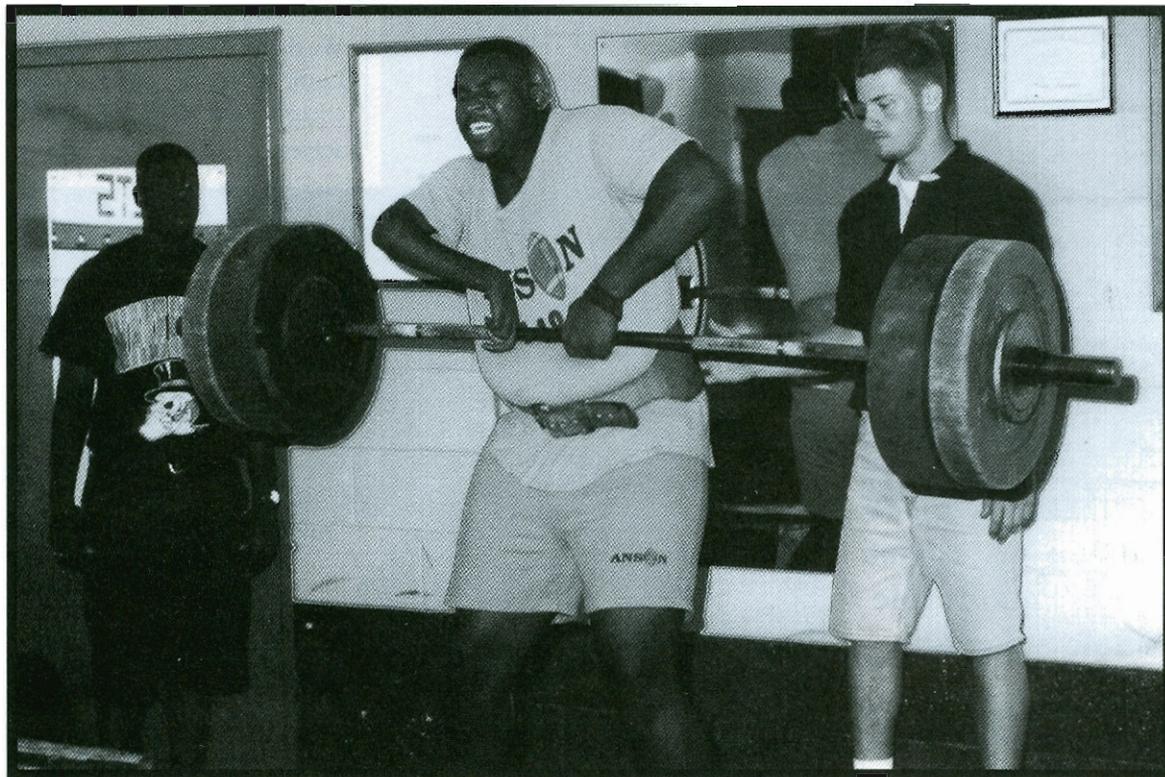


Elton Taylor

Against All Odds



“He has been fighting the odds all his life. Pinched nerves caused by forceps at birth left Elton with no use of his right arm and no feeling from the elbow down.”

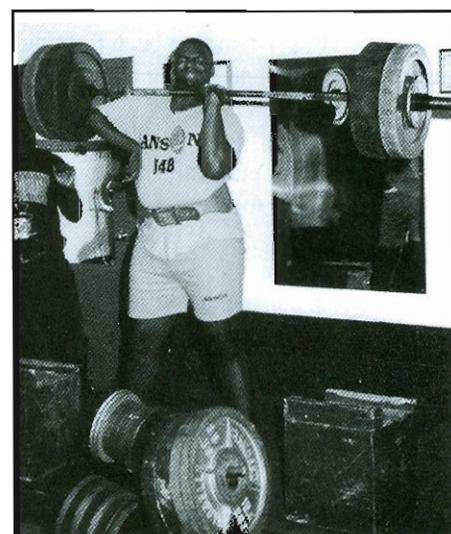
By Dr. Greg Shepard

“**H**e does what?” I exclaimed after hearing Coach Paul Hoggard tell about Elton Taylor. I mean to have a high school lineman Power Clean 235 pounds is very good. In fact it is our BFS All-State Standard. However, to have a kid do it with one hand? All I can say is “Wow!” Make that a double “Wow!”

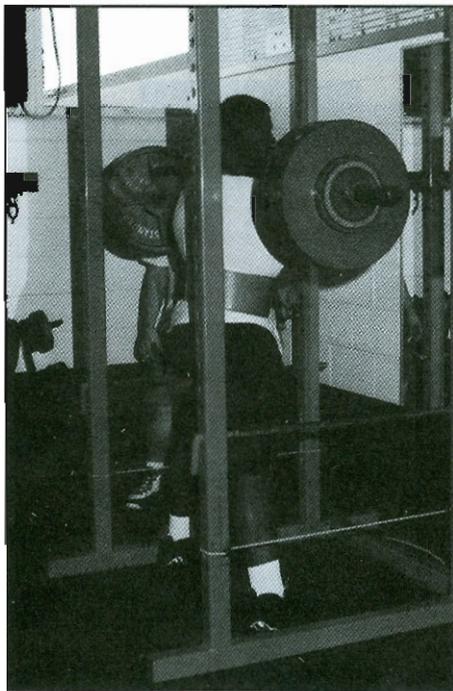
Elton was teased a lot in grade school. There were fights and some punches thrown. “It kept up pretty well throughout grade school but my mother told me to just ignore it,” remembered Elton. “At recess I didn’t get picked or was the last one to get picked.”

“My mother just kept telling me to put forth my best effort. She inspired me. She got to believe that I could do anything that I wanted to do. In junior high the teasing stopped some but then when new kids would come into school it would start all over again. It hurt me inside. Because of my mother and things I was taught at church, I didn’t react negatively to the taunting or do any stupid or destructive things.”

When Elton was in the seventh grade, he was already 6-1 and 220 pounds. However, Elton’s mother was afraid he would get hurt which resulted in no football. However, Elton did get to lift weights with his older brother. He put on another 15 pounds for his eighth



Elton has an incredible Power Clean of 235 lbs.!



Elton Just Set a New Squat Record at 575 Pounds. He Uses the Safe Squat Bar.

grade year but still no football.

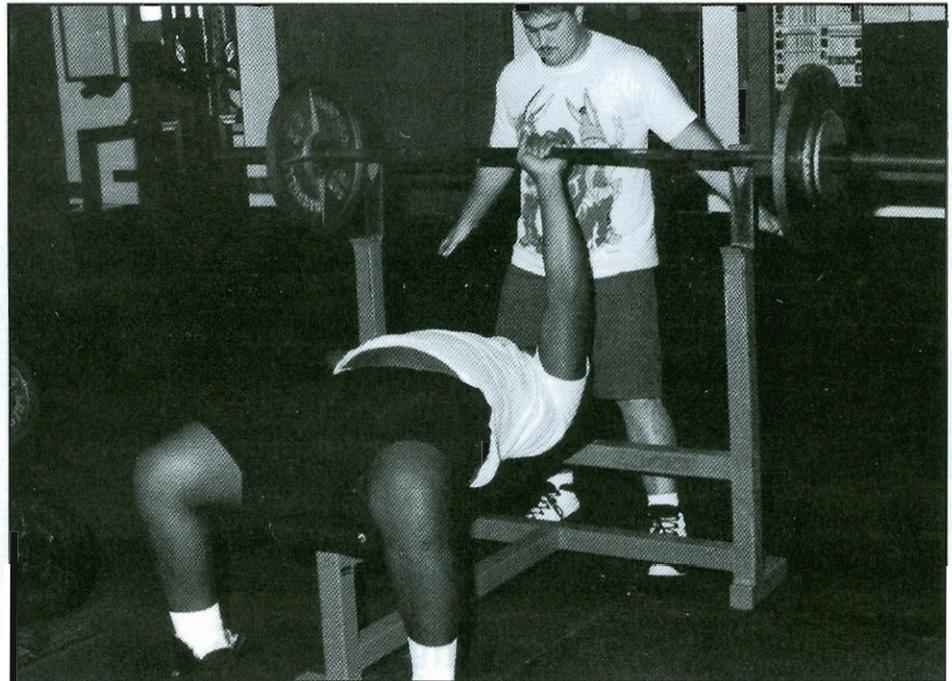
"In the 9th grade I begged my mom to play football and she finally said I could play. Some of the other kids said that I couldn't lift but then some of them helped. So today I can do pretty much everything. No one bothers me now or teases me. I guess the kids grew up. They matured.

When asked about Power Cleaning with one hand, Elton replied, "I have the balance down now. It's no problem. I help a little with my bad arm. A lot of people ask me if it hurts when I clean. It doesn't."

Elton plans on some kind of career with computers after high school. His grades are at the 85 level. Elton is always on time to classes and never

misses a class. Elton shared his philosophy of life, "Work hard. Don't give up and do what you want to do."

Elton has led an exemplary life. He has never had drugs and is puzzled over the power peer pressure has on some kids. We thank Elton for being a true Upper Limit athlete and person. There are no excuses after witnessing Elton's achievements.....□



Taylor Benches 165 Pounds with a Full Sized 7 Foot Olympic Bar

ELTON TAYLOR

Elton Taylor has been fighting the odds all his life. Pinched nerves caused by forceps at birth left Elton with no use of his right arm and no feeling from the elbow down. Despite the odds, Elton, a 16 year old junior, plays left tackle for the Anson Senior High Bearcats.

Elton did not play ball until Junior High but caught the fever from his brother, Roger, who starred as a Bearcat and went on to play right guard for Northwest Mississippi Junior College and currently at Wingate College in North Carolina.

Before each game, Elton's arm is padded and braced for protection. Even at that, as a ninth grader, a hit left Elton with a broken arm just above the elbow during the last fifteen minutes of the last game of the season.

Elton is also a regular in the weight room. He Hang Cleans 230 pounds, Benches 165 pounds and Squats 540 pounds: all with one arm! Coach Paul Hoggard states, "Everything we do, he does." Elton is working hard to reach his brother's squat record of 605 pounds.

Elton lives in Polkton, North Carolina, with his mother, Ms. Effie Taylor. Elton believes, "Anything can be accomplished with a little hard work."

THE ANSON HIGH COACHING STAFF