

# SPORTS

## Men's Basketball Team Stopped in Conference Semis

By Jarad Brown  
Decree Sports Writer

Newport News, Va.—The sought-after conference tournament championship still eluded the NWCW men's basketball team as it lost in the semi-finals, 83-81, to Greensboro College on a last-second shot.

The Bishops finished the season with a 12-15 overall record and say farewell to seniors Lenny Hall and Jarvis Cobb.

Once again the Bishops followed a mediocre conference season (4-8 in the USA South Conference), with a strong postseason run.

"This one is a tough one to swallow," said reserve guard James Jones after the Greensboro game. "We really wanted to go out big for Lenny and all our seniors."

Leading 81-80 with 26 seconds remaining, Wesleyan saw its fourth straight game be decided inside of three seconds when the Pride's RJ Smith made a three-pointer from the corner with one tick left on the clock.

Wesleyan's first 24 points were via the three-pointer as Trey Drake and Jarmel Arrington came out on fire. Two free throws by Hall at the 8:51 mark gave the Bishops their first points from elsewhere and secured their biggest lead of the half at 26-17.

The ensuing 8-0 run by the Pride cut the lead to one, and a Jason Sharpe lay-up with 4:57 remaining tied the game at 28-28. But Hall and Cobb answered for the Bishops by combining to score 11 points over the final four minutes of the period. Wesleyan held a 41-34 lead at the break.

In the second half, it took Greensboro just five minutes to force the contest's third tie at 48-48. The next 12 minutes would feature seven more ties, the final coming at 74-74 with 3:31 left in regulation.

The Pride looked to take control as they put together a 6-0 run to go up 80-74, but the Bishops would not go down without a fight. Drake began the rally with his sixth three-pointer of the game at the 1:47 mark. Two Arrington free throws with 58 seconds left cut the lead to one, and two Adam Coleman free throws with 26 seconds left gave the Bishops an 81-80 advantage.

Greensboro's Adam Nicholson then held the ball for the game's last shot. After he was forced to pick up his dribble behind the arc, he passed the ball to Smith in the corner,

where the sophomore guard made the eventual game-winner with one second left.

The Bishops did manage to get a great look for the tie when Coleman received a long pass from the baseline and took a 12-foot jumper, but the ball bounced off the rim and backboard before falling to the floor.

The Pride shot 47 percent to the Bishops' 36 percent, but Wesleyan

made up the difference with its 15 treys.

Arrington led all scorers with 35 points and seven three-pointers. Drake added 20, with a perfect 6 of 6 from three-point range. Hall, the Bishops all-time leading scorer, chipped in 13 in the final game of this career and finished with 1,981.

reports of a gunman on the Ferrum campus forced postponement of the contest.

Hall paced the Bishops with 23 points and hit the game-winning shot. "It was real team effort," Coach John Thompson said of the Ferrum game. "Everyone played well, with Lenny hitting the big shots and Cedric Townsend coming off the bench and giving us positive minutes. It takes all of us to win and we got that in the first round."

Prior to the Greensboro game, Coach Thompson had been upbeat about his team's chances. To continue in the tournament he intended to rely on his team's biggest strength at the end of the season, their togetherness. "We've really pulled together over the season," he said, "and are like a family now working and fighting for each other."

Coach Thompson took a positive view of his team's success at the end of the season.

"We play so well in the tournament because of the coaching and scheduling we do in the regular season," Thompson said. "At the end of the year we're

tested and ready for the pressure of the tournament."

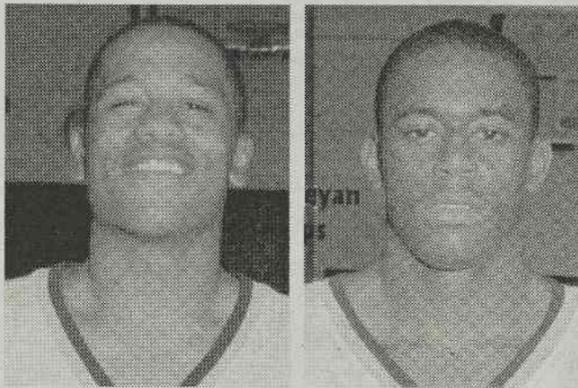
For the fourth straight year an unpredictable and forgettable regular season conference record morphed into a strong post season run by the Battling Bishops. Wesleyan was a disappointing 4-8 in regular season conference play in 2008, and yet finished one missed shot from the tournament finals.

"It's been extremely frustrating" said Coach Thompson. "We have definitely underachieved in the regular season."

Jones added, "We have had a real problem closing games out for the past couple of years; we explode in the first half, but can't find the same intensity to start the second. We came into the season thinking we were the best team in the conference with the best player (Hall) in the conference, and we were going to breeze through the regular season."

Last year, Wesleyan lost to Averett in double-overtime in the finals after a 5-7 regular season conference record and wins in the first and second rounds of the tournament.

(Sports Information contributed a significant portion of this article)



Seniors Lenny Hall (left) and Jarvis Cobb concluded their NWCW careers last month in the conference semi-finals. Hall finishes as the team's all-time leading scorer.

Sports Information Photos

The Bishops had won a close game of their own in the first round, upsetting Ferrum College, 80-78. The game was played at Averett a day after

## 'Tobacco Road' Rivalry Is Followed With Interest by Wesleyan Community

By Jenna Davis and Jarad Brown  
Decree Staff Writers

For many years now, Duke, North Carolina-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State have been battling it out in the ACC. All three teams have caused upsets and won National Championships, and have played each other over 200 times. Well into the 2007-2008 season, this rivalry has not cooled down a bit.

Duke and UNC are both fighting for ACC supremacy. This rivalry is really big in North Carolina and apparently very big on NC Wesleyan's campus as well.

Asked to identify a favorite basketball team among Duke, NC State and UNC, most respondents picked Duke or UNC. "State hasn't consistently been on the same level as Duke and Carolina in recent years," Steve Bahnman, reference & electronic services librarian, said, in theorizing on the campus's preference for Duke and UNC.

Duke and UNC, two schools located just a little more than ten miles apart, are once again among the top basketball teams in the country, with UNC holding on to the number one ranking in recent weeks. The proximity only intensifies the rivalry, according to assistant football coach Isaac Mooring, a former UNC Tar Heel.

Music director Gene Heavner expressed the feelings of many basketball enthusiasts. "Any ACC game is going to be a good one regardless of rankings or records, so it really doesn't matter," he said.

James Jones claims three favorites among the ACC teams. "I like Duke, Carolina and Maryland, but it's definitely in that order," Jones said. "As long as they aren't playing Duke, I don't mind Carolina winning."

A guard on the Wesleyan basketball team, Jones cringes at one particular moment from the rivalry. "My worst memory is Jason Williams missing free throws that would have iced the game against the Heels," he said. "That's because as a player, my real Achilles heel is and has been free throws and we play the same position. So I can really identify with that."

Everyone has their own reason for liking one team or the other. Student Richard Tibbs pulls for Duke, in part because he hopes to attend seminary there. Senior Noah Parsons remembers pulling for Carolina as a little kid in order to be different from his cousin who was a Duke fan.

Family loyalty is a primary reason that members of the Wesleyan community support UNC or Duke. Heavner has family members who attended Duke. Book Store Manager Rachel Dix's daughter attended UNC. "With all the money I spent there," she said, "do I really have a choice?"

Dr. Lisa Kirby, assistant professor of English, noted that her husband is a resident at Duke Medical Center. "So I guess I have to be a Duke fan." She added that this is not her only reason for being a Duke fan. She said that she saw pictures of "K-ville" and witnessed the school spirit of the Cameron Crazies, calling it an "awesome experience."

An ardent Tar Heel fan, student Brock Griffin articulated the experience of many on the Wesleyan campus. "I've always been a Carolina fan because I was raised in a Carolina-fan family."

Bahnman grew up a Blue Devils fan because his father attended Duke. "Duke and Carolina is a great rivalry because both teams have been on the top for so long," said Bahnman. "There's so many crazy memories of the rivalry, most of which are bad ones for Duke, but the most recent

would have to be the Henderson-Hansborough bloody nose incident. That was crazy. My favorite memory is when J.J. Reddick was a freshman. Duke was down 17 in the second half, he scored 20 and they won the game."

Asked to name his favorite in the rivalry, junior Russell Rouse expressed the passion felt by many hoops fans. "I was born in North Carolina not Duke, and I ain't a blue devil so it's gotta be all about Carolina," he said.

Rouse has an even fonder reason for loving Carolina over Duke: being a part of the rivalry. He believes the rivalry is all about the fans. "The fans push the rivalry and make it bitter," he said. "Without the fans, the players probably wouldn't care that much."

Besides being a part of the rivalry himself, Rouse has another good memory that spawns his love for Carolina. "In 1993 at Duke, Jerry Stackhouse did a reverse slam dunk on three Duke defenders and then stomped down the court shaking his head," said Rouse, a nose tackle on the Bishops football team. "I still get goose bumps every time I think about it. Stackhouse is from Kinston, my hometown, and so if he can do something like that in his sport, so can I in mine."

Despite the fact that there are numerous Duke and Carolina fans, many people from Wesleyan are not fans of any ACC team or at least not Duke or Carolina. Allen Meszaros, an IS technician, said that he did not like the ACC. "I'm a big Notre Dame fan," he said, "but if it was down to my last option I'd choose Carolina over Duke."

Steven Burant felt the same way as Meszaros. "But I like Coach K, so I'll have to say Duke," the senior said, referring to Blue Devils Coach Mike Krzyzewski. Senior Allie Style, had similar sentiments as Burant. "I don't really care (which teams wins in the ACC) as long as it's not Duke. I hate Duke."

For some people, though, the rivalry means more than just Carolina versus Duke. For Mooring, a former member of the Carolina football team, it's a pretty intense. "I like and went to Carolina because that's how I was brought up," he said. "I mean I was raised with Tar Heel blue in my veins. I never knew how deep it was until I saw people bleeding for this rivalry."

Mooring remembers being in a pre-game meeting with his position coach who was unhappy about the players' pre-game mentality. The coach slammed a glass down, shattered it and gashed his hand open. "He just slung some blood off and looked around at us. That's when I knew it was more than just a rivalry. It was hatred."

## Bishop Women Defeated

Greensboro—The North Carolina Wesleyan women's basketball team saw its 2007-08 season come to an end on February 26, falling to top-seeded Greensboro by a 89-51 score in USA South Tournament first round play. The Bishops finished with a 7-18 overall record.

Greensboro (19-7) raced to a 49-34 halftime lead and quickly put to rest any thoughts of a comeback with a 14-2 run to start the second half. The Bishops struggled offensively in the period, shooting just 24 percent from the floor.

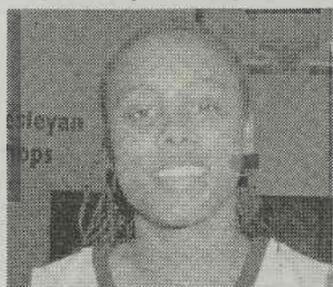
GC's Danielle Duncan led all players with 27 points and 18 rebounds. Nikki Wilborn and Dione Eccles added 22 and 11 points, respectively. The Pride shot 51 percent from the floor and out-rebounded the Bishops 56-38 on the night.

For Wesleyan, Essence Chambers netted 14 points and Courtney Brown 12. Gretchen Tobias pulled down a team-high eight rebounds.

Tuesday night's game marked the end of the careers of seniors Cheyenne Hall and Shawnte Dickens. Hall finished with seven points and six boards, while Dickens tallied six points and pulled down six rebounds.

### Two Earn Conference Honors

Following the season, Chambers, a junior, was selected a Second Team All-Conference honoree, while freshman Gretchen Tobias was chosen to represent the Bishops on the league's inaugural All-Sportsmanship team.



Junior Essence Chambers was a second-team USA South selection

Sports Information Photos

Chambers, a native of Burlington, led the Bishops in scoring at 15.8 points per game, which placed her eighth in the USA South. She led the league with 88 steals and was in the top-10 in free throw percentage (73.4%) and assists (82). This is Chambers' first USA South All-Conference award.

A native of Fairfax, Va., Tobias was

named to the conference's All-Sportsmanship team after exemplifying tremendous character throughout the season, according to Coach John Brackett. Known for her hustle, the 5'9" forward was ranked in the top-10 in the



Freshman Gretchen Tobias earned conference sportsmanship honors.

league in rebounding with 7.3 per game.

(Articles courtesy of Sports Information)

## Baseball Team Jumps to 13-3-1 Start

Virginia Beach, Va. - Behind a solid pitching performance by junior right-hander Ben Moore, the North Carolina Wesleyan baseball squad was able to salvage a USA South split with Christopher Newport by downing the Captains by a 9-6 score on Sunday, March 2.

The win improved the Bishops' record to 13-3. A day later, the team played to a 4-4 tie against Virginia Wesleyan, a non-league opponent, after the extra-inning contest was called due to darkness.

With the games against CNU, the Bishops turned from non-league action to match-ups with USA South foes. Prior to the weekend series, the Bishops had played 12 of their first 13 games at home, entertaining northern teams from Ohio, Virginia and New York in the hospitable Carolina sunshine. In the early going, the only Wesleyan losses came in the season opener, 10-2, at Mount Olive and 5-3 to Piedmont at home.

So far the Wesleyan offense has been hot as the team has scored at least nine runs in nine of its first 17 games. The Bishops have been led by the hitting of senior centerfielder Matt Smith and freshman pitcher/first baseman Jason Gay. Both completed the first 17 games with .407 averages. The leading run producers have been catcher/DH Justin Batts (17 RBIs), Smith (15) and infielder Travis Beausoleil (14).

Coach Charlie Long has received solid pitching from his team, Moore leading the way with a 3-1 record, .304 ERA, and 22 strikeouts in 26 innings of work. Two victories have been recorded by four other pitchers, Justin Diener, Kyle Robertson, Doug Roenker and Jonathan Shearon.

Against CNU, Moore struck out ten and allowed just one earned run in 8 2/3 innings en route to the win. The Bishops, 1-1 in

league play, had dropped a 7-3 contest to CNU on Saturday.

Sunday's game proved to be a pitcher's duel, as the two teams remained scoreless until the sixth inning. It was then that Beausoleil singled home Justin Rahm to give the Bishops a 1-0 lead.

CNU managed to tie the score with a run in the seventh, but Wesleyan exploded for eight runs in their final two at-bats. Batts highlighted the offensive production with a two-run homer in the ninth.

The Captains made it interesting with four unearned runs in the bottom of the frame. After recording the first two outs of the inning, the Bishops watched as CNU loaded the bases on a walk, error, and infield single. A bases-loaded double by Trae Bailey scored all three, prompting Long to bring in Jon Lucas for the final out.

Beausoleil and Batts each finished with two hits to pace the Wesleyan offense.

Saturday's game saw CNU take a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first on a Chris Despins RBI-single that scored Mike Giarrizzi. The Captains scored two more in the bottom of the third.

The Bishops cut the lead to 3-2 by scoring single runs in the top of the fifth and sixth innings. Batts and Chris Pecora each collected an RBI.

CNU took control by scoring four in the bottom of the eighth inning for the 7-3 final. Kenny Moreland picked up the win by tossing eight innings and allowing two runs on seven hits.

Kyle Robertson (2-1) suffered his first loss of the year. He gave up three runs on eight hits in six innings of work. Pecora was 3-for-5 at the plate.

While in Newport News, the Bishops also took on Ramapo College of New Jersey, beating the Roadrunners, 15-2.

(Article courtesy of Sports Information)