

**Hoodwinked**

Steve Hood slams the ball home off a pass from Alexander Hooper in the Rams' 71-70 overtime loss to Virginia Union (photo by James Parker).

**RAM REPORT**

**WSSU deserves a better fate**

By DAVID BULLA  
Chronicle Sports Editor

RICHMOND, Va. — The worst consequence of the no-call that gave Virginia Union a 71-70 overtime win over Winston-Salem State in last week's CIAA Tournament semifinals is that it ended the Rams' season.

Gone were prospects for an NCAA Division II playoff berth. Virginia Union, Norfolk State and Johnson C. Smith, all with superior records, earned the CIAA's complement of playoff berths. Union earned an automatic bid after it ended Norfolk's school-record 22-game winning streak with a 79-73 win in last Saturday night's CIAA tourney final. The Panthers (24-6) open against Mount St. Mary's (23-4) in the South Atlantic Regional in Norfolk, Va., Friday night. The other part of that doubleheader finds Norfolk State (26-2) going up against the University of the District of Columbia (22-4). The Spartans are the defending regional champions.

Because of the slipshod officiating in the last moments of WSSU's semifinal, J.C. Smith (21-7) will be ramrodding it with the big boys of Division II. Smith was assigned to the Great Lakes Regional in Owensboro, Ky. The Golden Bulls, who finished as co-champions in the Southern Division with WSSU, take on Kentucky Wesleyan (23-5) in Saturday's opening round. Southern Indiana (23-5) and Southern Illinois-Edwardsville (22-6) are the other semifinalists in that region.

The Rams (19-9) had beaten both J.C. Smith and Union during the regular season. They had also beaten Division I North Carolina A&T and lost to Norfolk State, ranked No. 1 in Division II through last week, by a respectable score of 72-67.

What probably cost the Rams an NCAA bid was getting swept by UDC, which enters the playoffs with Division II's longest current winning streak at 14 games. The Firebirds were 69-64 winners at Washington in December and 68-66 victors at Winston-Salem in January. A victory in either game would have given WSSU a 20-win season and made it just as attractive a playoff participant as Smith.

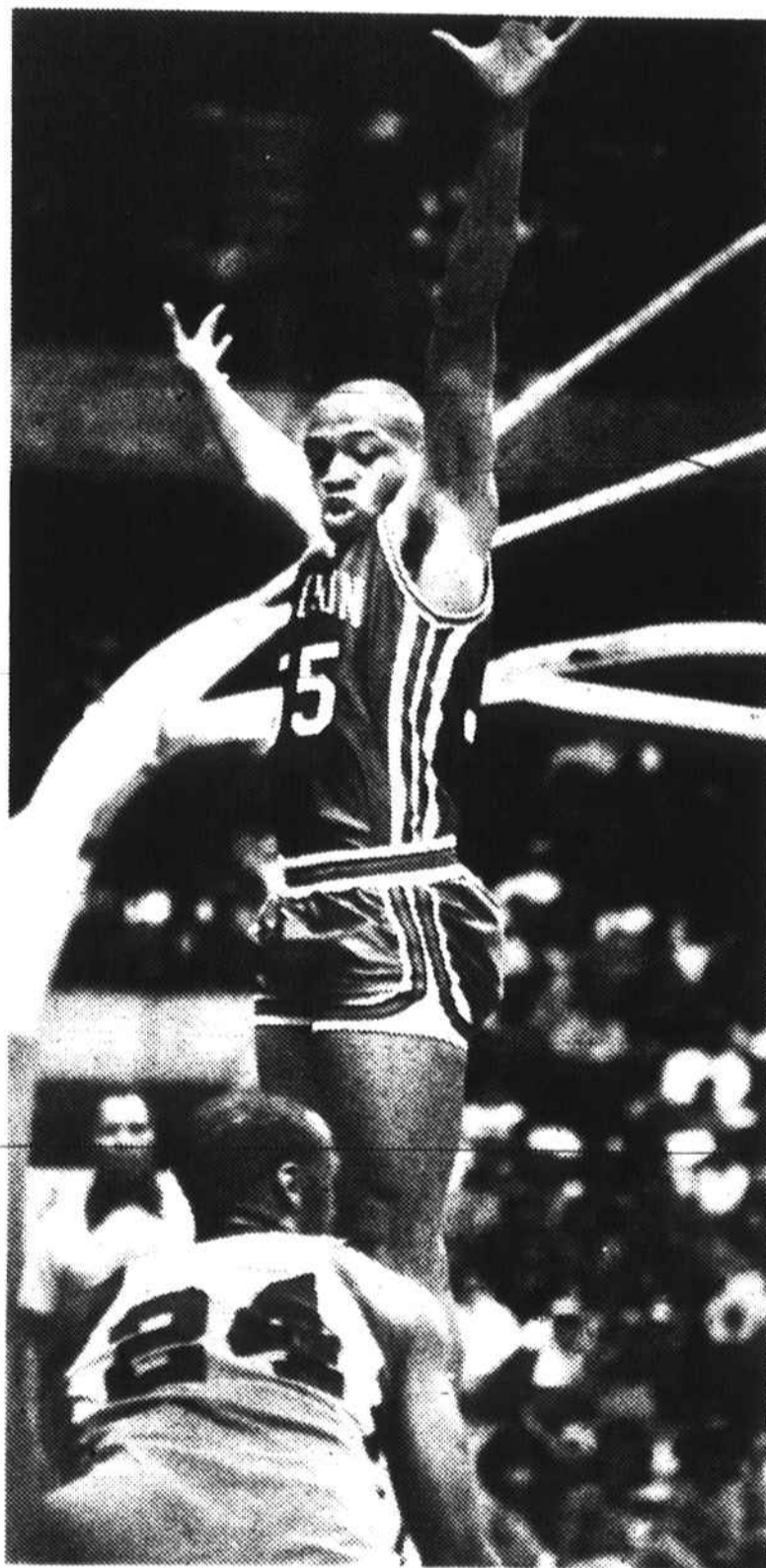
Despite the no-call by the officials in the loss to Union, WSSU Coach C.E. "Big House" Gaines admitted he had erred by allowing his team to work the clock in the second half.

"The loss was partly my fault," Gaines said. "I didn't coach very well in the second half. We stopped attacking in the second half."

The Rams built a 22-18 lead through the game's first 15 minutes, then increased their lead to 40-22 as Union scored only four points in the final 7:34 of the half.

But the Panthers got just the spark they needed from freshman guard Albert "A.J." English in the second half. English scored all of his 14 points in the half.

"We didn't ever give up," said the 6-foot-4 Nate



Union's Greg Williams defends against Alexander Hooper, who had 27 points in the semifinal (photo by James Parker).

McMillan clone and former Delaware Player of the Year. "We decided at halftime we'd just chip away, be patient, not try to get it all back at once."

In fact, the comeback was quite gradual. With eight minutes left, the Panthers had sliced the lead only in half. At the same time, Union's defense intensified as WSSU continually milked the clock on-

The Panthers' comeback seemed too gradual after Ram forward Terry Nance dunked for a 57-50 cushion with 3:30 left in the game. But Tony Dallas, relegated to a rare reserve role, sandwiched a pair of three-pointers around a Gary Cromartie free throw for a 58-56 game with 2:10 left.

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**1987 DUKE BLUE DEVIL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**

Jan. 3	Virginia	Charlottesville, VA	8:30pm
Jan. 5	WILLIAM & MARY	DURHAM	7:00pm
Jan. 7	ST. JOSEPH'S	DURHAM	7:00pm
Jan. 10	NORTH CAROLINA	DURHAM	1:30pm
Jan. 14	Maryland	College Park, MD	7:30pm
Jan. 17	WAKE FOREST	DURHAM	1:00pm
Jan. 21	N.C. State	Raleigh, NC	7:00pm
Jan. 24	Clemson	Clemson, SC	1:00pm
Jan. 26	CORNELL	DURHAM	7:00pm
Jan. 29	Georgia Tech	Atlanta, GA	8:30pm
Jan. 31	Wake Forest	Greensboro, NC	1:00pm
Feb. 2	STETSON	DURHAM	7:00pm
Feb. 4	VIRGINIA	DURHAM	7:00pm
Feb. 7	MARYLAND	DURHAM	3:30pm
Feb. 10	Harvard	Cambridge, MA	7:00pm
Feb. 15	Notre Dame	South Bend, IN	12:30pm
Feb. 19	N.C. STATE	DURHAM	8:30pm
Feb. 21	GEORGIA TECH	DURHAM	3:30pm
Feb. 26	North Carolina	Chapel Hill, NC	8:30pm
Feb. 28	CLEMSON	DURHAM	3:30pm
Mar. 6-8	ACC Tournament (All 7 games)	Landover, MD	TBA

Schedule subject to change  
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