

SPORTS

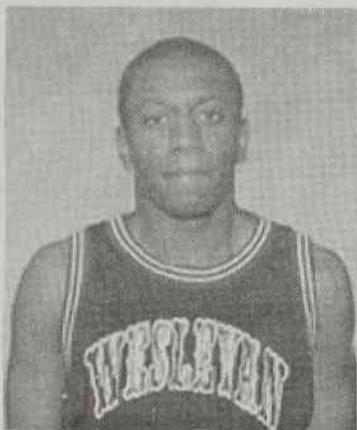
Women's basketball hosts tournament

By MICHAEL GARCIA

On Feb. 21, the women's basketball team concluded their most successful season in recent history by hosting the Dixie Conference Tournament.

A dramatic finish was appropriate for a season of high accomplishments, and the Lady Bishops did not disappoint. In the quarterfinals of the conference tourney, the Lady Bishops, the #2 seed, found themselves facing the 7th seed Cougars of Averett College.

During the first half, the Lady Bishops suffered a tough blow when point guard Kodie Peake (Fr.) went down with a leg injury, forcing the Bishops to play short-handed the rest of the game. In spite of losing Peake, numerous contributions from all play-



BRADLEY BLUE

Blue selected All-District

Bradley Blue, a sophomore guard from Dunn (Midway H.S.) has been selected to the NABC Division III South All-District Second Team.

Blue averaged 18.4 points per game, which was third in the Dixie Conference and 3.2 assists per game. He shot 51 percent from the floor and 33 percent from the three-point line. He scored in double figures in 24 of the 26 games that he played in.

Blue was an All-Dixie Conference First Team member and was named the Most Valuable Player of the Dixie Conference Tournament, in which the Bishops defeated Christopher Newport 77-73 for the Dixie Championship. He was also the Co-MVP of the Roger Taylor Invitational.

N.C. Wesleyan was 20-8 this year and advanced to the First Round of the NCAA Tournament.

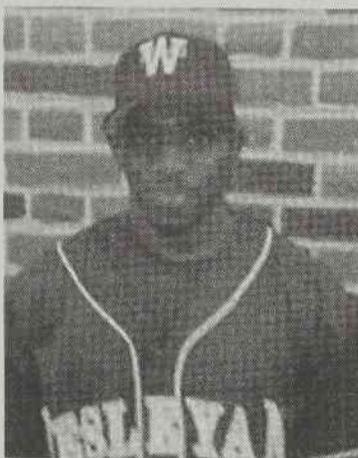
ers resulted in a 26-17 lead for the Bishops at halftime.

At the onset of the second half, the Lady Bishops would again be on the offensive, until Averett managed to pull ahead by one point with 2:34 left on the clock. The Bishops quickly retook the lead and continued to hold out against tremendous pressure from the Cougars. Unfortunately, a pair of free throws gave Averett a two point advantage with only four tenths of a second left to play.

Making the inbound pass for the Lady Bishops, forward Sara Jones (So.) hurled the ball up court where it found point guard Misty Carneal (Sr.). Just as time ran out, Carneal took the shot from inside: the ball bounced along the rim, but didn't go in. Final score Averett 55, N.C. Wesleyan 53.

Against Averett, Carneal scored 12 points, center Demetria Hawkins (Jr.) added ten points and 11 rebounds, Jones scored ten points and forward Kendra Brewer (Fr.) had a game high of 14 rebounds.

Although the Lady Bishop's season ended with a heart-breaking loss, the team has much to be



RAY'MON BIZZELL

Bizzell named rookie of week

N.C. Wesleyan's Ray'Mon Bizzell has been named the Dixie Conference's Rookie of the Week for March 13-28.

The freshman outfielder from Seven Springs (Southern Wayne High School) batted .367 on the week.

The Bishops played nine games, seven in Florida and two in North Carolina. Bizzell was 11-30 with 10 runs scored. He drove in three runs and had a double and two triples.

proud of. Despite having fewer players than any other team in the conference, the Bishops finished in second place in conference play, earned eighth seed in the South Region, and the Bishop's coach, John Brackett, was named as the Dixie Conference Coach

of the Year.

Carneal, who ended her career as the all time highest scorer for women's basketball at N.C. Wesleyan (1,661 career points), was honored as Dixie Conference Player of the Year.

In addition, Carneal was

named to the First Team All Dixie Conference and, with a GPA of 3.52, to the Verizon Academic All-District III Team.

The Lady Bishops end the 2001-2002 season with an overall record of 16-9 and a conference record of 11-3.

Men finish in third place

By MICHAEL GARCIA

The 2001-2002 season has been a landmark year for the Men's Basketball Team. With an overall record of 20-8 and a conference record of 10-4, the Bishops finished third place in regular season conference play and won their first Dixie Conference Tournament since the 1986-1987 season.

In the quarterfinals of the conference tourney, the #3 seeded Bishops handed #6 seeded Ferrum a 102-71 thrashing. Against Ferrum, guard Ryan Sinclair (So.) led the Bishops in scoring with 23 points, while guard Bradley Blue (So.) scored 17, forward Robert Smith (Jr.) scored 14, forward Donta Jeankins (So.) had 10 points and 12 rebounds, and forward Keith Sudler (So.) added 10 points.

In the semifinals, the Bishops found themselves against #2 seeded Methodist College. Having been swept by Methodist in the regular season, the Bishops avenged two previous one point losses to the Monarchs by winning 77-70. While facing Methodist, Smith scored 17 points and made 13 rebounds, Jenkins scored 14 points, and Blue added 15

points.

In the championship game, the Bishops beat the #1 seeded Captains of Christopher Newport 77-75. Defeating the Captains for the third time this year, the Bishops ended CNU's four year reign as conference champions and brought home their first conference championship in 14 years. Against CNU, Jenkins scored 18 points, while Sudler scored 10.

For his play in the tourney, Blue was selected as tournament MVP and named to the First Team All Dixie Conference. In addi-

tion, Sudler was named to the Second Team All Dixie Conference and Jenkins was honored as Dixie Conference Rookie of the Year.

On Feb. 28, the Bishops traveled to Hampden-Sydney to play in the First Round of the NCAA Tournament. Although they had a strong performance against the Tigers, the Bishops lost the game 79-92. Smith led all point scorers for the Bishops with 15 points and 11 rebounds, Sudler scored 14 points, Sinclair added 13, while Blue and Jenkins scored 12 points each.

Softball gets shaky start

By MICHAEL GARCIA

The Softball Squad of 2002 seems off to a shaky start this year, with a host of losses and bad weather.

The Bishops started the 2002 season at the 9th Annual MC Early Bird Softball Invitational (March 1-2). On the first day of the tourney the Bishops lost in their season opener to Messiah 0-3, but beat Bridgewater 9-2.

Unfortunately, the Lady Bishops' win over the Eagles was overshadowed by their loss to

Mountain St. Col. of West Virginia 3-4. The Bishops ended the first day of the tourney with a terrible loss to SCAD 0-20.

The following day, the Lady Bishops concluded the trip by losing to the eventual tourney champions Emory & Henry 0-7.

Hoping to reverse their fortunes, the Lady Bishops traveled to Newport News, Va., for a double-header against conference foe Christopher Newport. Sadly, the Bishops were again denied,

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Tennis teams good as ever

By MICHAEL GARCIA

Tennis at N.C. Wesleyan seems as good as ever this year, as the men and women continue to master their rackets.

The Women's Tennis Team began the season by falling to Peace College 2-7. Kristin Haring (Jr.) gave the Bishops the #2 singles victory 6-4 and 6-4, after teaming up with Catherine Gorrell (Fr.) to win the #1 doubles 9-8.

In the following game, the women suffered a 0-9 shutout by Virginia Wesleyan.

In conference play, the Lady Bishops were

defeated by Greensboro 3-6.

Again, Gorrell and Haring gave the Bishops their only wins: Gorrell won at #1 singles 6-0 and 6-0, Haring won at #2 singles 6-1 and 6-1, and Gorrell and Haring combined to win #1 doubles 8-0.

The Men's Team opened the season with a 1-6 loss to Virginia Wesleyan, with Scott Rodger (Sr.) winning in #2 singles 6-3 and 6-1.

The men were then blanked by Greensboro 0-7 and Randolph-Macon 0-7.

Both the Men and Women's Teams are 0-3 overall and 0-1 in the conference.