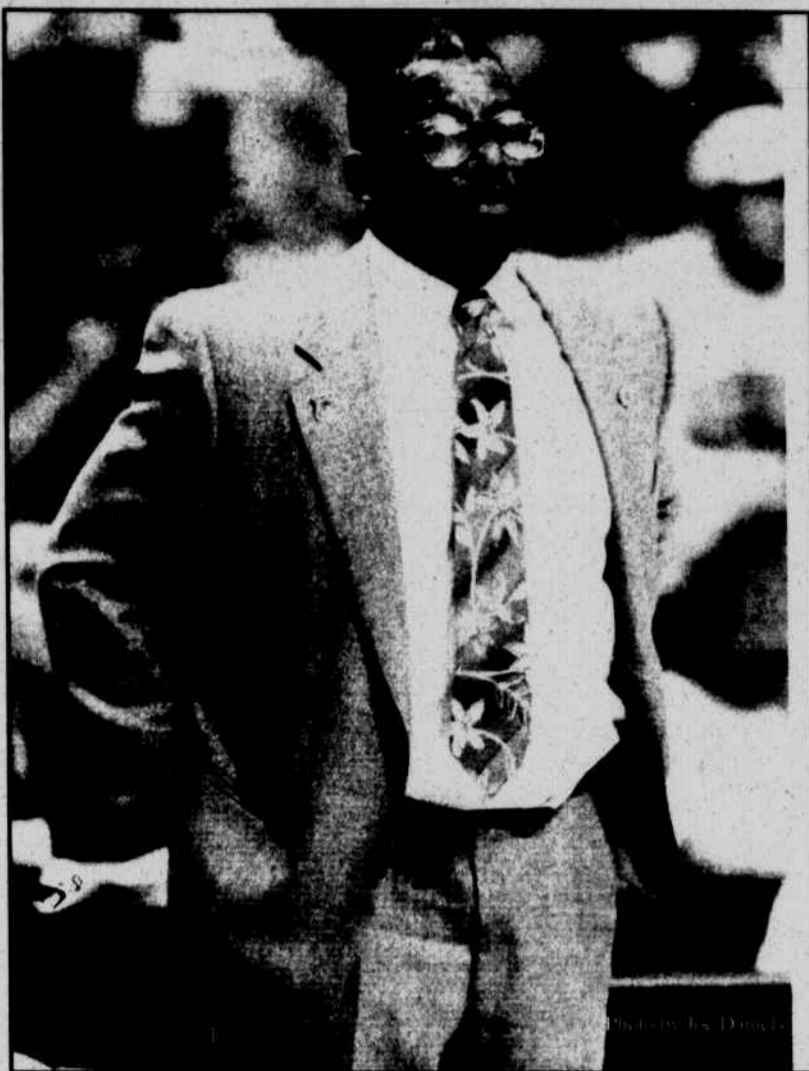


# Haskins, former Shaw standout, led LIU into NCAA's

By SAM DAVIS  
Chronicle Sports Editor

trinated both on and off the court, the expectation level was high for the 1996 season. Especially with the arrival of Charles Jones and highly recruited Richie Parker.



Ray Haskins, former Shaw standout and All-CIAA player, led LIU to a 21-9 record and an NCAA berth in his second season at the helm of the program.

The Blackbirds didn't disappoint, winning the Northeast Conference Tournament and posting their 21-8 record.

Haskins has built the program from the ground up and his players have been taught to respect every team it plays, but fear none.

Haskins talked about that aspect at the post-game press conference after his team's loss.

"We have a lot of respect for Villanova," Haskins said. "But they didn't have a lot of respect for us."

That caused a little friction in the game. After taking a 10-0 lead in the first half, the Wildcats

began to talk a little trash to the Blackbirds. But LIU fought back

me. I have a lot of friends here and I have a lot of fond memories of my time down here."

Haskins isn't the only LIU tie to Black College sports. Wendell Saunders, an assistant at LIU, played under Haskins in high school before going to Shaw. Then, when Haskins accepted the head job at Shaw, Saunders played under Haskins again.

After earning his degree at Shaw, Saunders worked at Bishop Lockland High in Brooklyn before joining Haskins when he took over at LIU.

"I've been with Coach Haskins a long time," Saunders said. "The thing that impressed me and a lot of the recruits is his drive and determination. He pushes everyone hard, but he's very fair."

Haskins drew a lot of attention to his program when he decided to allow Richie Parker join the LIU program. Parker was one of the nation's mostly highly recruited players two years ago before confessing to sexual battery. After being at the top of the recruiting class, he couldn't find a single Division I program that would accept him.

Parker eventually ended up attending junior college in Arizona, where he didn't play basketball last season after protest from feminist groups on campus. Haskins nevertheless offered Parker a scholarship for the '96-'97 season.

"The provost let him in and we decided to give him a chance," Saunders said. "I think everyone realized that Richie appreciated getting a second chance. The image that is projected isn't really accurate."

"Richie is a very shy person, he's not that vocal at all," Saunders said. "Now they know that he's a good person. Sometimes making a mistake can benefit a person. We're glad we have him at LIU and I think that everyone else feels the same way."

A lot of people expected Long Island University to just roll over when the Blackbirds took on Villanova in the first round of the NCAA East Regional last Thursday at Lawrence Joel Coliseum.

Haskins wasn't one of them. Haskins, a former standout in Black College basketball at Shaw University, fully expected his team to battle the Wildcats tooth and nail for the right to advance to the second round.

Although his team came out on the short end, Haskins and LIU acquitted themselves well and garnered the respect of the 14,360 fans in attendance. They also proved to the national television audience that their 21-8 record coming into the tournament was no fluke.

Those that know Haskins aren't surprised at the success he's had. Haskins was a standout back in his native Brooklyn, N.Y. He was a legend on the playgrounds and enjoyed an outstanding career at Shaw, where he was a two-time All-CIAA player and a small college All-American as a senior.

After obtaining his bachelor's degree at Shaw, Haskins returned to Brooklyn and high school coaching. He led the program at Alexander Hamilton High, producing a host of outstanding players. His teams also captured five Brooklyn titles, a state championship and a city title. Haskins left the high school ranks to accept the head coaching job at his alma mater prior to the 1986-87 season, taking over a program that had begun to falter. In one season at the helm he led the Bears to a 13-14 record.

He was lured back to New York the following season, accepting an assistant coaching job at Pratt University. He stayed there for two seasons before going back to Hamilton and then on to Long Island as an assistant. He was named the LIU coach prior to the 1995-96 season and led the Blackbirds to a 9-19 record.

After getting his team indoc-

## Allison leads Hanes Hosiery All-Stars to victory

The Hanes Hosiery 14 and under All-Stars, winners of the SWAC State Tournament in Salisbury earlier this month, traveled this past weekend to Fort Mill, S.C. where they defeated the Ayden, N.C. All-Stars 81-48. The Hosiery All-Stars were paced by an offensive barrage by Kenny Allison, who finished with 29 points, and the duo of Junior Searcy and Brandon Senter who each dropped

in 14. Derrick Moore and Sheldon Davis led the rebounding and every Hosiery player scored in the victory.

The Hosiery All-Stars along with the Charlotte Mecklenburg All-Stars, with whom they have split a pair of games in 2 different All-Star tournaments, will now travel back to Fort Mill, S.C. and both teams will represent the state of North Carolina in a 4-state Southeast-

ern Regional Tournament. The tournament will be played the weekend on March 21-22 at the Charlotte Hornets training facility and will feature All-Star teams from South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. The Regional Tournament is sponsored by the Charlotte Hornets and the NBA and is expressly for teams that are affiliated with the Charlotte Jr. Hornets Basketball Program in each of the four states



Hanes Hosiery 14 and under All-Stars

## 16 and Under Carolina Hornets tryouts

The 16 and under Central YMCA Carolina Hornets AAU Basketball team will conduct tryouts at the R.J. Reynolds High School Gymnasium on

Friday, March 21 beginning at 6:45 p.m. and on Saturday March 22nd beginning at 9:45 a.m. Birth date of the athlete must fall on or after September 1, 1980. A parent or guardian

must accompany and register the athlete. For more info, call head coach Walter Faye at 721-2100 ext. 2500 or Rana D. Holcomb at 724-2828.



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