

Sports Scope

Everybody sweats on Hampton's Final Four women's team

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

Hampton University's women's basketball coach likes to see everyone sweat.

"I can remember our high school coach in Norfolk didn't use all his players," said Hampton's James Sweat, whose Pirates made the Final Four of the NCAA Division II Tournament. "I realized you need to develop your bench."

Sweat used his entire bench throughout the season as Hampton fashioned a 30-4 record in his fourth year at the CIAA school.

"The really great programs -- the North Carolina men and Old Dominion women -- have plenty of depth," Sweat continued. "These programs build to a point where they have good talent on their bench as well as on the floor. That's what we're trying to do here."

Ten of Sweat's 14 players saw action in at least 30 games. That enabled half of his players to average six or more points per game.

"If you are good enough to play in college, you should be able to participate," the Hampton coach said. "If you don't play everybody, you're not going to be as fresh at the end of the season as the beginning."

Although Sweat admitted "I don't think I can do this every year," he was able to maintain basketball's version of utilitarianism through the NCAA Tournament.

"The playoffs are a little different from the regular season," he said. "You might get down to your top seven or eight then, but I didn't have to this year. We were fortunate to have quantity and quality. I hope it's that way each season."

The use-them-all philosophy came in handy as four different players suffered injuries during the season. That included a broken thumb suffered by all-America Anita Cooper, the team's second-leading scorer at 18 points per game.

Although Sweat loses all-America Darlene Chaney to graduation, he returns 12 players next season.

"We've got a good nucleus coming back, so we should be able to keep this up next season," he said.

Sweat said his system had little effect on a humiliating loss to eventual champion Cal Poly-

Pomona in the semifinals.

"We had a total breakdown, so I don't think the system made any difference," he said of the 91-51 loss. "We were inexperienced in Final Four play. They had been to three or four championships in recent years. We basically played a better team."

Cal Poly-Pomona beat top-ranked and defending national champion Central Missouri State in the finals 80-69.

"You get to the Final Four and you gotta dance the same way you always dance," Sweat said.

Sweat completed his fourth season as the Hampton women's coach this year. In three of those four seasons his teams have won at least 20 games. The fourth one posted 19 victories.

Noted And Quoted

As the May 4 National Basketball Association hardship deadline nears, a growing consensus is that it is best for Kenny Green to stay at Wake Forest for his senior season.

While Green's stock is not likely to change in the next year, this year's draft has far more talent than next year's.

Scout Marty Blake said it is NBA policy not to comment on undergraduates. However, Blake said "at the coach's (Carl Tacy's) behest, I advised Kenny to stay for his senior year."

Critics say staying in college will give the 6-6 forward the opportunity to work on playing with his face to the basket, something he'll do more of in the NBA.

CIAA Spring Championships Here

This year's Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association spring sports championships will be held in Winston-Salem April 20-21.

The softball tournament, featuring Coach Tim Grant's defending champion Rams, will be held at Civitan Park. The tennis tournament is slated for Hanes Park, track at Winston-Salem State and golf at Winston Lake Park Golf Course. There may not be a baseball tournament, since only three schools

field teams in that sport.

S.C. State Hires Saxon

Former Winston-Salem State football assistant Thomas Saxon has been named offensive coordinator at South Carolina State.

Saxon, entering his fifth season with the Bulldogs, has been offensive line coach and recruiting coordinator the last four years. The North Carolina Central alumnus will continue to coach S.C. State's line, but secondary coach George


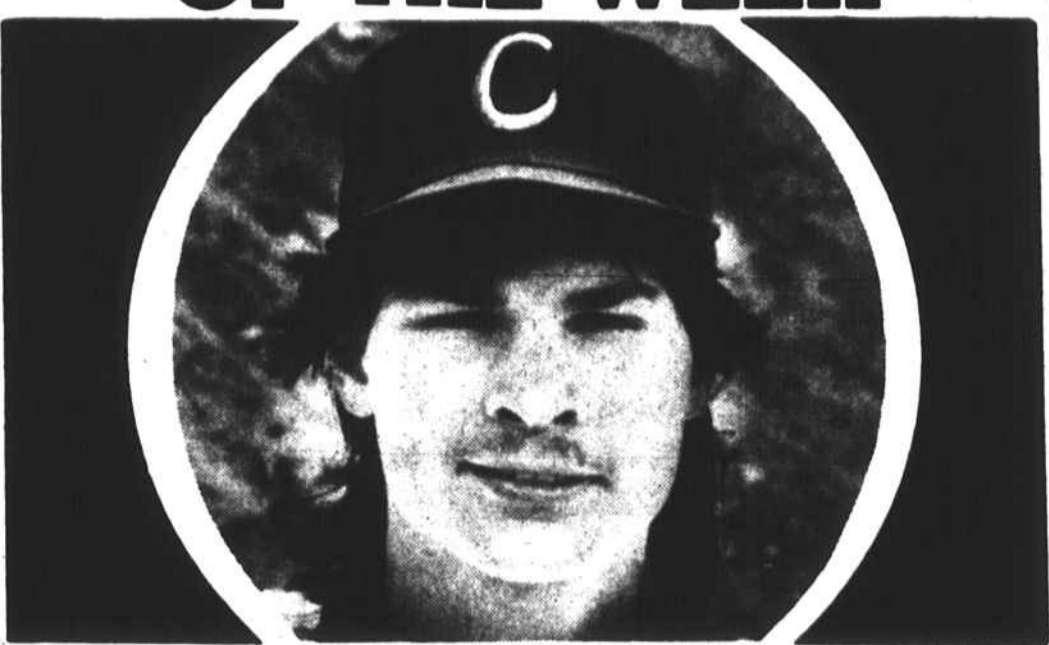

Suggs will assume the recruiting coordinator duties.

Thacker Signs With Elon

Tray Thacker of Parkland High has signed a football grant-in-aid with Elon. The 6-2, 260-pound Thacker is expected to play tackle for the Fighting Christians.

The Mustang also is an outstanding wrestler, finishing third in the state tournament this year. He is the brother of former N.C. State all-America Tab Thacker, who was an NCAA champion in 1984.

PEPSI PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

THE Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem salutes John Sams of Carver High School... He's the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week. Sams, a member of Carver's baseball team, finished the week with a .576 average, including seven doubles.

IN honor of John Sams, the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company will make a cash contribution to the Carver High School Athletic Program. Congratulations, John Sams... the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week!

If you would like to nominate a high school athlete for Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week, contact David Bulla at 723-8428 or write him at P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

Anderson wins Big Four

From Page B1

baseball league in the city have gone for naught.

"The biggest problem is stadium time," Petree said. "The only place we can play is Ernie Shore Field and its availability is very limited."

Ernie Shore is the home of the Winston-Salem Spirits of the Class A Carolina League. The Spirits play 70 games there each summer. The other teams that rent the stadium must work around the Spirits' schedule.

The city's four semi-pro teams -- the Pond Giants, Indians, Braves and Phillies -- will continue as they have the last few summers without an organized league.

But Petree hopes to form a league by next year. "I hope we could bring in a couple of teams from the surrounding area," he said. "The city might work with us, if we had a six-team league."

Petree said he's preparing a 45-game schedule for this summer, beginning the last week of May.

The schedule should be ready in the next couple of weeks, he said.

Special Olympics

The 16th annual City-County Spring Special Olympics get under way Monday with opening ceremonies at South Park High.

The feature of the opening festivities is a wheelchair basketball game between the Winston-Salem Recreation Department and city-county school system personnel.

The games start Tuesday and end Thursday. Activities begin at 9 a.m. each day and conclude at 2 p.m.

Tuesday's events will take place at Winston-Salem State's track. The games move to the Rams' swimming pool Wednesday and the Wake Forest track is the scene of final-day events.

For more information, call 727-2519. Please see page B7

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