

CIAA TOURNAMENT 2012:

Women's Basketball Review

By Aaron Williams

After locking down a 4th seed spot in the southern division the Lady Broncos (12-15, 5-11) lost by a thin margin to Chowan University Lady Hawks. The Broncos defeat was the second straight 1st round tough loss in the conference since their 2010 Championship win over Bowie State.

With five seconds left in the second half, Chowan's Ransheda Jennings, the 5'7 guard from Suffolk, VA, who had an ankle injury during a turnover battle with 2:26 left in the last half, made a quick adjustment for the Lady Hawks to take the lead from 49-50 to 51-50. The Lady Broncos attempted a fast break to remove the one-point deficit but the buzzer beat went off just before DaQuondra Cuthbertson, Fayetteville State's freshman forward, could go in for a game changing lay-up.

"The game is forty-minutes," stated the Lady Broncos Head Coach Eva Patterson-Heath in a post game press conference, "We just weren't able to finish."

Tashama Banner, FSU 5-8 Senior Guard from Fayetteville, NC, and Akysia Resper, the 5-7 shooting guard from Concord, NC, both respectively led the night with 15 points. Banner came out on top for both with a game high of five steals. This was both Banner and Resper's debut CIAA conference. Unfortunately it was Banner's first and last appearance for the conference.

The Lady Broncos had a really slow start at 11-13, down by two with 7:07 left in the first half. Each team was only putting an average of five points on the board during the first 13 minutes of the game. However, closer to the end of the half they opened up an eight point lead on the Lady Hawks. The Lady Broncos initially had gone on a 12-0 run in the second half controlling most of the points in the paint at the time and knocking down 16-footers on all twelve points. The Lady Broncos took advantage of Chowan's inability to control the ball with Chowan having 16 turnovers in the first half alone.

Sure enough the Lady Hawks (11-16, 3-7) made a swift attempt to get back in the game recovering lost points and pressuring the Lady Broncos only down by six with 10:45 left to go in the second half.

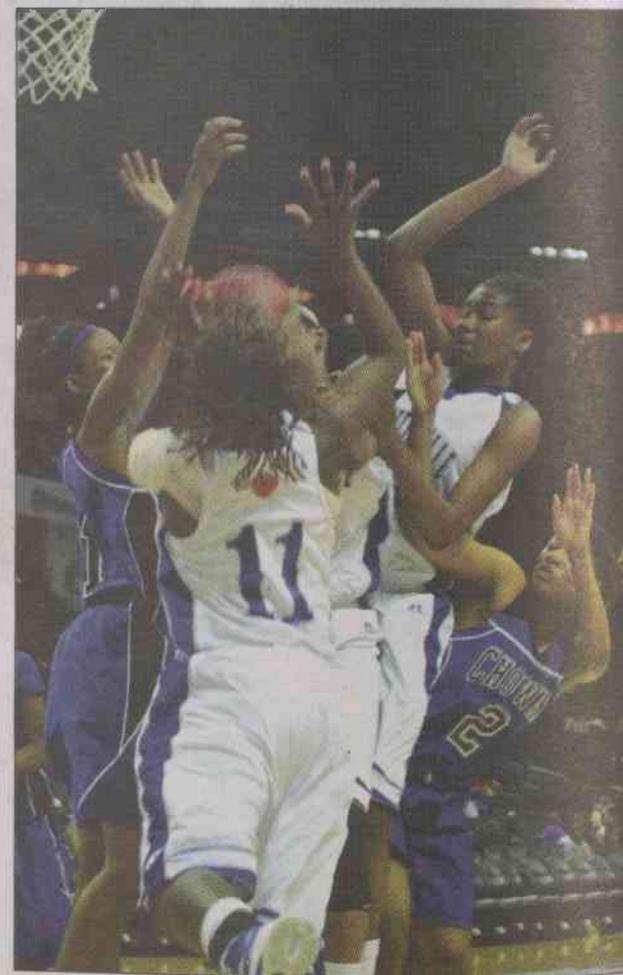
It came down to Fayetteville State finishing off and securing a substantial lead over Chowan, and they had one. It was 42-28 at the top of the second half, the largest lead of the night for either team. Unfortunately, the Lady Hawks responded with securing 12 additional points aided by four successful fast breaks stretching the Broncos massive lead thin making it a one possession game at the two minute mark.

The game was based on who could get a late run in the second half. The Lady Broncos truly had that in control until the Lady Hawks found some weak spots and secured their bid to advance to the Quarterfinals.

FSU Women's Basketball has had a very interesting year thus far doubling their win totals and defeating the top teams throughout the season. Without a doubt, these ladies will return to Charlotte with a vengeance.



Alicia Person (4), sophomore guard, jumps for a shot against Chowan University's Janelle Murphy (13), sophomore guard, during the first round of the CIAA Tournament on Tuesday, February 28 in Charlotte, NC.



Voice Photos by Aaron Williams

Chowan University's Talaya Lynch (1), junior wing and T'Arra Cutting (2), junior guard double up while attempting to steal the ball from Fayetteville State University's Tierra Coleman (33), junior center, but FSU's Bria Evans (24), freshman forward and Tashama Banner (11), senior guard double up to block the steal.



Left: Je'Lena Robertson (12), sophomore point guard, jumps for a shot against Chowan University's Danielle Coleman (24), junior forward, during the first round of the CIAA Tournament on Tuesday, February 28 in Charlotte, NC.