



C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines presents the championship trophy to coach Rick Duckett and his Winston-Salem State basketball team.

Rams

teammates and I want to make sure that they're all involved on the offensive end." And although it's taken Deas some time to get used to Duckett's style of defense, Deas said that has been the key to the Rams 11-1 start. "We are able to wear people out with our defense," Deas said. "Everyone knows that if you don't play defense you're not going to play. It's that simple. We have a lot of talent on this team and everyone wants to get their time, so we don't mind playing defense."

Kamal Oliver, Rob Williams and Kevin Henry backed Deas with 13, 11 and 10 points, respectively. Deas was joined on the all-tournament team by teammates Marcus Best and Williams of WSSU. The other members of the team were David Grenade, who led all scorers with 22



The Winston-Salem State players celebrate winning the championship of the "Bighouse" Gaines Classic.

points, and Bobby Trimboli of Benedict defeated Ferris State 80-64 behind Eugene Jackson's 21 points.

Grant

with the local ministers' conference to form the No Bad Attitude (NBA) basketball league several years ago.

Grant, a native of Martinsville, Va., was the point guard on the Rams' team when it captured the 1977 CIAA Basketball Tournament in 1977. He played alongside the late Carlos Terry, a former CIAA Player of the Year who went on to become an NBA player with the Washington Bullets.

"Winston-Salem seems like home to me, having been there this long," he said. "I've developed a lot of relationships. There are a lot of people I know in the community and a lot know me. But I saw this as an opportunity to advance professionally. Sometimes you think the time is right and opportunity comes at the right time."

"My wife (Vickie) and I talked about it a lot and we figured this was probably the best time to make a move," Grant added. "Our daughter will be starting kindergarten next year

and we didn't want to wait until she was settled into a school to pack up and move. This move gives me a lot more financial stability and an opportunity to take my family. A few more years and I would have had to think a lot longer and harder about uprooting them."

Grant has been named the staff employee of the year for his department for the past two years, something that hadn't previously been accomplished.

Denise Scott-Johnson, Grant's supervisor, said Grant will be missed.

"Everything that he's done for us has been at an exceptional level," she said. "He's done whatever necessary to take a good program and make it better. In whatever he did, the commitment was there. He worked at a high level of professionalism and dedication."

"I really, truly know that he's going to impact Durham the way," Scott-Johnson added. "The thing that makes it easier is knowing that he's going to continue to have some involvement with us through our state organization and we hope to remain



Grant

close friends with him."

Grant became a full-time member of the WSSU faculty and coaching staff in 1981. He served as Gaines' top assistant until Gaines retired in 1993. He began working with the parks and recreation department in 1995. Since that time he has also served as color analyst for WSSU basketball on WSNC radio station.

"I'm going to finish up some of Winston-Salem State home games for this year," he said. "I probably won't do any more after this season. This will probably be my last CIAA Tournament (as a commentator)."

Press Box

arrived. And even a five-for-19 shooting performance against Wake Forest last week can't detract from that.

"She'll bounce back," said Silvia Hatchell, UNC's coach, after the game. "LaQuanda's a competitor and she knows the type things we need her to do to win. She's a heck of a player."

Few people said that when Barksdale arrived at UNC. Because of her tremendous athletic talent, Barksdale was limited in her development in high school. With the ability to post up inside, she roamed the paint for the Titans, starting at center in each of her four seasons on West Forsyth's team.

Although she possessed a smooth jump shot and the ability to handle the ball, she was rarely afforded that opportunity.

She saw limited action as a freshman and managed only about four points per game on a team that captured the NCAA title the previous year. However, she kept pushing herself to the limit and her commitment to improving won her a starting job as a sophomore. She's been on an upward swing ever since.

Even though other people might be surprised at the impact she's had on the Tarheels program, Barksdale said she expected to have the type success she's had at UNC.

"I definitely imagined it," she said. "I wanted to be a premier player in the ACC and I've worked hard to get where I am. Now I just want to continue to improve and help my team."

One of the areas that Hatchell and her staff asked for Barksdale to improve upon this season was in leadership. Although it was not true to her

character, Barksdale has cast herself in that role.

"I have to be a lot more vocal on the court this season," she said. "Being a senior and a player that a lot of my teammates look up to, I have to do more talking out there. I have to be totally different than the way I am off the court."

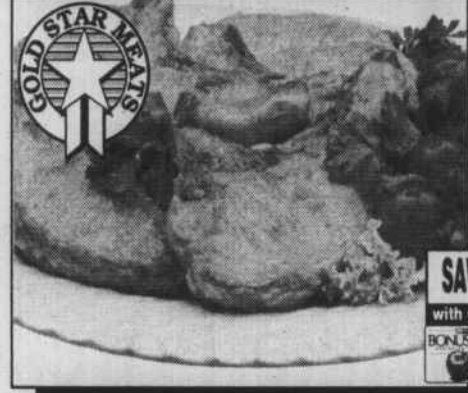
Last year Barksdale helped lead her team to the Women's NCAA Tournament and the Tarheels made a little noise before being eliminated. The Tarheels are struggling now, but Barksdale believes UNC still has a chance to make it back. That would go a long way in helping her accomplish some of her individual goals, including landing a lucrative WNBA contract.

"That's been one of my goals," she said. "The scouts are out looking now and I know I have to play to a certain level."

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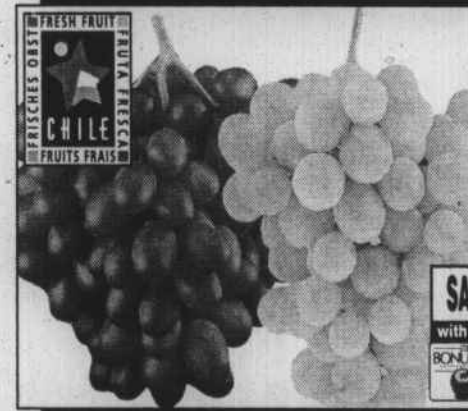
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