buccaneers to Armstrong's rapidly expanding basketball program. Wearing crushed velvet hot pants, the Buccaneers will be a com m.....

Almost A Half Million Watched Last Year

Television Exposes Pirate Basketball To Thousands

WJCL television will expose Pirate basketball to more people in one night than most small college teams are exposed to during their entire basketball season. For the second year, Frank Black and Channel 22 sports will broadcast Armstrong basketball to the thousands of Coastal Empire fans. Last year the "Pirate Basketball" presentation was watched by almost a half million people, and according to Black, was WJCL's second most popular program.

Black, who is WJCL's sports director, will handle the play-by-play commentary. In an interview with the INKWELL last week Black commented, "With the potential the Pirates have this year, I can't wait to get the cameras rolling. I'm looking forward to doing some of the broadcasts from the new Civic Center ... I'm excited about the whole program ... Really excited.

Before last year, there had been some question concerning the effects of television on the size of ASC's game attendance. Black quickly pointed out, "Yes, this use to be a common misconception among all sports fans that television keeps people away from the game. But it just

Frank Black of WJCL