



Sports



Basketball In the Black Colleges

A Historical Chronology

1891 - 1980

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Part IV Period IV, 1950-1960

1955-1957

The creation of Districts 6 and 29 resulted in the NAIA tournament hosting Tennessee State and Texas Southern. Central State of Ohio entered the 32-team field as the representative from District 22, a fitting tribute to the pioneer efforts of Mack Greene. Texas Southern showed its class by reaching the finals, losing to McNeese State College. Obviously, this was the best showing since the NAIA dropped all barriers.

NOTE: McNeese State and its fine team had already demonstrated championship class by refusing to bow to racial pressure applied by southern politicians who urged and forced some teams to withdraw from the tournament "to avoid competing against Negro players."

Mississippi State authorities forced Jackson State to withdraw from an NCAA regional play-off because of this kind of pressure. Some teams agreed to re-enter the National tournament, "if NAIA could guarantee that they would not face a Negro Team during the week-long meet."

Despite sporadic resistance here and there, the emergence of black college basketball through NAIA provided expanded competitive opportunities for interracial contests, multiplied by pre-season and post-season scheduling. It was in this atmosphere that Nashville, in December, 1956, became the scene of the first inter-racial two-day double header in the south. Tennessee State and Fisk University were hosts to Rockhurst College of Kansas City and North Dakota State.

Fisk University was coached by Herbert "Bus" Thompson of the SIAC. Louie Bogan was the North Dakota mentor, while Joe "Buddy" Brehmer held the top post at Rockhurst.

1956 - 1957

For many long-time followers of the black college struggle, the 1956-57 season ended years of frustration. In March, 1957, Tennessee State University won the NAIA national title.

On the way to the finals, Tennessee edged Texas Southern in a great exhibition of fast-break basketball, with the combined score over 200 points. Of less consequence, although some fears had been expressed in this regard, was the fact that the game marked a first encounter of two black college teams in four years of NAIA participation. The crowd responded in the usual manner. Black teams had not been deliberately bracketed to oppose each other in early rounds as had been predicted.

Texas Southern University garnered third place over Georgetown College, 121-109.

Cal Jacobs, sports editor, *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, wrote:

"In winning the national NAIA basketball championship, Tennessee State University gave colored college athletics its biggest boost. For years, arguments have been raging over whether Negro college teams would be able to compete with white teams in major competition. The success of TSU should put an end to the speculation. Negro college basketball is on the upgrade.

Leading the way the past five years has been Tennessee State and Texas Southern University."

"Bill Nuhn, sports columnist, *Pittsburgh Courier*, observed:

"At long last, the willingness to produce and the ability to teach have paid off in major tournaments for a Negro College Five. To those who have been saying all along, that Negro teams can compete with the best, if given the opportunity, Tennessee's thrilling victory gives added incentive for believing even better things are yet to come."

Luther Carmichael, sports editor, *Nashville Globe*, stated:

"The NAIA tourney proved that Negro coaches can coach teams on par with coaches from other leading colleges."

Marion Jackson, sports editor, *Atlanta Daily World*, added:

"A&T's spectacular success will provide a weather-vane for our college in mixed competition. It shows that competent personnel and first rate coaching can trail-blaze frontiers of democracy unknown to us heretofore."

And, from the NAIA executive secretary, Al Duer: "The democratic principles upon which NAIA was founded and to which it has held unwaveringly through the years, resulted, for the first time, in an all Negro college annexing a national basketball championship. In doing so, the teams performance has caused the tournament to be rated in the top five in the organization's history."

"The new champions conducted themselves in a manner that upheld the traditions of sportsmanlike conduct of the highest order for which this tournament has become nationally recognized. Their victories were made possible by superb team play that stressed speed and consistent brilliance of individual team members. "They are in a class by themselves."

Also in 1956-57, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, after years without a program for small colleges at the national level, organized the "National College Division Championships" and conducted its first post-season tournament in Evansville, Indiana in 1957. It directed that selected teams in the 32-squad format host regional tournaments on their own campuses, with the eight winners playing the semi-finals and finals in Evansville.

NASC urged all black colleges to retain dual membership in NAIA and NCAA so visitation winners and tournament champions could remain eligible for the national tournament of their choice. This idea expanded opportunities for black college teams.

The initial black college to qualify for the inaugural NCAA college division play-off was North Carolina A&T of the CIAA, coached by Cal Irvin. This team reached the semi-finals, gaining third place. What did the national championship mean to black America? A few reactions follow:

The interest in black college basketball nationally was discernible to sports page readers. Players were permanent fixtures in both NAIA and NCAA weekly statistics, and received additional focus in the Associated Press, United Press International and NAIA polls.

Next Week: 1957-1960

Eagles Surprise Visitors 98-86

NCCU 98, Va. Union 86

Donald Sinclair, David Binion and John Bishop combined for 74 points in leading NCCU to a 98-86 upset win over Va. Union in McDougald Gym, Wednesday, February 10.

Sinclair, a senior guard from Clayton, led all scorers with 28 points, hitting 9 of 12 from the floor and 10 of 11 from the charity stripe. 6-6 junior forward David Binion had 25 points and a career-high 27 rebounds. Bishop finished with 21 points.

The Eagles led briefly in the first half but saw the Panthers take the lead

17-15 at 10:20 on a basket by Carlos Judkins. Va. Union built up a 31-25 lead with 2:55 left in the period before the Eagles closed the margin to 33-32 on a basket by Sinclair two minutes later. Curtis Powell hit two baskets before the half lifting Va. Union to a 37-32 count.

Down 41-38 with 17:30 left in the game, freshman center Charles Murphy hit two field goals — the last a stuff at 17:00 giving the Eagles the lead for good.

Central built a 86-67 lead with 3:15 left before the Panthers cut the margin to 91-82 with 47

seconds. Powell led the Panthers with 26 points hitting 10 of 18 field goals. Sub William Wall added 10 for Va. Union.

Murphy joined the trio of Eagles with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Central won the battle of the boards 60-44 and hit 58.5% from the floor (31 of 53). The Panthers were a disappointing 33 of 79 from the floor.

Ironically, the Panthers were tagged with 39 fouls losing two players by personals and Powell by ejection. Central had 26 fouls.

Va. Union (86) Thompson 9, Lewis 3, Judkins 6, Morris 2, Powell 26, Foidler 4, Brown 5, Carter 7, W. Wall 10, D. Wall 4, Wainwright 5, Christian 4, Williams 4. NCCU (98) Sinclair 28, Binion 25, Bishop 21, Griffin 6, Murphy 11, Willie, Moore, Taylor 2, Tyson 5, Wright, Evans, Faucette. Halftime: Va. Union 37-32. Records: Va. Union 7-8, 11-8; NCCU 6-7, 10-10.

Regains Third Place

Despite losing two CIAA games to St. Paul's 84-81 and Winston-Salem 75-68, the North Carolina Central Eagles regained third place in the Southern Division with a 98-86 win over Virginia Union, Wednesday, February 10 in McDougald Gym. Central is 8-7 in the conference; 10-10 overall.

St. Paul's 84, NCCU 81. LAWRENCEVILLE, VA — Bernard Lewis led St. Paul's with 20 points as the Tigers rallied from a 46-35 halftime deficit, to upend NCCU 84-81. The Tigers are 9-5 in the CIAA, 11-7 overall.

The Eagles trailed 17-10 over the first seven minutes before rallying to go ahead 18-17 with 11:46 on a basket by David Binion.

Down 31-30 at the 4:34 mark, Central responded with 14 straight points over the next three minutes.

Central lost the lead 63-62 with 9:29 left on a basket by Walt Buchanan. Ralph Saunders aided the Tigers cause with 18 points. Buchanan finished with 15, and Greg Jackson 12.

John Bishop paced the Panthers with 28 points, hitting 9 of 12 from the floor and 10 of 11 from the charity stripe. 6-6 junior forward David Binion had 25 points and a career-high 27 rebounds. Bishop finished with 21 points.

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Hazel Plummer Bowling Scores

The Hazel B. Plummer Bowling League scores for February 9:
Ladies high game: 215-Flo Roberson, 203-Gwen Davis, 194-Priscilla Malloy.
Ladies high series: 583-Flo Roberson, 512-Anne Reed, 490-Nancy Pinckney.
Men's high game: 231-Charles Parker, 210-T-Bird Roberson, 203-Doss Massenbarg.
Men's high series: 568-T-Bird Roberson, 562-James Harrington, 547-Ronald Miller.
Others: 523-Doss Massenbarg, 517-Charles Parker, 514-Linwood Taylor, 510-Archie Smith, 506-Joseph Parker, 505-George Thorne.
Split Conversions, 3-5-7 x 2-Pauline Johnson.
Team Scores: High Game-850 and High Series-2399, both by Sound Experience. Four-game winners: Rovers and Sound Experience.

American Tobacco Bowling League No. 1

Team Standings:
February 7
(won-lost-total pins)
1-Silva Thin-24-56-44,567
2-Carlton 83-48½-31½-44,812
3-Lemon Twist-40-40-45,542
4-Menthol-49-31-45,882
5-Carlton-100-36-43-45,009
6-Ice Berg-42-38-45,179
High Series (Male)
Wallace Royal-528, Roy Bradley-497, Ernest Greene-495.
(Female) Gertrude Burnett-465, Mae Reaves-446, Josephine Washington-403.
High Games (Male)
Wallace Royal-206, Bernie Day-201, Wayne Harris-188.
(Female) G. Burnett-175, J. Washington-167, M. Reaves-158.

First Place On The Line Aggies Host Bethune-Cookman, Florida A&M

GREENSBORO — Since Bethune-Cookman, Howard, Florida A&M, and North Carolina A&T all have three losses in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, this weekend's showdown in the Corbett Sports Center will probably determine which teams will get the bye in the opening round of the conference championships, March 6-8, in the Winston-Salem Coliseum.

The Aggies will host Bethune-Cookman this Friday night and on Saturday night will play highly touted Florida A&M.

With this year's MEAC tournament winner receiving an automatic berth to the NCAA Division I National Tournament, a bye would give the top two teams a day's rest in what many believe will be the most evenly contested tournament in the league's ten year history.

"Our goal before the season started was to win the MEAC Tournament and go on to participate in post season play," said second year A&T head coach Don Corbett. "The MEAC is extremely well balanced this season and as indicated by the number of losses in con-

ference play, on a given night any team can knock off another."

"Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M are newcomers to our conference but have long histories of outstanding basketball," Corbett said. "We may have the home court advantage this Friday and Saturday but with what's on the line, Bethune and Florida A&M will be up and ready for these games."

Bethune-Cookman, which returns four starters from last season's Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship team has defeated the Aggies twice this season, once in a conference game in Daytona Beach, 66-57, and in the Corbett Sports Center in overtime 46-44.

FAMU, behind the inside play of 6-7 forward of Pete Taylor and the outside shooting of 6-5 guard Daryl Spence broke open a close game and went on to defeat the Aggies 79-72 in Tallahassee.

"Bethune-Cookman is not a tall team but they do a good job in controlling tempo," Corbett said. "They are exceptional outside shooters and they lead the league in free

throw percentage.

"To be successful against them, we have to control the tempo of the game and force them into a faster pace than they would like."

"As far as individual talent, FAMU makes up with any team in our league. Taylor and 6-6 Paul Grady are two talented inside players while Spence, at 6-5, is an exceptional shooter and can be effective inside."

Corbett is also happy about the return to form of freshman standout Joe Binion. Binion had experienced a mild slump after the Christmas break responded well in last weekend's 55-53 win over Winston-Salem State as he scored 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

Guard James Anderson continues to be one of the top performers in the MEAC. Anderson, who leads the team in scoring averaging over 17 points per game, has developed into the team's big play man and is as effective inside as he is outside.

A&T will enter this weekend with a five-game win streak. The last defeat was at the hands of Bethune-Cookman in Corbett Sports Center.

Winston-Salem Upends NCCU 75 To 68

WINSTON-SALEM — Roger Mason, Thern Greene and Mark Clark combined for 63 points in leading Winston-Salem to a 75-68 CIAA win over North Carolina Central.

The Rams are 5-8, 6-12. Mason led all scorers with 23 points, with Greene and Clark getting 20 points apiece.

The Eagles led briefly in the contest.

Charles Murphy and John Bishop led the Eagles with 18 points each. David Binion had 16 and 12 rebounds and Donald Sinclair 10 points.

The Rams beat the Eagles off the boards 39-34 and won the game at the foul line hitting 17 of 22 free throws. Central made only 6 of 11.

NCCU (68) Sinclair 10, Binion 16, Bishop 18, Griffin 2, Murphy 18, Moore, Evans, Taylor 2, Oakley, Wright, Johnson.
W-Salem (75) McCray 4, Greene 20, Clark 20, Graham, Mason 23, Cook 8, Branner.
Halftime: W-Salem 40-32.

Lady Eagles Win Two Straight

The North Carolina Central Lady Eagles upped their seasonal record to 8-9 with wins over St. Paul's 52-49 in overtime and Winston-Salem 89-80.

They are 6-4 in the Southern Division and have secured a berth in the

CIAA Women's Tourney to be held at St. Augustine's February 20-21.

Lady Eagles Now 7-9

NCCU 52, St. Paul's 49. LAWRENCEVILLE, VA — Freshman center Notosha Scott and junior guard Mary Simpson combined for 33 points in leading the North Carolina Central Lady Eagles to a 52-49 overtime win over St. Paul's in a women's game Wednesday, February 4. The Lady Eagles raised their record to 7-9.

Central bolted from the 45-all regulation score with a 7-4 run in overtime. Scott led all scorers with 18 points, including 5 points in overtime. Simpson had 15 points, 2 in overtime.

Central led 24-22 at halftime but were down 43-37 with 4:23 left in the game. The Lady Eagles outscored the Tigerettes 8-2 over the remaining time with Scott getting 4 points, senior forward Metrial Floyd two free throws and Simpson a basket.

Floyd had 11 rebounds as the Lady Eagles outbounded St. Paul's 42-34. NCCU (52) Solomon 2, Simpson 15, Floyd 6, Vann 2, Scott 18, Benn

6, Tynes, Morris, Pinnix 3, St. Paul's (49) Lamb 2, Claypool 7, Crosey 17, Young 5, Lashley 7, Padgett 7, Wilson 4.
Halftime: NCCU 24-22; Regulation: 45-all.
NCCU 89, W-Salem 80

WINSTON-SALEM — Metrial Floyd and Diedra Solomon combined for 49 points and 34 points in powering the Lady Eagles to an 89-80 win over Winston-Salem in a Southern Division CIAA women's contest. Daisy Morris, starting for Mary Simpson, added 14 points and senior forward Aurora Benn had 10.

Floyd led all scorers with 26 points, including

12 of 16 from the foul line. Solomon aided Central's cause with 23 points, 11 of 18 from the floor. Floyd and Solomon had 17 rebounds apiece.

Freshman center Notosha Scott had 9 points and 8 rebounds. Cheryl Burke paced the Rams with 23 points and 13 rebounds. Betty Drake had 20 points and 13 rebounds; Pamela Glenn 19 points and 10 rebounds; and Vanessa Smith 11 and 12 respectively.

NCCU guard Edna Vann dished out 9 assists with Morris handing out (Continued on Page 6)

NCCU Basketball At McDougald Gym

February 16 Eliz. City

LAST HOME GAME

(Women)

Game Time is 5:30 p.m.

(Men)

Game Time is 7:30 p.m.

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