

SPORTS WEEK **B** SECTION

MARCH 7, 2002



Monique Kirkland gave Winston-Salem State a lift off the bench, but the Lady Rams came up short in their attempt to capture the CIAA Tournament for the first time.

Lady Rams a win short in bid for first CIAA tourney title

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH — Monique Kirkland supplied the fuel for a Winston-Salem State comeback, hitting three 3-pointers in the final 2:16, but it was too little, too late for the Lady Rams, who lost to Virginia State in the championship game of the CIAA Tournament last Saturday night in the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Raleigh.

The Lady Rams, who were picked to finish next to last in

the regular season, pulled off a major upset on Friday night to get into the championship game. WSSU defeated N.C. Central 65-53 to earn the berth in the title game. However, WSSU ran out of steam in its bid to capture its first-ever tournament championship. The Lady Rams had not been in the championship game since 1985.

WSSU started out strong and led for much of the first half behind the play of Kame-



Lori Shelby goes past a Virginia State defender in Winston-Salem State University's loss to the Trojans in the CIAA Tournament championship game.

See Lady Rams on B3

Davis, former Deacon, settles into his new job

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH — It's taken some getting used to but Charlie Davis is finally beginning to feel comfortable in his role as the athletic director at Bowie State.

Since taking over the program the Bulldogs have experienced a resurgence in their football and basketball programs. The men's team finished in second place in the CIAA's Eastern Division and established school records by winning 20 games and advancing to the semifinals of the CIAA Basketball Tournament.

Davis said those accomplishments are just a taste of things to come.

"Certainly the thing that we want to do is to be among the best in the conference in every sport that we field," Davis said. "To do that the administration must make a strong commitment to having a successful program."

The first step in that process was upgrading the men's basketball coach's position from part-time status to full-time. Davis did that in one of his first major moves after coming aboard the program.

Since then he's tried to settle into his role at Bowie. It was tough at first because Winston-Salem is the place that Davis had called home for so long. A native of New York City, Davis first came south in 1967 to attend Laurinburg Institute. The following year he was at Wake Forest, where he played basketball for the Demon Deacons from 1968-71.

At Wake, Davis established himself as one of the program's most revered players after being named an All-ACC first-team performer in each of his three years. He set a host of records at Wake Forest, six of which he still holds. In 1971 he became the first African-American player in the conference's history to be named the ACC Player of the Year.

Davis was drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers and finished his NBA career with the Portland

See Davis on B2



Russell English (left) and Devonaire Deas try to hold off Steve Bynes in the semifinal round of the CIAA Basketball Tournament. WSSU's inside game was no match for the Bears.

Winning regional would make up for Rams' loss



FROM THE PRESS BOX

SAM DAVIS

RALEIGH — Winston-Salem State's seniors have already come short of one of their goals for this season. But they hope to earn three victories this week to help them make amends. The Rams dropped an 80-65 decision to Shaw University in the semifinals of the CIAA Tournament on Friday night at the Entertainment & Sports Arena, which ended their hopes of capturing another CIAA Tournament title.

However, the Rams still have a chance of realizing their No. 1 goal for the season — a berth in the NCAA Division II Elite 8. The Rams have earned a berth in the South

Atlantic Regional, where they will be the fifth-seeded team. WSSU needs a victory over Wingate on Thursday night to advance to the semifinal round, where they would take on Shaw. A win there and on Saturday night would more than make up for the Rams' shortcomings in the CIAA Tournament.

That might be the only way the Rams can consider the 2001-2002 season another step up for the program. The Rams, who have captured 20 victories in each of the past four seasons, came into the season with high expectations.

The Rams, with eight seniors, five of whom played on WSSU's tournament championship teams in 1999 and 2000, had little trouble putting away Elizabeth City on Thurs-

See Press Box on B2

Talent still abundant in CIAA, says Jones, former NBA star

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH — Times sure have changed since Sam Jones played in the CIAA Basketball Tournament. Jones, who played at North Carolina College (now N.C. Central), went on to stardom in the NBA with the Boston Celtics.

But it was at NCCU where he honed his skills to make it to the NBA. As an Eagle, Jones helped the school to its finest days in basketball. Jones also developed his patented bank shot that helped him become a fixture in the Celtics' lineup as the team captured NBA titles and helped Jones earn a spot in the NBA Hall of Fame.

Jones was one of many CIAA graduates who attended this year's tournament. While in Raleigh, Jones was asked by Phil Spence (NCCU's basketball coach) to give the Eagles a pep talk before their battle against Shaw University on Friday night.



Photos courtesy of www.hoopball.com
Sam Jones played his college basketball at NCCU and went on to become a Hall of Fame inductee after an illustrious career with the Celtics.

See Jones on B2

Parkland, Carver head east; Reynolds, West, East west

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Surprising Parkland is one of five teams from Forsyth County that went into this week still alive in the race for state high school basketball championships. The Mustangs, with two victories in the sectionals last week, advanced to the Class 3-A East Regional in Greenville, where they will take on Kinston on Thursday night.

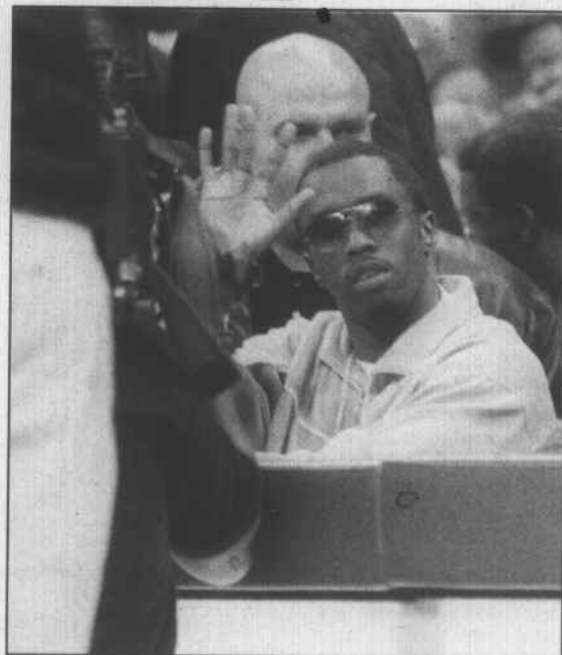
The Carver girls, who captured a state championship in the 3-A ranks last season, headed to Greenville on Wednesday for a battle

against Pikeville Aycock at Rose High School.

The remaining Forsyth County teams are headed west to pursue state titles. Reynolds, the two-time defending 4-A champion, and West Forsyth will travel to Hickory on Friday for semifinal games.

Reynolds (23-5) will take on Charlotte Vance (22-6) in Friday night's first semifinal game at Lenoir-Rhyne. In the nightcap, West Forsyth (25-3), led by Chris Paul, who is among the state's leading scorers, will battle Charlotte Independence (22-8).

See Playoffs on B2



Sean "P Diddy" Combs waves to well-wishers at the CIAA Basketball Tournament in Raleigh last weekend.

St. Aug's will field speedy grid squad

CIAA Notebook

COMPILED BY SAM DAVIS

Although the action on the basketball court was the main attraction for fans at the CIAA Basketball Tournament, there was a lot of buzz in the air about the 2002 football season.

Much of that had to do with the fact that all 12 CIAA teams will field football teams this fall.

When the St. Augustine's football team hits the field for its 10-game schedule next fall, there's one thing you can be assured of: The Falcons will

probably be the CIAA's fastest team. The Falcons have claimed the CIAA indoor and outdoor track championships for more than a decade now and some of the athletes whom coach George Williams recruited to run for St. Augustine's will appear on the football field.

"We've got a whole lot of guys who run 4.2's and 4.3's in the 40," said Williams, whose team has captured consecutive NCAA track titles. "Now our head football coach

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