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DAILY ADVANCE REPORT

The Vikings of Elizabeth City State University stole a stunning victory beating Virginia State for the first time this season, in overtime, 83-78, to become the CIAA tournament champions.

Virginia State had been the Cinderella team of the tournament, just barely qualifying after beating St. Paul's in a tiebreaker and squeaking by Norfolk State and North Carolina Central in the first two rounds-coming from ten points behind on both occasions.

But their luck ran out against Elizabeth City, who tied the game up 74-74 on a last second, 25-foot shot by Donnie Carter. The crowd of 10,230 could not believe what they saw. Darryl Brown's four points in the overtime turned what looked like a sure loss into an overtime victory for ECSU.

Boo Boo Gaskins scored 29 points against the Trojans, Brown 12 and Carter a lone-but infinitely valuable- two points. Gaskins' tally made him the all-time leading scorer for the Vikings.

Elizabeth City had earlier

beaten Fayetteville State 97-76 first round, and St. Augustine 57-52 in the second to qualify for the finals. With a record of 16-6 in the conference, the Vikings head for Emmitsburg, Md. for the NCAA Division II tournament.

In the last game of the tournament, the Vikings and the Trojans fought a tough battle for the lead throughout the game. With only 1:33 left in the game, the Trojans had possession of the ball, and dribbled a minute and a half off the clock before Jerome Whitaker hit a 20-footer with four seconds left, breaking the 72-72 tie.

The Vikings called timeout...and another timeout. ECSU coach Bobby Vaughan brought in Carter who had only played a handful of minutes during the game, shooting only once.

It looked like a double play. Darryl Brown's inbound pass was taken to Pierre Bland, who zinged it to Carter, who pumped it from 25 feet, the net swishing as the buzzer went off.

"If it hadn't worked, I was a goat, so it worked and they called me a great coach,"

Vaughan laughed.

"We hadn't planned to get it to Carter," he added. The idea was to get it to Gaskins or Brown or Bland, but Carter just happened to get it."

In the overtime the Trojans missed the first shot, and Linwood Hines scored off of a shot by Gaskins with 4:10 left to play. Brown followed with a driving layup to put ECSU four points ahead.

Whitaker scored with 2:27 remaining, but Brown scored on another layup, and Bland hit two free throws with 26 seconds left to steal the win.

Brown, who hadn't seen much playing time this season, played most of the second half, and finished with 12. "We don't plan one alternative," said Vaughan. "(James) Hardy wasn't playing well and Carter doesn't play well against a tight man-to-man defense, so we switched Gaskins to forward and put Brown at big guard. Virginia State was playing a small team and we hoped Gaskins could post low against one of their small guards."

"This is the way it's been all season for us - a different guy comes through every

game," he added.

Virginia State, 19-10, had led by three points at halftime (37-34) and pulled ahead by nine, 59-50, with 11:05 remaining.

But Robert Wyche, who finished with 12 points for the Vikings and led the comeback along with Gaskins, evened the score at 66-all with 4:19 to go.

Gaskins led all scorers with 29 points for Elizabeth City, 15 in the first half. Brown and Bland added 12 apiece. Hines led in rebounding with 16.

Virginia State was paced by Darrell Stith and Julius Norman with 20 points each. Although Stith was only 6-of-16 from the floor in the first half, the Trojans were able to go up by as much as 10 in the first half.

Norman was named the tourney's most valuable player. Gaskins, Bland, Stith and Norman were named to the All-CIAA Tournament team along with Donald Sinclair and John Bishop of North Carolina Central and Anthony Boggan of St. Augustine's.

