

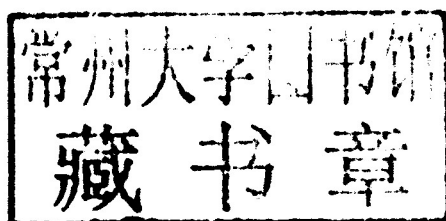
**NC STATE BASKETBALL**  
**100 YEARS**  
**OF INNOVATION**



**TIM PEELER &  
ROGER WINSTEAD**

**FOREWORD BY SIDNEY LOWE**

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**NC State Basketball:  
One Hundred Years of Innovation**

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# FOREWORD

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*by*

**Sidney Lowe**



When I became NC State's basketball coach on May 6, 2006, no one had to explain to me the importance of my position.

During my four years as a player, under Norm Sloan and Jim Valvano, I learned all about the tradition of Everett Case and about the legendary players who came before me, from Dick Dickey to Ronnie Shavlik to David Thompson. Those are just a few of the names who made NC State basketball special during its first 100 years.

Coach Case, of course, is the "Father of Atlantic Coast Conference Basketball," someone every NC State fan should know and revere. If he had not come here in 1946, basketball might never have become a big-time college sport in the South. I'm sure glad that it did.

He started the pipeline from Indiana high schools to NC State, one that continues today. He made sure Reynolds Coliseum, the best college basketball venue in the nation, was completed. He set the standard for every other school in the Southern Conference and the ACC by winning nine tournaments in 10 years. Just think how amazing that is.

Coach Case brought so many things to the game of college basketball. We all know he brought the tradition of cutting down the nets after big basketball games, something I was honored to do on four occasions during my senior year of 1983. But he also introduced things like pep bands, spotlighted introductions and big-time recruiting to college basketball.

My first coach here, Norm Sloan, played a huge role in the development of the sport, including the integration of men's basketball and winning the school's first NCAA Championship. Had

# FOREWORD

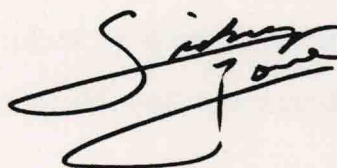
it not been for the success of his teams, the NCAA Tournament might still be limited to just one team per conference, the dunk might still be outlawed and UCLA might still be winning national titles.

Jim Valvano, who took over the program my sophomore year, brought an unbelievable amount of energy and excitement to Wolfpack basketball. The first time he met with the team, he told us he was going to win the NCAA Championship. And that's exactly what we did in my final game as a player at NC State, thanks to Dereck Whittenburg's airball — um, pass — and Lorenzo Charles's dunk against Houston's Hall of Fame lineup of Akeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler.

We should all be thankful for the traditions Les Robinson and Herb Sendek helped continue. Coach Robinson, who played for and was an assistant to Coach Case, brought the wooden court back to Reynolds and reconnected the program to its roots, both as coach and athletics director. Coach Sendek was here when the school honored the jerseys of our most outstanding players and moved the program into our state-of-the-art homes, the RBC Center and the Dail Basketball Center. Like Reynolds when it opened in 1946, they are unmatched by any facilities in the country.

I am blessed every day to sit in the chair of the men who brought so many innovations to college basketball and so many championships to NC State. And I am proud to be the caretaker of the traditions they introduced.

As we begin the next century of Wolfpack basketball, I can't wait to see what happens next.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney Jones". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "S" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.



# PREFACE

Sidney Lowe stood at midcourt at the RBC Center — NC State's plush, state-of-the-art basketball arena on the edge of campus — when he heard the surprisingly clear, strong voice.

The coach put his face in his hands and allowed the memories to wash over him.

The dozens of times he walked up the 23 steps from the locker rooms in the basement of Reynolds Coliseum onto the court. The loving, pulsating crowd that always embraced him and his teammates. The noise meter that crept slowly upwards to the red light at the top as the arena grew louder. The pep band that blared the "Red & White" song, the fight song and alma mater. The high-flying cheerleaders who seemed to linger in the air during timeouts.

Everything that happened during Lowe's four years as an NC State player flashed between his palms, from the tears of sadness he shed when Norm Sloan, the coach who recruited him to Raleigh from Washington, D.C., announced that he was leaving, to the tears of happiness he, his teammates and head coach Jim Valvano shared with a packed house the day after winning the 1983 NCAA Championship.

The mellow baritone that echoed in the coach's head belonged to C.A. Dillon, the longtime public address announcer at Thompson Gym, Reynolds Coliseum and the RBC Center, as he recited the same words he used for more than half a century to welcome Wolfpack fans and opponents to a home basketball game.

"Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the RBC Center," Dillon said on the afternoon of Jan. 16, 2010. "Today, North Carolina State University is pleased to have as its guest the basketball team from Clemson University."

Standing alone, in front of a crowd of nearly 19,000 spectators, Lowe silently wept tears of joy as he heard Dillon announce NC State's starting lineup one more time: "At guard, from Miami, Florida, Javi Gonzalez. At the other guard, from Boston, Massachusetts, senior Farnold Degand. At forward, from Marion, Indiana, freshman Scott Wood. At the other forward, from Fayetteville, North Carolina, C.J. Williams. And at center, from Detroit, Michigan, Tracy Smith.

"And the head coach of the Wolfpack . . . Sidney Lowe!"

The ovation that followed was as much for Dillon's silky voice as it was for the lineup of the 100<sup>th</sup> basketball team to represent NC State University.

That same voice, in February 1947, told an overflowing crowd at Thompson Gymnasium that the game against North Carolina had been canceled by Raleigh fire chief W.R. Butts. Essentially, from that day forward, North Carolina was transformed from a region ruled by football to a basketball hotbed, thanks primarily to the vision of Everett Case.

It was the same voice that announced the lineups for 16 of NC State's 17 conference championship teams, including the nine won in 10 years by Case (1947–56), the coach who put Dillon behind the microphone.

In a rare instance, just after the Wolfpack beat Duke for the 1965 ACC

# PREFACE

Championship, the voice went silent as the players raced to the sidelines, lifted the ailing Case onto their shoulders and carried him to one of the baskets, so he could cut down the nets one last time.

The voice cracked on the afternoon of March 16, 1974, in the deathly silence of Reynolds Coliseum as superstar David Thompson was wheeled off the court after tripping over teammate Phil Spence's shoulder during the NCAA Tournament East Region championship game. And it boomed when he shared the great news that Thompson would be all right, causing an explosion of noise that has never been matched in the raucous arena.

Unless it was on April 5, 1983, when Lowe and his teammates were welcomed home by an arena full of Wolfpack fans the day after winning the school's second national title.

The only time the voice was ever too overcome to speak was on Feb. 21, 1993, when a dying Jim Valvano told the sell-out crowd at Reynolds to "Never Give Up" prior to a nationally televised game against Duke.

For more than 50 years, that voice bounced off the walls of the three permanent homes of NC State basketball, introducing nearly all the famous names that are remembered in this volume: Dickey, Ranzino, Molodet, Shavlik, Richter, Pucillo, Biedenbach, Burluson, Thompson, Towe, Carr, Whitney, Bailey, Whittenburg, Lowe, Charles, Gannon, "Errrrrrrrr-nee Myers!", Webb, McMillan, Corchiani, Monroe, Gugliotta and Fuller.

And it correctly pronounced the names of not-so-famous Wolfpack teammates and opponents during the parts of eight decades Dillon sat behind the microphone, fulltime from 1946–1999 and on occasion during the 2000s.

That voice, Lowe knew, was the soul of NC State basketball. It had boomed through all but a few of the most important moments in the first 100 years of NC State basketball. And that sweet echo will reverberate for many years to come.





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Covering every single detail in a project that spans 100 years is impossible. That was not our intent. We hoped to relate the stories of NC State's champions and tell about the many innovations the school has added to the game of college basketball. Some of the stories here are familiar; some we didn't know about when we began putting this book together in the summer of 2009. But we hope it stands as a good record of what has been accomplished by the NC State basketball program since it played its first game against Wake Forest on Feb. 16, 1911.

Similarly, it would be impossible to thank everyone who has contributed to this project. Some of them are people we never met, like the unnamed students and reporters who wrote accounts of the earliest games, or the uncredited photographers from the thousands of pictures we sorted through to find just the right images for this book.

While a large portion of the images used had no photo credit nor copyright notice on the originals, we feel obligated to express our gratitude to those that we can give credit to for their creative efforts in recording the history of NC State basketball with their cameras: Burnie Bachelor, Bugs Barringer, Todd Bennett, Clayton Brinkley, Ed Caram, Patrick Chapman, Charles Cooper, Eddie Gontram, Simon Griffiths, Greg Hatem, Chris Hondros, Bryson Lewis, Mark McIntyre, Hugh Morton, Scott Rivenbark, Michael Russell, Phil Taylor, Taylor Templeton, Peyton Williams, Roger Winstead and Fred Woolard.

We would like to thank former NC State athletics director Lee Fowler for approving this project to honor the former coaches, players and staff members who helped bring success and distinction to NC State basketball. Associate athletics director Dick Christy helped guide the project from beginning to end and assistant athletics director Chris Alston was extremely understanding in allowing us the time we needed to research and write this volume.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our editor, Kathy Bryant. She caught us every time our tired fingers tripped on the keyboard and every time our tired eyes missed a word. She's a great basketball fan, whose knowledge of the game and the language improved our efforts tremendously. And to Hannah Thurman, we thank you for your diligent last-minute proofing.

The media relations staff, led by assistant athletics director Annabelle Myers, gave us great support in editing stories, helping with research and digging up old photos. Brian Reinhardt, Mark Kimmel, Brandon Yopp and Bruce Winkworth were generous with their time and talent, as was marketing assistant Meghan Brown.

Chris Richter of the *NC State Alumni Magazine* has been generous with his help in tracking down the whereabouts of former players and coaches and allowing Tim use of the Alumni Association's library and archives.

The staff at the NC State Library Special Collections has done a terrific job in preserving old photos through the years, and we made liberal use of their digital collection. The recently completed project to digitize every *Agromeck* and put them online was an invaluable research tool.

Tim would like to thank his wife, Elizabeth, and his sons, Michael and Benjamin, for their support during this project. They have been extremely patient in his absence and grumpiness these last 18 months. They are the reason he spent so many hours early in the morning and late at night trying to make this book something they would be proud of.

Roger appreciates the support of his wife, Sarah, and his sons, Ridge and Dylan, while he toiled away countless nights and weekends poring over stacks of photos and hunched over the computer. He'd also like to acknowledge his parents, Dottie and Harold, to whom he owes so much — especially the gentle nudge to attend college in Raleigh from his NC State alumnus father.

We would like to thank everyone at UNC Press, which produced this book for the NC State Athletics Department, especially Mark Simpson-Vos, who helped us navigate through a short turnaround in the publication of this book.

Most important, we'd like to thank men like Gus Tebell, Everett Case, Press Maravich, Norman Sloan, Jim Valvano and all the other coaches and players who brought championships and glory to NC State basketball.

# CONTENTS

<b>FOREWORD BY SIDNEY LOWE</b> .....	v
<b>PREFACE</b> .....	vii
<b>CHAPTER ONE: THE EARLIEST YEARS</b> .....	1
<b>CHAPTER TWO: A CASE STUDY</b> .....	39
<b>CHAPTER THREE: CONTINUING CASE'S DREAM</b> .... .	109
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: MIRACLE</b> .....	167
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: THE MODERN ERA</b> .....	225
<b>EPILOGUE</b> .....	248

# **INNOVATIONS:** **THE EARLIEST YEARS**



The group of students sat in a corner of the auditorium of Pullen Hall, the large Greek Revival assembly building at the front door of the North Carolina School for Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. It was Feb. 21, 1911, and the eight young men were gathered here this Tuesday evening for a diversion in the building that had served as the center of student life since its doors were opened in 1903.

The large open room was ill-suited for its current purpose — the first college basketball game ever played in Raleigh, N.C. There were support columns in the middle of the wooden floor and a large stage on one end. It was, after all, designed to host mandatory assemblies, chapel services and other events for the fledgling school's enrollment of 450 students, not athletic competitions.

Fortunately, the game being played that night was just a blip on the school's social calendar.

The big event of the week had been three nights earlier at the annual midwinter dance of the Thalarian German Club, a social organization that hosted various dances throughout the academic year. For the students at the all-male A&M College, the dance was an opportunity to bring dates from one of the three neighboring girls' schools, Peace Institute, Meredith College and St. Mary's School for Girls.

That dance, however, caused major problems for the basketball teams from A&M and neighboring Wake Forest College. In preparation for the big dance, the wooden floor had been waxed and polished, allowing the awkward farmers and engineers to glide as gracefully as they could to the music provided by the school orchestra.

Unfortunately, the floor was still quite slick during the first half of the basketball game. Players from both teams had trouble standing upright. Perhaps that was a good thing for A&M: five nights earlier, on Wake Forest's campus 10 miles north of Raleigh, the teams had met for the first time and the more experienced Baptists whipped their neighbors, 33-6.

In the rematch, however, the Aggies scooted out to a 15-11 lead in the first half, thanks to the play of center Percy Bell Ferebee. With victory in their sights, they needed a small advantage if they were going to pull off an upset against

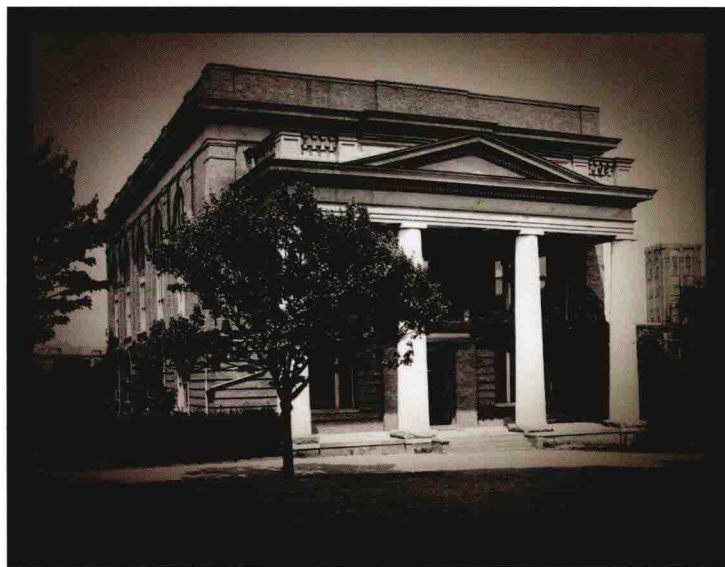
Wake Forest, which had sponsored an intercollegiate basketball team since 1906.

So when Professor Howard Satterfield walked into the team huddle carrying a bucket of kerosene, the eight players and team manager thought it was strange, especially when he told them to take off their rubber-soled canvas shoes and

dip them in the bucket. But they dutifully did what the longtime mechanical engineering professor told them to do. When the players put their shoes back on, they found the soles to be just sticky enough to gain traction on the slickened floor.

The tactic worked: A&M pulled off a stunning upset, 19-18, in front of an estimated 550 people, the first recorded basketball victory in school history.

"The A&M boys have had a hard fight to establish the sport in the college," wrote *The News & Observer* in its account of the school's initial victory. "But it has come to stay, and the crowds witnessing the game last night proved that the





game will be quite as poplar [sic] as other college games."

From its beginnings, NC State basketball has been defined by forward-thinkers who changed the way the game is played and perceived. The first was YMCA general secretary John W. Bergthold, who, like so many other YMCA men around the globe, introduced basketball to young men who had little knowledge of the game invented 20 years before by Dr. James Naismith at Springfield (Mass.) College.

In the first 35 years of competition at NC State, there were some advances and a few successes on

Conference tournament, he turned the advantage of having the biggest and best arena in the region into championships, just as he had done at Frankfort (Ind.) High School, which he led to an unprecedented four state titles.

While popular among the members of the YMCA, basketball was not an immediate success at the school, which was basking in the glory of wildly successful football and baseball seasons in 1910. So there wasn't much notice paid when Bergthold organized five campus teams — one each representing the senior, junior, sophomore and freshman classes and one representing the

the hardwoods. But the landscape changed dramatically in 1946, when an innovative, veteran high school coach named Everett Case arrived in Raleigh, hired by school administrators who were desperate to find the success in basketball that they had found elusive on the football field.

Case turned basketball from a game to a celebration, introducing traditions he remembered from his days as Indiana's most successful high school coach. His teams were the first in college to cut down the nets after winning a championship. He had the nation's first pep band. Case was the first coach in college to turn the spotlight on his players during pregame introductions. He turned the skeleton of the basketball arena that had stood untouched for more than half a decade into the palatial Reynolds Coliseum. With the Dixie Classic, he introduced the importance of holiday tournaments. By hosting the Atlantic Coast

agricultural short course — to begin class-against-class play in the fall.

Despite the early difficulties in the program's beginnings, it is not exactly accurate to say NC State did not have basketball success until Case's arrival. But, in the earliest days, the class teams had no place to practice or play games, other than two makeshift outdoor courts, scratched out on the gravel-covered military drill fields on the site of present-day Pullen Park.

Development of the sport wasn't exactly smooth, Bergthold remembered years later.

"Many students and faculty members at first considered basketball a girl's game, because Meredith [College] played it," Bergthold wrote in a 1939 edition of the *NC State Alumni News*. "We inveigled [a] half-dozen innocents to go out on the old drill field and there, with some temporary goal posts, practiced throwing baskets and laying



the foundation of basketball which has become such a factor in the sports of the college.”

The YMCA organized a varsity squad from the five class team to represent A&M in intercollegiate competition in the fall of 1910. A game was scheduled against Virginia Tech in Norfolk, the night before the two schools’ traditional Thanksgiving Day football game in the same city. But two weeks of rain prevented A&M from using its outdoor practice fields and the school’s first scheduled game was cancelled. Another game, to be played against the University of North Carolina at Pullen Hall, was cancelled because the two schools, who were feuding over eligibility standards in other sports, could not agree on the terms of the game.

So the first season was made up of those first two games against Wake Forest.

Not until the campus YMCA building was completed in 1913, thanks to a generous gift from philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, did the school have a consistent place to practice indoors. For more than a decade, until Frank Thompson Gymnasium was opened in 1925, all home games were played in downtown Raleigh, in the 2,000-seat Raleigh Municipal Auditorium, which regularly attracted large crowds when the Farmers hosted local teams like Wake Forest and Trinity College, both of which began their programs earlier than A&M, but were not particularly successful either.

A&M played the University of North Carolina only once in the first decade of the program, because of the feud over eligibility. For that same reason, the two schools did not face each other in football from 1906-1918. Still, it was an amazing feat for the Farmers to beat UNC so thoroughly, 26-18, on the afternoon of Feb. 22, 1913. “There wasn’t a department of the game in which the Techs of Raleigh did not outshine the classicists

of Carolina,” *The News & Observer* reported. “The teamwork was infinitely better. It was no uncommon thing to see the Carolina boys huddled together under their own goal while the Farmers were complacently watching their discomfiture as a member of the home team laid, unmolested, the ball into the big pocket.”

That teamwork was amazing, considering A&M’s administration was still not fully supportive of the sport. Team members were not awarded monograms and were not excused from military drills for practice and games. In the first year after the Athletics Association took over administration of basketball in 1912, football and baseball players were not allowed to participate in basketball because school officials did not want them to be over-involved. And school rules prevented the team from beginning its

practices until after Christmas break, while other schools in the state began drills in the late fall.

In the early days, the Farmers were organized, drilled and managed by coaches and managers culled from the faculty or the student body. In 1916, coached by dairying and animal husbandry professor Chuck Sanborn, the Farmers posted the first winning season in school history.

In 1917, the same year the school’s name was changed to the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, former four-sport athlete Harry Hartsell was hired in the off-season to become its first real athletics director. He was also charged with coaching football, baseball, basketball and track. He matched Sanborn’s feat of producing a winning record, 10-8.

But that was nothing compared to what happened in the winter of 1918, when Hartsell’s team claimed the championship of the Carolinas, based on its 12-2 record. There was no play-off in





determining these championships, but the team, captained by Elbert Lewis, lost only once in its 11 games against teams from the two states. The only setback was an early loss to Trinity College that was later avenged.

The 1918–19 basketball season was one of the most critical times in the 30-year history of the school. At the outset of the Great War, NC State had been converted into a military training ground, with all 590 students being automatically enlisted into the Student Army Training Corps. More than 30 of the school's most experienced students, including seven starters from the 1917 state championship football team, were shipped out to Army camps across the country for final training before they were sent overseas.

Frank Thompson, one of the school's most beloved athletes on the football and baseball fields from 1907–10 and the head coach of both programs after his graduation, was killed on a battlefield in France.

At the same time, a worldwide outbreak of Spanish influenza — which killed 10 times more people around the globe than all the casualties of the world war — swept through the campus, claiming the lives of 13 students and two nurses at the campus infirmary. One of the nurses was the daughter of beloved school president W.C. Riddick, for whom Riddick Stadium was named.

In the fall of 1918, all extracurricular activi-

ties, including football games and practices, were cancelled for five weeks. When play resumed, the flu-stricken and outnumbered football Farmers lost to John Heisman's Golden Hurricane of Georgia Tech, 128-0, by far the worst defeat in school history.

So, when the basketball team gathered to begin practice after Christmas, the school was desperate for something good to happen. First-year coach Tal Stafford, a former NC State football and baseball player, had taken over both the football squad and the basketball squad after Hartsell was drafted into the Army.

While the football team was decimated, the basketball quintet actually had good prospects for the winter because, amazingly, most of the players from the 1918 Carolinas championship team returned. Guided by captain Franklin Cline and Raleigh's own Thomas Park, A&M raced through the season with an 11-3 record, playing and beating every team in the state except Davidson and North Carolina.

Davidson and NC State could not agree on a date to play, but the Wildcats made no claim on the state championship. That was

not the case with North Carolina, which was also undefeated against opponents within the state.

With both teams claiming the state basketball title, administrators and students from the rival institutions were eager for a resolution. They put aside their differences to schedule a one-game playoff at the Raleigh Municipal Auditorium. So,



Harry Hartsell





NINETEEN-NINETEEN BASKETBALL SQUAD  
MANAGER BLACK, TEMPLE, BURRUS GROOME, DEAL, COACH STAFFORD  
PARK, GURLEY, CAPT. CLINE, HOMEWOOD, HOLLOWELL

on March 15, 1919, “madness” officially started in the state of North Carolina.

The two teams were not that evenly matched. North Carolina had a height advantage in its center, over NC State’s J.D. Groome, but the Aggies liked playing a fast style of basketball. Stafford’s “tossers” jumped out to a 15-7 lead early in the game. North Carolina slowed the pace by closely guarding the Farmer forwards and managed to cut their deficit to just 17-14 at the half.

But NC State resumed its speedy play in the first seven minutes of the second half, forcing North Carolina to call a time-out just to catch its breath. Trailing 23-17, the White Phantoms of the University had little hope of catching the Aggies, who finished strong by outscoring their new rival 12-8 over the final five minutes of the game to secure a 39-29 victory and the state championship.

*The News & Observer* described the game like this: “Witnessed by an auditorium that nearly packed the big place, the exhibition was hotly contested from beginning to end and full of thrills and pretty plays.”

NC State had a private celebration a few weeks later, when almost the entire student body gathered to cheer on Riddick as he presented each member of the team with a small gold basketball in honor of their accomplishment.

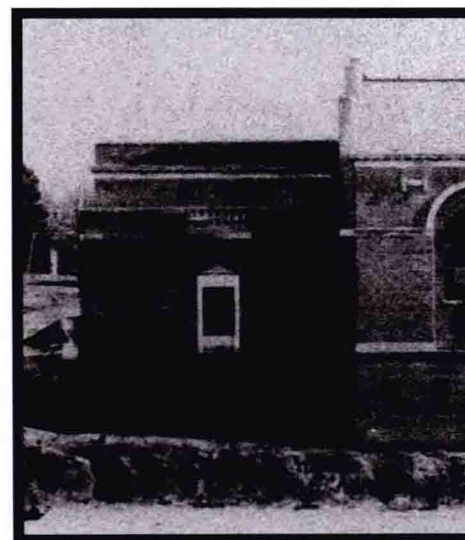
That game did much to ease the strain between the two teams and bring some liveliness back to the moribund NC State campus. The two teams scheduled a football game in the fall of 1919 and a basketball game in 1920. They have met at least once in each sport every year since.

Stafford coached his alma mater’s football and basketball teams for only one season. He gave up the positions, which didn’t offer much salary, to become the primary sports reporter and editor of the

school’s alumni magazine, which began publishing again after taking a hiatus during the Great War.

Dr. Richard Crozier, who introduced the game of basketball to Southern colleges in 1906 when he moved from Indiana to Wake Forest and was the opposing coach in the first two games in NC State history, had moved to the Raleigh school in 1918 as the Farmers’ team trainer. He took over for Stafford and led the team back into position to win its second consecutive state championship. But a player from Trinity hit a shot from midcourt at the end of the game, giving the Methodists a 25-24 win and the state title.

Neither Crozier nor Hartsell, who returned as head coach for the 1921–22 season, had much success as A&M suffered through four consecutive losing seasons. But the game was growing in the South. The Atlanta Athletic Club hosted the





nation's first postseason basketball tournament in 1921, the same year NC State became a charter member of the Southern Conference. The tournament was open to any member of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association, a loose organization of schools from the South that was a forerunner to the Southern Conference. NC State, however, chose not to participate in the Atlanta tournament until 1925, when the field was limited to only Southern Conference members.

Not long after NC State joined the league, school administrators began to change the way the entire institution operated, as they tried to cope with the increased postwar enrollment. There were major shake-ups in every department, as the school made a turbulent change from a technical institute to a more rounded college, with the establishment of the School of Engineering, the School of Agriculture and the School of Science and Business. Eugene Clyde Brooks replaced Riddick as the school president. Liberal arts were introduced. The athletics council — chaired for more than a decade by Satterfield, the mechanical engineering professor whose bucket of kerosene assisted in the school's first win — was reorganized, with Graduate School dean Carl C. Taylor taking over as its chairman.

In 1924, the school hired John F. Miller, a former University of Missouri standout athlete and major league baseball player, from Albion College

in Michigan to revamp athletics and to establish the school's first physical education department. The timing was important, since the school was in the midst of the biggest building boom until after World War II.

Enrollment doubled after World War I, reaching more than 1,200 students. To accommodate the growth, the North Carolina legislature gave NC State an unprecedented appropriation of \$2.4 million to build a new library, named for former school president D.H. Hill; a new physics and electrical engineering building, named in honor of Josephus Daniels; a new animal husbandry building, named for Leonidas Polk; a liberal arts building, named in honor of Joseph Peele; and a new power plant that featured a distinctive smokestack that advertised "State College."

But, most important of all to students and the athletics department, the school broke ground in 1923 on its first full-sized gymnasium, a state-of-the-art, \$245,000 multi-purpose facility to be named in honor of Thompson, the early athletics hero who died in the war. After doing away with required military drills, a gym was thought to be a major necessity, not only for intercollegiate activities, but also to keep students physically fit. All freshmen and sophomores were required to participate in physical fitness classes, and juniors and seniors had the option of doing so.

