

Got a suggestion? Call sports writer Michael Johnson at 722-8624

SPORTS

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Elizabeth City's Nate Higgs on CIAA preseason team. Page B3



Final Black College Football Standings

CIAA

School	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
x-Hampton	8	0	0	12	0	0
Va. State	7	1	0	10	1	0
W-S State	5	2	1	6	4	1
N.C. Central	5	3	0	6	5	0
Fayetteville St.	4	4	0	6	5	0
Bowie State	3	4	1	3	6	1
Johnson C. Smith	3	5	0	3	8	0
Norfolk State	2	5	1	3	7	1
Va. Union	2	5	1	2	8	1
Elizabeth City St.	1	7	0	2	8	0
Livingstone	1	7	0	1	10	0

RESULTS FROM 11/20/93

NCAA Division II Playoffs

First round

Hampton 33, Albany State 7

SCHEDULE FOR 11/27/93

NCAA Division II Playoffs

Second round

Hampton at North Alabama 1 p.m.

MEAC

School	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
x-Howard	6	0	0	11	0	0
S.C. State	4	2	0	8	3	0
Delaware State	4	2	0	6	5	0
N.C. A&T	3	3	0	8	3	0
Florida A&M	2	3	0	4	6	0
Bethune-Cookman I	4	0	0	3	7	0
Morgan State	0	6	0	2	9	0

RESULTS FROM 11/20/93

Howard 53, Delaware State 33

S.C. State 58, N.C. A&T 52, 3 OT

Towson State 56, Morgan State 12

SCHEDULE FOR 11/27/93

Florida Classic at Tampa Fla.

Bethune-Cookman vs Florida A&M 1:30 p.m.

NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs

Howard at Marshall 1 p.m.

SWAC

School	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
x-Southern	6	0	0	9	1	0
Alcorn State	5	1	0	7	2	0
Grambling	4	2	0	6	3	0
Jackson State	2	2	1	4	4	1
Alabama State	3	3	0	4	4	0
Mississippi Valley I	3	2	2	3	4	2
Texas Southern	1	5	0	2	7	0
Prairie View	0	7	0	0	10	0

SIAC

School	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
x-Albany State	7	0	0	11	1	0
Fort Valley	5	1	1	6	4	1
Savannah State	4	1	2	5	3	2
Alabama A&M	4	3	1	4	6	1
Morehouse	4	3	0	5	5	0
Tuskegee	3	5	0	3	7	0
Morris Brown	3	4	0	4	6	0
Clark Atlanta	1	6	0	2	8	0
Miles	0	7	0	0	10	0

RESULTS FROM 11/20/93:

NCAA Division II Playoffs

First round

Hampton 33, Albany State 7

Hampton, Howard Crash NCAA Party

By MICHAEL JOHNSON
Chronicle Sports Writer

Howard and Hampton completed their dream marches through their respective conferences by going undefeated to lead three predominately black colleges to the national playoffs.

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champion Howard, which finished the season 11-0 by defeating Delaware State 53-33 Saturday, ended atop the Sheridan Black College Polls and became the first team since Florida A&M in 1990 to finish with an unblemished record of 6-0 in conference play. The Bison, which also finished in the top ten in the final SportsNetwork Top Twenty Division I-AA polls, assured themselves of a spot in the upcoming NCAA championships by becoming the first team to go undefeated in the 23-year history of the MEAC.

"I didn't think we could go through the season the way we did," said Howard coach Steve Wilson, whose team will face defending champion Marshall Saturday in Huntington, West Virginia. "To play the type of competition we did, while playing A&T and Delaware State on the road and win... if you told me that we would do it at the beginning of the season, I wouldn't

have believed you."

Howard took control of the conference with a 41-35 overtime win over North Carolina A&T in Greensboro Oct. 23. A&T was ranked in the top five of the Division I-AA polls that week, the highest ranking ever given to a predominately black college in the polls. The 6-0 Aggies were favored after coming off wins over Western Carolina, Liberty and Appalachian State.

"We couldn't put things back together after the Howard game," said Aggie coach Bill Hayes, whose team will not participate in the national championships despite being ranked in the Top Twenty most of the year.

A&T never recovered after the loss, splitting its last four games to go 8-3 on the season. Included in those losses were a 25-19 loss to Delaware State in Greensboro Nov. 6 and a season-ending 58-52 loss to South Carolina State Saturday.

Hampton won its second consecutive Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association title by going through its schedule without a defeat. The Pirates, which ended the season second behind Howard in the Sheridan Polls, have won 24 straight contests dating back to last season, including a 33-7 victory over Albany State, the winner of the Southern Intercollegiate

Athletic Conference. Hampton has scored over 30 points in nine of its eleven games.

Though Howard is the only team in the MEAC to go to the national championships, S.C. State will represent the MEAC in the upcoming Heritage Bowl. The Bulldogs ended the season tied for second place with Delaware State, but won 38-15 Oct. 30. S.C. State will face Southern University on New Year's Day in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The MEAC-SWAC game will be a rematch of the Atlanta Classic, in which Southern won 14-10 Sept. 25. The Jaguars won their first South Western Athletic Conference championship in 18 years with a 47-31 win over Alcorn State Nov. 6.

Virginia State completed an amazing turnaround with a 48-24 win over Winston-Salem State Nov. 13. The Trojans finished the season 10-1 overall and in second place in the CIAA, one year removed from a 3-7 mark last year.

WSSU ended the year at 6-4-1 and in third place in the CIAA in coach Kermit Blount's first season at the helm. Included in the four defeats were losses to MEAC powers and North Carolina A&T.

"We had a young team and I think we had a good deal of success considering our schedule," Blount said.

Standing Out On His Own

▲ Illinois native looks forward to first year in Winston-Lake YBA League

By MICHAEL JOHNSON
Chronicle Sports Writer

Playing basketball is something that comes naturally to Keith Afable. Anyone who watches the sport can appreciate what sounds are made on the court when the youngster is playing.

Swish. That's the sound the net makes when Afable shoots a jump shot with a near-perfect rotation. Snap. That's the sound made by Afable's hands when he catches a crisp pass from a teammate. Slap. That sound is made when Afable pats a teammate on the backside for making an unselfish play that results in two points.

It's easy to see Afable on the court because of his dexterity. But the 13-year old also stands out because he is the only non-black of more than 400 youths participating in the Youth Basketball Association at the Winston Lake YMCA. But it's something that neither Afable nor his teammates ever bothered to think about until the game.

"I try to help my teammates any way I can, with a shot or with a pass or whatever to help out," said Afable, whose grandfather was born in the Philippine islands. "I want to show some leadership out there on the court and get behind my teammates."

Though Afable will make his debut at Winston Lake in December, this will be the third year the native of



Keith Afable concentrates on his free throws during practice.

River Forest, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, will be playing organized basketball in the Winston-Salem area. After moving in 1991 when his father, a gerontologist, was offered an internship at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Afable immersed himself into local athletics. He played his first two basketball seasons at the Central YMCA, but decided afterward he wanted to

play somewhere else.

That was when Afable was approached about playing at Winston-Lake by Reynolds basketball coach James Williams. Williams felt that Afable would benefit from playing in a more competitive environment. The move is even more intriguing when added that Afable's father is his basketball coach at Central.

"The coaches felt that he should play at Winston Lake as well as at Central," said Afable's mother, Sally. "So now he'll play in two leagues, though Winston Lake is his top priority. If there is a conflict in schedules, then he'll play at Winston."

So he showed up at the league tryouts in the at-large pool and immediately impressed all the coaches evaluating the players. Afable easily canned jumpers during drills and showed a penchant for creating a shot for himself during simulation scrimmages. When the evaluations ended, Afable had the highest marks across the board.

"The thing I was impressed with is that Keith was a very good ballhandler for his size. That will enable him to see over virtually any player," said Wolverines coach Thomas Richardson, who selected Afable with the first pick in the at-large draft. "He is also our best shooter, which enables us to complement our inside players."

"Keith is able to control the tempo of the game because of his experience and his skills. Those attributes come in handy when we have such a small and inexperienced team," Richardson said.

Such abilities affords Richardson the luxury of moving his second-tallest player into the starting point guard slot. Afable's dribbling skills developed during his younger years before he

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Grayhounds On The Brink of National Championship

▲ Winston-Salem team to face Garner Jr. Midgets Saturday afternoon

By MICHAEL JOHNSON
Chronicle Sports Writer

If the Winston-Salem Grayhounds somehow manage to lose in Saturday's Pop Warner Mid-South Regional Championships, Grayhounds coach Mike Gudger said it won't hurt the players as much as it would him.

"If our season will end with a win, then that is all we can ask for."

—Grayhounds coach Mike Gudger

"Maybe half an hour after the game is over, these kids will be out here playing football again," said the Jr. Midget coach, pointing out to the near-vacant Parkland-Reynolds field. "But to me, it would eat me up for a month. It would be because I would have let the team down and I didn't them well for the game."

Strong words, indeed. But when you look at the record these kids have put together over a six year span, then maybe Gudger's words will sink in.

A majority of the players on Gudger's team have

never lost more than three games during their years in Pop Warner football. Nine players on this squad were members of the 1990 Junior PeeWee that won the national championship. And this year's group went undefeated on its way to Saturday's matchup against Garner's junior midget team.

But his team does not believe itself to be invincible nor unbeatable. Two weeks ago, the Grayhounds

needed a rarely tried extra point to ward off a formidable and determined Mineral Springs team, 14-13. The week before, a game Mt. Tabor team held them to only 79 yards in a 6-0 loss. A through out the year, the team has suffered numerous injuries from the quarterback and offensive line positions.

Now, the team has been able to survive and could accomplish another milestone.

"We want to go ahead and get a shot at the national championship," Grayhounds running back Shaun Willford said. "It would be the best way to end the

season."

But therein lies the rub. Even if the Grayhounds win this weekend, there is no guarantee they will advance. In order to make the nationals, a team must be selected to compete in San Jose, California. Only 20 teams out of 7,000 organizations around the country will receive an invitation to play this December.

"If our season will end with a win, then that's all

we can ask for," said Gudger, a former Jr. Bantam coach who took over the job of head coach this season. "I don't have any say-so whether or not we are allowed to go. That's what I've been trying to tell our kids—'We may not have a shot at a national championship if we win, but we most definitely will not have one if we lose.'"

Such motivational speeches have been necessary for Gudger to fire up this team in what he calls "his

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