

Success on court

from B1

Davis happens to be one of those 5.4 percent. In 1995 he was named an assistant athletic director at Wake Forest. The odds of him someday becoming an athletic director at a Division I schools are slim, he says.

"In a way, it's like saying 'you can play for us, but you can't run our programs,'" Davis says. "That is an issue that has to be dealt with."

"The thing that makes it more difficult is when you turn on the TV and see who's running up and down the court or the football field," Davis says.

"You know that the revenues are coming in as a result of having those type athletes on their teams. You look at it and you say 'this is not right'. That's what makes it glaring when you look at it."

Davis worked alongside the NCAA to help coordinate last weekend's NCAA East Regional Tournament at Lawrence Joel Coliseum. His experience there led him to delve even "deeper into the issue."

As an assistant athletic director, Davis is operating in uncharted waters. It is very similar to his pioneering days in the ACC when he became

one of the first African-Americans to wear a uniform of an ACC team. When he arrived at Wake Forest in 1967 there were only two other teams in the league with African-American players.

"At the time I came into the league, there were a lot of unwritten rules," Davis says. "Gil McGregor and I were like the second wave of blacks to come into the league. Maryland and North Carolina had one each on their teams. When we got to Wake there was one other black player, but it was almost like someone said 'you can play two of them at a time, but you certainly can't play

three'."

In the field of athletic administration, Davis says NCAA Division I programs are playing the same kind of game. Some have even hired African-American head coaches, but there still seems to be a stigma attached when it comes to running the programs.

"When you look at it, you really can't say they are being prejudiced," Davis says. "And I don't want to deal with it in that sense. I'll just say that they aren't working as hard as they need to work to find qualified African-Americans to fill the slots when they become open."

"So I guess the Division I



Charlie Davis was an All-American guard at Wake Forest in 1971.

found yet."

Like most other fields, Davis says the "good ole' boy" network is still in place in college athletics.

"When a job becomes available the people doing the hiring call around to their friends and people they know," he says. "That's how the process gets started. Then the people receiving the calls talk to the people that they know. That has to change. They have to do a better job of taking a look at people that are not in that circle."

"It's hard to believe that there aren't some qualified African-Americans out there to fill the slots. They just have to work harder to find them."

Gaines: Dean Smith deserved win No. 877

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Lawrence Joel Coliseum to see Smith win game No. 877.

"I think Dean deserves it," Gaines said. "He has run as clean a program as anybody. He's done a good job."

Gaines, who retired as the winningest active coach four years ago, said there are several things about Smith that he admires.

"As coaches come and go, I think Dean will always be remembered as a person who cared," Gaines said. "He had influence and it always seemed to be used in the right way."

Unlike Rupp, who didn't believe in integration, Smith was one of the first coaches in the south to embrace the idea of having African-American athletes in his program.

"I'm from the state of Kentucky and I know what he (Rupp) thought about black people," Gaines said. "Adolph and the state of Kentucky kept blacks 'in their place', there wasn't any intermingling."

Charlie Scott became one of the first African-Americans to play in the ACC when he accepted a scholarship to UNC in 1966.

"It's all been positive," Gaines said. "Sometimes that makes people critical of you, but in Dean's case he always used it to help people. I think the kids that he recruited over the years always understood that he was for them."

"That's what really makes a difference in coaching," Gaines added. "When the players feel that their coach is behind them on and off the court. And you can see the kind of influence that Dean has had on the lives of the people who have been in his program."

Over the years, Smith has been noted for a number of innovations that he has brought to the game. Gaines said many of them weren't just because of the desire to win games.

"You look at some of the things that he's done and you notice how much they mean to the players," Gaines said. "For instance, when a player gets a pass from another player and scores. Then he points to the teammate as if to say thank you. That's something that helps bring the team closer together."

In that respect, Gaines said he and Smith share many of the same ideas about coaching.

"You have to make it like a family," Gaines said. "I think Dean has done that. With some kids you have to treat them like you're their father. With others you have to act like you're a big brother. That helps keep the program operating smoothly."

"Sometimes the thing that gets programs in trouble is when there is no closeness and the coaches don't know what their players are doing away from the court. But in programs that are successful over the years the coach has an idea of the kind of character that his players have. He's able to step in when he needs to and keep them in line. Of course there are going to be times when you don't really know as much about a player's background as you think you know. But that's not going to happen very often."

Like himself, Gaines said one of the keys to Smith's success has been consistency and longevity.

"If you're organized and do things the same way over and over success is going to follow you," Gaines said. "Dean has

had good assistants over the years and he's also done things the same way. Here's a guy who has won 20 games every year for more than 20 years so it doesn't take long for his wins to add up."

Another thing that binds the two together is their competitiveness.

"Really, I don't think he cares that much about the record," Gaines said. "He just wants to win the championship every year. That's what drives him and that's your objective

when you begin the season every year. Then when you can get your kids to follow the directions of the leader things sort of fall in place."

That, according to Gaines, has been one of the reasons the Tarheels have rebounded from a disappointing start to earn a berth in the Sweet 16.

"At the first of the year people talked about him being too old and all that," Gaines said. "I still said the guys is prepared and his team would come around in time. It has."



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