

## Tiger Sports Star

We know more about Clyde Pennington's Clemson career than about his time in the Army. Lovic Clyde Pennington Jr. was an outstanding athlete, an anchor on Jess Neely's football team and a leading scorer for Bob Jones's basketball squad. He also played on the Tiger baseball team.

Pennington was a general science major from Eastman, Georgia. In his final year as a cadet, he was assigned to the Senior Demonstration Company, composed of senior privates. It was in his athletic pursuits that Pennington made his mark on campus.

As an end on the 1935 Tiger football team, Pennington was a star performer. In the season opener before 7,000 fans on Riggs Field,



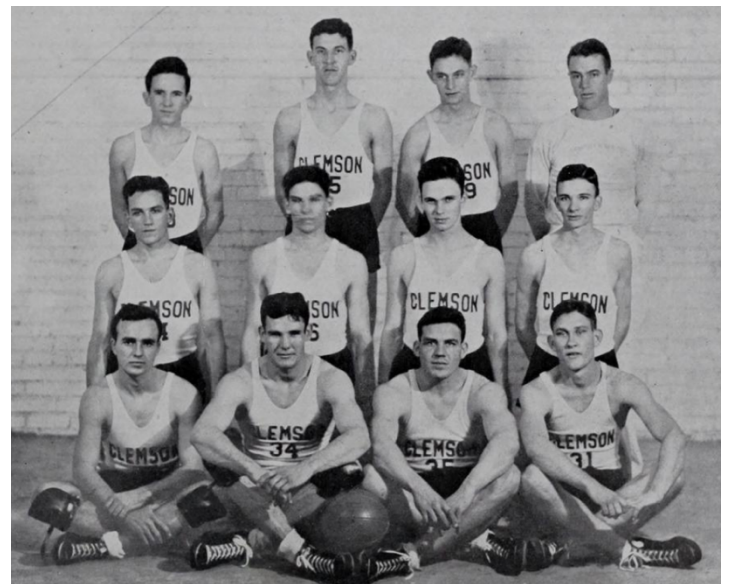
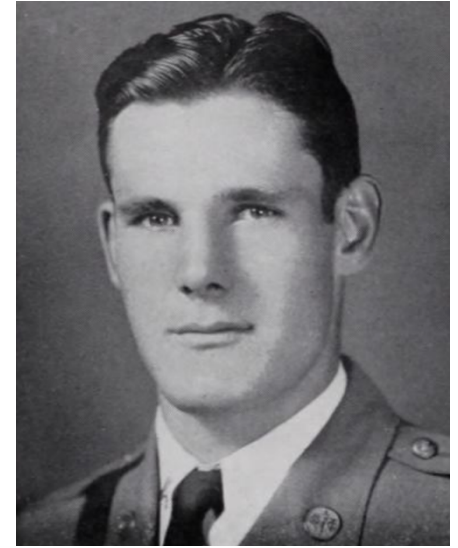
Pennington scored a touchdown to help defeat Presbyterian. He caught a 23-yard touchdown pass the following week in a Tiger victory over VPI in Blacksburg. He scored one of Clemson's two touchdowns in a loss to Duke, but against the Gamecock's, *Taps* labeled his play as "dazzling" and "unstoppable" in a 44-0 Tiger rout. Clemson posted a 6-3 record for the season.

On the hardwood, Pennington was a member of Clemson's 15-7 basketball team which posted two wins over South Carolina and one over Georgia. *Taps* wrote that Pennington was "one of the best shots Clemson has ever

had, and the grace and ease with which he tosses goals makes the hardest shots look easy." His prowess on the court led to his nickname, "Shots."

Pennington and his classmates received their diplomas in the college chapel on June 2, 1936. From this point on, our knowledge of Pennington's life has faded with the years. He was for a time stationed at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana and was eventually assigned to the 367<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, the "Buffalo Soldiers." A "colored" regiment in the then segregated US Army, the Black troopers of the US Cavalry had gotten their nickname from Native Americans during the latter years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The 367<sup>th</sup>, which had fought with distinction in France in the First World War, was activated as part of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, the only all-Black division to see combat in the European



*Pennington, second from left front row, and the 1935-36 Tiger basketball team.*

Theater during World War II. Reflecting the racial attitudes of the era, the officers of the division were mostly white—and often from the South. Pennington served as the commanding officer of Headquarters Detachment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, of the 367<sup>th</sup>. The 367<sup>th</sup> shipped overseas to Italy only in 1944, so it is likely that Pennington was transferred to a different unit before his death in an accident in Central Africa on July 4, 1943.

Lovic Clyde Pennington, Jr. was survived by his mother and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in his hometown of Eastman, Georgia.

