



# Athletic Facilities



## Corbett Sports Center

**T**he renovations have enhanced the look and atmosphere inside of Corbett, but one theme will remain consistent -- winning.

The Aggies have a coach who has had tremendous success in Corbett Sports Center. Coming into the season, Patricia Cage-Bibbs has a 19-5 record in Corbett. But Bibbs is not the only new addition to Corbett. Recently, a new sound system has been installed for the teams. The Aggie women are also playing on relatively new playing surface. Luxury seating is also a part of the Corbett experience.

Corbett Sports Center serves many other functions for the University. Corbett houses many of the Human Performance and Leisure study courses at N.C. A&T and it is the home of women's basketball, volleyball and swimming teams.

The building is named for Ellis F. Corbett, who served N.C. A&T for nearly 50 years.

While his official title was Sports Information Director, he performed many other roles on campus including Dorm Counselor and he was a member of the Board in Control of Intercollegiate Athletics.



## The Corbett Sports Center Training Room Dedication

A host of school administrators, faculty, staff, and Aggies family attended a dedication in honor of legendary North Carolina A&T trainer Thomas "Mr. B" Bynum on September 8, 2005 at Corbett Sports Center. Bynum not only kept thousands of Aggie athletes healthy over four decades, but he was also instrumental in sports medicine throughout the Triad area and the world.

For his efforts, the Aggies community dedicated the training room inside Corbett Sports Center to Bynum. The Thomas "Mr.B" Bynum Sports Medicine Room on the lower level of Corbett has a plaque located near the entrance with Bynum's name.

"I'm delighted that 'Mr. B' is receiving this honor," said Athletics Director Dee Todd. "Many of us feel that he has deserved it for many years. Bynum is highly respected not only by his peers, but in the community as well. He loved N.C. A&T and dedicated his life to the growth of student-athletes."



Legendary A&T men's basketball coach Don Corbett gave remarks at the occasion. "Mr. B never had a door closed in the 25 years that I worked with him. He endured several eras in N.C. A&T sports history. He touched many lives, even those who are here on staff now. "

“He would get here at 5 a.m., and wouldn’t leave until 10 p.m. He took care of 14 sports by himself. He was a dedicated man.”

Bynum has received national recognition for his 30-year career as athletic trainer, which began in 1969. He has toured with several United States amateur teams in various countries, including Europe and China. He also served as a trainer for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

“I’ve always said this, but I’m just happy to say it again,” said Bynum. “N.C. A&T gave me a chance, and later, a second chance when no one else did. There is a can do spirit here, and the training I received here was insurmountable. I thank all of those who supported me through the years and the student-athletes, for they gave me inspiration.”

The room has been in use since the building opened in 1981. But the upgrades to that room and Aggie sports medicine as a whole can not be measured, and Bynum played a major role in the improvements. Thanks in part to Bynum’s hard work and love for making sure N.C. A&T’s student-athletes and his student trainers excelled, N.C. A&T now has three trainers on staff and two training rooms on campus – one at the Bryan Fitness and Wellness Center and the newly named Thomas “Mr. B” Bynum Sports Medicine Room.

Once again, Thanks “Mr. B.”

*Thank you “Mr. B!”*



## Aggie Stadium

**A**ggie Stadium opened in 1981 and is considered one of the finest facilities in the Triad. It is the home of the N.C. A&T football team, and fans have watched the team win more than 65 percent of its games there. The first game featured a match-up with Triad rival Winston-Salem State. A crowd of 23,000 watched the Aggies win their first game at their new home 21-14.

A record crowd of 27,769 watched in 2003 as the Aggies defeated Florida A&M 55-23. In recent years the stadium has undergone some improvements. It was designed by N.C. A&T alumnus W. Edward Jenkins, AIA, and constructed at a cost of more than \$2.5 million and occupies 125,755 square feet of space.

During its first 14 years, Aggie Stadium comfortably seated 17,500. In 1995, 5,000 seats were installed to complete an attractive horseshoe shape. Ford Motor Company donated a generous amount in 1999 toward the construction of lights and an electronic marquee, which is located in front of the Lindsay Street gate entrance.

Elon University was the first opponent to face the Aggies under their new lighted stadium in front of 17,284 fans in 2000. One night game has been played at Aggie Stadium each year since the installation of the new lights.

Aggie Stadium received another upgrade when a state-of-the-art track named Irwin Belk Track was completed in 2004. The new track allows N.C. A&T to host prominent national, international, state-wide and community events. It was named in honor of Irwin Belk, retired owner of Belk Department Stores.

The track was dedicated on July 25, 2004. The dedication concluded with the Russell Blunt East Coast Invitational, which was held at the facility from July 23-25. The approval of the NCAA Track and Field East Regional to N.C. A&T by the Division I Championship Cabinet made N.C. A&T the first Historically Black College or University to be awarded an NCAA track regional.

Coach Roy "Spaceman" Thompson and his men's and women's track teams were able to host the program's first-ever track meet at N.C. A&T when the Aggie Relays came to Irwin Belk from March 24-26. A second track and field meet was hosted by the Aggies two weeks later as six Olympians competed in the Murray Neely Relays.

Whether it's the capacity crowds each year for homecoming or the best athletes in the world competing for the fastest times and the longest leaps, Aggie Stadium continues to be a place of growth, achievement and celebration.



## Irwin Belk Track

**O**ver the last two years, North Carolina A&T has become one of the premiere facilities to host a major track and field event. It culminated in the Aggies successfully hosting the 2006 NCAA East Regional Track and Field Championships.

N.C. A&T became the first historically black college or university to host an NCAA Regional and earned rave reviews for its hospitality and professionalism, and the Irwin Belk Track received numerous accolades for its fast track surface and overall facility. Athletes showed how much they loved the facility as 13 regional records and one college record fell at the 2006 NCAA East Regional.

The Aggies even had two track members advance to the NCAA National Championships in Sacramento, Calif. Courtney Clark qualified in the 400 meter hurdles and Brandon Via advanced in the triple jump. Prior to

hosting the regionals, the Aggies also hosted the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Track and Field Championships.

In 2006, the Aggies were also the home of the Nike Outdoor Nationals. The Nike Outdoor Nationals brings the best high school athletes in the world to Greensboro. It has been a major producer to the track world, providing a foundation and exposure for fierce competition in the high school arena. Many athletes have competed in the Nike Outdoor Nationals prior to appearing in Olympic competition.

For the second straight season, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Track and Field Championships were hosted by North Carolina A&T as the state's best athletes competed for state championships. The track season ended with the USATF Youth Meet visiting Irwin Belk Track.



# Lady Aggies Softball Complex

**T**he new Aggie Softball Complex, located at the corner of Benbow and Sullivan Streets is a welcome addition to the Aggie athletics department. Prior to the construction of this facility the Lady Aggies played their home games at a local park

Construction on the facility began in August of 2004 and the initial phase was completed in February of 2005. The field is located east of the Ford Motor Complex. It was always the intention to develop that entire area into game regulation facilities. Previously the field was used as a practice field for the men's baseball team. When they moved to the Memorial Stadium, former home of the Greensboro Bats, this provided the perfect opportunity to begin development.

The complex is compliant with NCAA regulations. The outfield is made up of tifsport Bermuda grass while the infield is a skinned clay turf mixture. The dimensions are 210 down the line and 220 centerfield with fences that are 6 feet high. It has two bullpens

and two batting cages, both located on the 1st and 3rd base sides. The dugouts are above ground and it has a digital scoreboard, however at this time it is not equipped to host night games.

There is an underground sprinkler system designed in zones to only water the infield to keep the dust down.

Although there are no permanent concession stands at the moment, there is a mobile concession area for fans to enjoy. The location of the field offers fans the ability to bring the whole family out to picnic on the hill while enjoying the game.

There is still more to be done to the facility. Currently administration is developing a plan to move forward with this project. Some of the things they would like to do are construct a permanent concession stand, elevate the bleachers and equip the facility for night games.



## Aggie Tennis Complex

**T**he Aggie Tennis Complex houses the women's North Carolina A&T tennis program. It also serves as a workout facility for students and is maintained by the Human Performance and Leisure Studies department.

The complex is one of the newer facilities on campus. It provides an on-campus area for the Aggie tennis team to train and practice so they can prepare for the tough Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference schedule that lies ahead.

The Aggie Tennis Complex includes a weight room, complete with treadmills and free weights. There is also a large room behind the weight room that can be used for gymnastics and other activities. Outside the complex there are six collegiate level tennis courts. In 2006, the Aggies hosted the Southern MEAC Roundup at the Aggies Tennis Complex.



## The Joseph & Kathleen Bryan Fitness and Wellness Center

**N**orth Carolina A&T spent more than \$3 million to build and furnish the Joseph & Kathleen Bryan Fitness and Wellness Center.

The center, which opened in 2001, is named after Joseph and Kathleen Bryan, local community supporters who contributed to the completion of the project.

The building is located in the west end zone of Aggie Stadium on Lindsay Street. Its 25,000 square feet houses a 4,000 square foot fitness and wellness laboratory, one of the premier facilities in college athletics.

The two locker rooms inside the center are each 4,000 square feet. The center has a multipurpose room used for staff meetings, team meetings, postgame interviews and other events. The Aggies training room facility is also inside the center.

The rear of the field house features an entry way into Aggie Stadium marked by a statue of an Aggie Dog donated by Irwin Belk.

