



SPORTS WEEK

B SECTION

JANUARY 4, 2001

Bighouse Gaines Classic returns to honor legend

There ought not be an empty seat in the house when the C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines Classic tips off at Winston-Salem State's Gaines Center on Friday night.



Gaines

sponsorship and attendance to boot. However, in its latter years, which coincided with the final years of Gaines' coaching, the tournament struggled. Finally, it was let go because of the lack of patronage by both sponsors and basketball fans.

What a shame it was to see the tournament fall by the wayside without a fight. How could something like that happen to Gaines? How could college basketball's third all-time winningest coach have something like this happen in his own back yard? Unfortunately the same thing has happened to many institutions in the African-American community through the years.

Anyone who knows anything about college basketball knows that

Gaines is a legend and that his legacy is real in Winston-Salem. Although his 826 victories separate him from all his peers in coaching ranks, he also provided a positive role model for the thousands of students who came through the doors at W S S U during his 47 years of coaching and teaching at the school.

We ought to be thankful for the efforts of a local group which calls itself HOOP Inc. for providing a means for the Bighouse Gaines Classic to be revived. As for the community, rather than dwelling on what has happened in the past it is time to move this idea forward and do our part.

Gaines has come in as the honorary chairman of the tournament and several local supporters of the WSSU athletic program have gone out to solicit sponsors for the tournament. The only thing that seems to be missing now is fans.



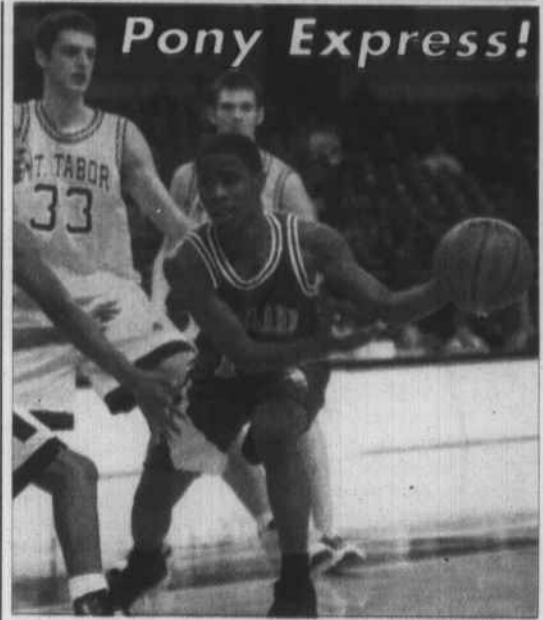
FROM THE PRESS BOX

SAM DAVIS

The group has secured a strong cast of teams to give the Rams a run for their money in the competition department. Teams with national reputations on the Division II level will join the Rams in the tournament: Ferris State (Grand Rapids, Mich.), Benedict College (Columbia, S.C.) and Southern Connecticut (New Haven, Conn.).

The tournament will tip off on Friday, Jan. 5, at 5 p.m. when Southern Connecticut and Benedict square off. Winston-Salem State will take on Ferris State in the 7 p.m. nightcap.

The losers of the first day's games will battle in the consolation game on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 3 p.m. The winners will play in the championship game at 5 p.m.



Pony Express!

Photo by Bruce Chapman

Ray Bristow lead the way as Parkland defeated Mount Tabor to take third place in the Frank Spencer Classic.

Battle's big game helps East sink Yellowjackets

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

The 59-53 victory that East Forsyth took over Carver in the consolation round of the Frank Spencer Classic could be just the medicine that the struggling Eagles were looking to find.

Turner Battle supplied the firepower early, scoring 15 points in the first half to keep the Eagles flying high until several of his teammates came to his rescue in the second half. That was enough to keep Carver at bay down the stretch and enable East to improve to 3-6 for the season.

Coach Roscoe Turner of East Forsyth said the key for his team is Battle, a 6-2 senior point guard who has already made an oral commitment to play at the University of Buffalo next season.



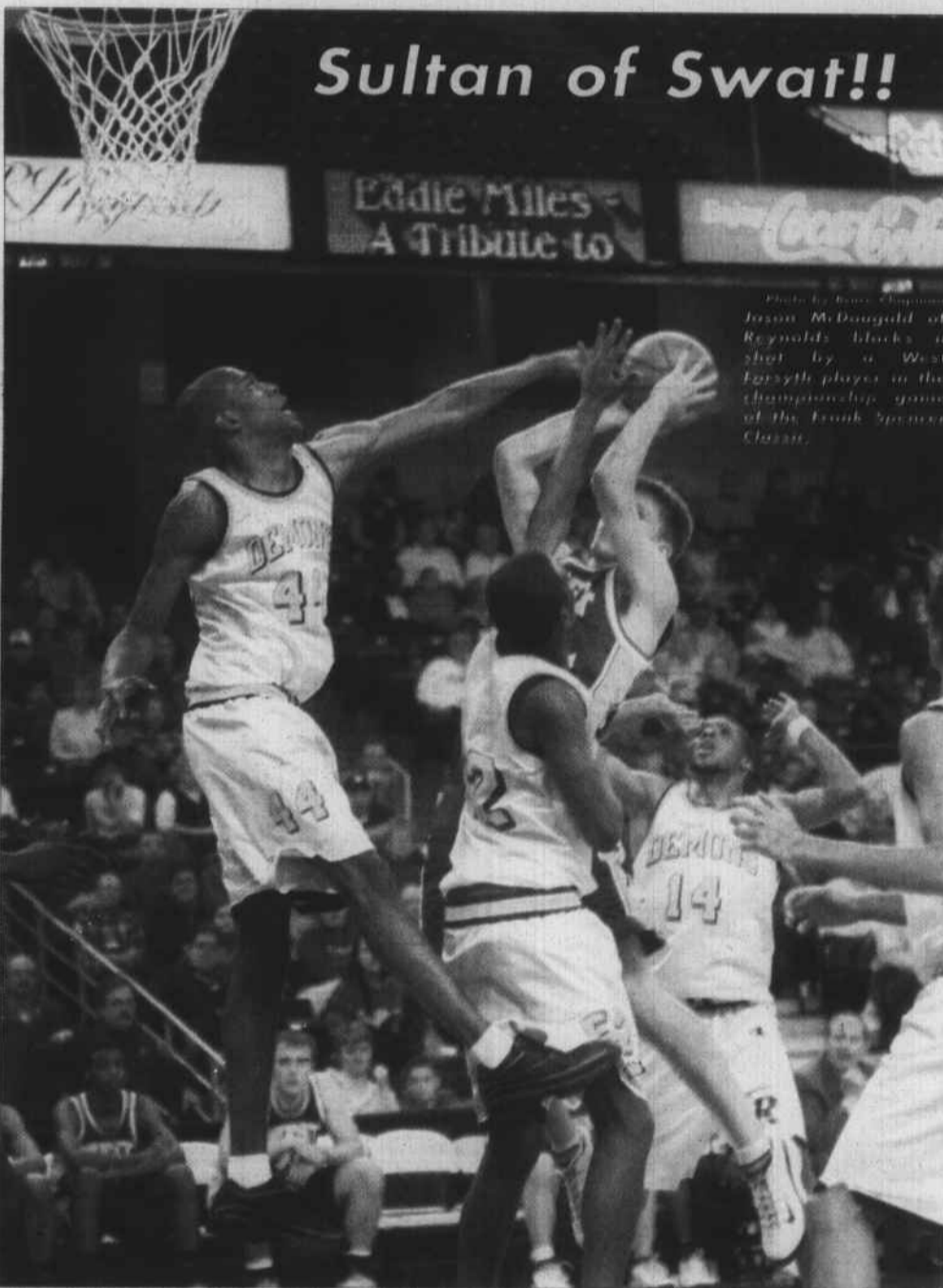
Photo by Bruce Chapman

Turner Battle of East Forsyth scored 15 of his 22 points in the first half of the Eagles' consolation victory over Carver.

See Eagles on B2

Baldwin leads Demons to 3rd Spencer title

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE



Sultan of Swat!!

Photo by Bruce Chapman
Jason McDougald of Reynolds blocks a shot by a West Forsyth player in the championship game of the Frank Spencer Classic.

Reynolds reached an expected conclusion in the championship game of the Frank Spencer Classic last Thursday night at Lawrence Joel Coliseum and became the first team in the 26-year history of the tournament to capture its third consecutive title.

The Demons put together one of their most balanced games of the season to hold off a gallant effort by West Forsyth to take a 71-55 victory. Reynolds built several working margins throughout the game, but each time West answered to remain in contention until the fourth quarter.

That's when Reynolds' combination of speed, size and athletic ability began to give the Demons a push that West couldn't answer. Reynolds was able to find holes in the Titans' man-to-man defense and West was forced to commit costly fouls. Reynolds then began a march to the free-throw line where it connected on 16 of 20 attempts to put the game away.

Coach Howard West of Reynolds said his team was able to shake off some of the tiredness it experienced in the first two games of the tournament and crank up its energy for the battle with the Titans. The championship game was the sixth game for Reynolds in eight days. The Demons had only two days of rest after participating in a round-robin three-day tournament in Florida.

"It's a rivalry game when we play West and you expect the kids to be ready to play," West said. "I thought West did a good job. They packed their defense down and didn't give us a lot."

"I thought the key for us was our defense in holding them to one shot," he added.

In particular, West pointed to the play of 6-9 center Jason McDougald, who blocked 10 shots in the championship game and forced many others to be altered.

"He just controlled the inside," West said. "He knows that (shot blocking) is where his value is to this team."

Mitchell Baldwin of Reynolds was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player after scoring a team-high 18 points in the championship game. Derrelle Mitchell and Jason McDougald joined him in double figures with 13 and 10, respectively.

Baldwin finished the tournament with 56 points, including 27 in the Demons' semifinal win over Parkland. Baldwin set the tone early against West with his high-flying drives to the basket in RJR's fast-break offense. He scored 24 of his points in the first half as the Demons took a 36-32 lead at intermission.

Baldwin got ample support from his teammates in the second half. Mitchell came through with most of his 13 points after intermission. Seven of them came in the final period, when Reynolds outscored the Titans 24-12 to break the game open. The Demons

See Demons on B3

ECU's Williams keeps proving critics wrong

Former North Forsyth defensive end earns bowl game MVP

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Proving his critics wrong has become a driving force behind Bernard Williams of East Carolina.

Williams, a 6-4, 240-pound defensive end for the Pirates, was named the Most Valuable Defensive Player in the Gallery Furni-

ture.com Bowl game last week. Williams earned the honor after making 2 1/2 sacks and five solo tackles in helping lead East Carolina to a 40-27 victory over Texas Tech in Houston's Astrodome.

Helping his team earn the bowl victory finally gave Williams a chance to do something he hadn't ever done in his football career - end any season with a victory and a championship trophy.

"God has blessed me to finally be able to say that I am a champion," Williams said during an interview this week after



Bernard Williams Jr.

returning home to Winston-Salem. "I never had it happen in Pop Warner, high school or even last year when I went to a bowl. This is something I asked for and I feel honored to (have) finally

See Williams on B3

Scott's scoring, rebounding provide spark, help Deacons stay unbeaten

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

A 10-0 record before Christmas break wasn't enough to prevent coach Dave Odom of Wake Forest from exhorting his team to take its game to another level. Despite wins over national powers Kansas and Temple in non-conference battles, and having risen as high as fourth in several national polls, Odom expressed to his Deacons the need to improve their inside game.

The Deacons took those comments to heart and worked in that direction in their first game back from their break. Wake's

players returned to campus and put together several outstanding days of practice in preparation for Navy and then the start of the ACC schedule against Virginia.

Antwan Scott kicked his game into another gear to help the Deacons' inside game on both ends of the court. Scott came off the bench to score 15 points, pulled down 12 rebounds and blocked five shots to help the Deacons take their 90-58 win over Navy. "Antwan Scott did some impressive things," Odom said. "It's good to know that if certain combinations are not

doing what you need that you can find someone to ignite you and get you going."

Scott wasn't the only Deacon who played well in a reserve role. Broderick Hicks came off the bench to knock down three of five three-pointers in the first half to jump-start Wake's offense. Hicks finished with 12 points, all coming in the first half. Craig Dawson, the Deacons' usual sixth man, scored 14 points to give Wake another spark.

Josh Howard led the way with 17 points. He had 14 in the sec-

See Scott on B2