

UPCOMING CIAA

Give 'Em A Hand! 1993 CIAA Gridiron

Well, football season is over in the CIAA and it's about time to set our focus on basketball and the upcoming CIAA Tournament in Winston-Salem.

But before we forget about the gridiron big boys, we've got to give them our end-of-the-year BCSR football awards.

There'll be no commercials and just a few songs. No Stevie Wonder making 50-minute acceptance speeches.

Really, here, we're all about awards.

Or are we taking too long to get started?

The Sore Shoulder Award: Gotta like Virginia State quarterback Greg Clark for this one.

This guy threw the football 380 times, 140 more than his nearest competitor in the CIAA. Since Virginia State only played 11 games, that means Clark whipped his arm and shoulder around to throw the rock some 34-plus times per game. That's a lot.

Charlie Ward doesn't throw that

much unless he's playing Notre Dame. So give Clark a hand.

The You Can't Stop Us Award: To Hampton.

The Pirates offense just casually ran up 424 yards of offense per game. The defense barely gave up 200.

SO do you wonder why Joe Taylor's bunch went 11-0 this year?

We don't.

Best Schedule Award: This one goes out to the geniuses at Johnson C. Smith.

The Bulls played three straight away games to start the season then played four straight home games and finished with four more away games. How'd you like to play that schedule?

Bigfoot Award: Ok, so we picked at Smith just a second ago. But here, that schedule is something.

But how about punter Carl Lyles? Smith's junior foot man has 38 punts for an average of 42.2 and a long 57. And he better keep booming them or he'd be sitting on the bench.

His teammate, junior Jermaine

Ward, averaged better than 36 yards a kick.

Musical Interlude I: It's Tag Team singing "Whoomp! (There It Is)" Did you hear it just boing and throwing things at this very unmentioned group for singing a song they should never, ever, be sang or be-synched again (sorry, we gave away the secret).

Whoomp-There It Went.

So you want some serious awards? How about best running back. Go with Winston-Salem State sophomore Richard Huntley.

Huntley had 243 carries for 1,570 yards. He didn't lead the league in rushing as Joe Simmons of N.C. Central (1,699 yards), but Huntley is unstoppable and he WAS WSSU's offense this year.

Best Quarterback: See the Sore Shoulder Award.

Best Receiver: Virginia Union's Stacy Graves had 50 catches for 1,073 yards.

Put the calculator down. That's 21.5 yards a catch.

Didn't anyone think to double-team this guy?

Coach of the year: Virginia State's Lou Anderson turned around a 3-7 team and made it go 10-1. It was an incredible job.

But Hampton's Joe Taylor is our choice here. His offense led the league (422 yards per game). His defense led the league (224 yards allowed per game). Hampton beat mighty Grambling 27-26 and no one else came close until the playoffs.

In the regular season, the Pirates set a school record for wins, going 11-0. Taylor is in his second year as a coach.

Amazing.

Musical Interlude II: Actually, this is the final number. We gotta go. So here they are, the Village People.

"Y.M.C.A."

Hey someone has got to give these guys some work.

—Langston Wertz Jr.

SWAC Hopes for Encore

from page 3

playing in Colorado Springs within the United States Junior Olympic system. He is a honorable mention preseason All-American selection by several publications. Last year he record 28 double-doubles.

In addition to Scales, Southern returns Vincent "Jumbi" Jones a 5-9 guard who played both the point and shooting positions last year. A sparkplug off the bench, Jones averaged 14.1 points and 4.2 assist. "Jumbi understands the type of things we are attempting to do on the basketball floor," Jobe said. "He is my kind of player, he enjoys the game and does not have a conscious. He is the kind of player you want on your team when the game is on the line."

Temple transfer Johnny Conic is expected to see a lot of playing time. The 6-5 guard/forward from Saginaw, Mich.

"We will be young and inexperienced even though we return a good number of veterans players," Jobe said. "These guys will have to get used to playing in a hurry or we could take our lumps early."

GRAMBLING STATE (13-14, 5-9), prediction: Fourth

This may be the year G-men put it all together for fifth-year coach Aaron James, a former standing-out player for Grambling.

The Tiger return of four starters, including the nation's tenth leading scorer in 6-4 junior Kenny Sykes. Sykes, one of the most exciting players in the league, averaged 23.9 points last year.

James is looking for his first winning season since coming to Grambling.

"Experience will make the difference this year," James said. "When its close down the stretch, we'll win some of the kind of close games we lost last year."

In addition to Sykes, the G-men have 11 other lettermen returning. Grambling's other returning starters include 6-3 guard Donyea Jones (9.1 ppg, 2.1 apg), 6-1 senior guard Sean Jones (3.6 ppg, 3.8 apg), 6-6 junior forward Michael Tardy (9.2 ppg, 8.3 rpg) and 6-7 junior forward Gray (4.8 ppg, 2.7 rpg).

TEXAS SOUTHERN (12-15, 8-6) prediction: Fifth

The Tigers loss six of 12 lettermen from last year, but return one of the best guard combinations in the league.

Returning at one guard spot is two-time team scoring leader Theon Dotson (6-2, Sr.), who averaged 16.4 points per game. His backcourt mate will be SWAC Freshmen of the Year Kevin Granger. The 6-2 sophomore averaged 11.8 points last year.

The two will be joined by several newcomers in the lineup.

"We should be among the top four teams in the conference," said Texas Southern coach Robert Moreland, the dean of SWAC coaches. "Lack of experience will be the biggest difference between this year's team and last year's. We could be better before this year is out. It depends on how fast the front-court develops."

Anthony Jones, a 6-6 senior, averaged 4.9 points and 4.3 rebounds to earn a starting spot late in the season. Thomas Foster, a 6-6 junior, will also be counted on to help at the forward position. Joey Vidrine (6-9), a transfer from Pearl River Junior College, Arron Warren, (6-9), and Reginald Whitaker (6-8) will contend for the starting center spot.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY (13-15, 7-7), prediction: Sixth

This will be rebuilding year for the Delta Devils.

Mississippi Valley lost two players — Alphonso Ford and Mark Buford — to the NBA draft. Ford, an all-conference performer for four years, is the school's all-time leading scorer. Buford was a fast-developing center for the Devils.

Valley coach Lafayette Stribling is confident his team will be able to compete. "We want a balance attack," Stribling said. "We have a general mix of high school and junior college players. Scoring will not be our problem. Youth will be."

The lone starter back for Valley tis George Norris. The 6-6 junior averaged 6-7 points and 4.9 rebounds per contest.

"This team could be better," Stribling said. "We don't have no stars, but we'll play team ball. This will be a trying to win team."

ALCORN STATE (7-20, 5-9) prediction: Seventh

Times have gotten tough for the once-proud Braves program.

After suffering through a 7-20 season, Alcorn State fired fourth-year coach Lon-

nie Walker. Alcorn hired Southern Illinois assistant Same Weaver, who'll embark upon his first season as a collegiate head coach. The task facing Weaver is trying to rebuild the Braves program into the powerhouse status it enjoyed in the 1970's and 80's.

"We have made some big adjustments," Weaver said. "We have lost some personnel. We will have six freshmen. It will be an uphill climb, but the guys seem ready to work hard. We have an identity crisis. We are learning a new system." It will probably be a rough first year for the Braves.

Alcorn will rely on guard Marcus Walton until inside players Marcus Pittman and Fred Ashley become eligible after the holiday break.

PRAIRIE VIEW (1-26, 0-14) prediction: Eight

The Panthers have a struggling basketball that has won only one game the past two years. The 1993-94 campaign may not be any better.

Prairie View returns three starters from last year. The Panthers must improve on defense, which they gave up an average of 102 pointers per game. "Last year we were able to score; we were just lacking in defensive strength," coach Elwood Plummer said. "We lost four games by two points and two games by four points last year, which was an improvement over the 1991-1992 season. We improve as the season progressed."

—Derrick Mahone