

D'Alessio has put charge into Bowie State's program

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH - Bowie State's men's basketball team enjoyed a lot of firsts during the 2001-2002 season, but came short on the one that it wanted most. The Bulldogs advanced to the CIAA's semifinal round after recording the first 20-game season in school history, but fell short of a berth in the championship game.

Coach Luke D'Alessio was named the CIAA's coach of the year after his team posted a 9-1 record in the CIAA's Eastern Division and finished the regular season at 19-7.

Bowie added to that total when it got past Fayetteville State in the quarterfinal round of

the CIAA Tournament.

The Bulldogs accomplished all of their firsts in only three seasons under D'Alessio.

D'Alessio's team won only seven games in his first season, but the Bulldogs stepped up considerably in his second season and started the season by winning their first six games and nine of their first 10. On the season, the Bulldogs went 19-9 to give Bowie its first winning season in 30 seasons. Not only that, the Bulldogs finished 10-6 in the CIAA, which was the first time the Bulldogs had ever posted a winning mark within the conference.

"The success we had at the end of my first season carried over to last year," D'Alessio said.

Bowie took a step further in the tournament, capturing a victory over Livingstone in the opening round of the tournament before being defeated by eventual tournament champion Johnson C. Smith. The Bulldogs began the 2001-2002 season with great promise and set the tone early by capturing a victory over Winston-Salem State in the second game of the season.

The second-place finish in the Eastern Division gave Bowie a bye in the opening round of this year's tournament. The Bulldogs started strong against Fayetteville State in the quarterfinals but got tight after rolling out to a 21-point lead and had to hold off a late Bronco rally to win and earn a berth against J.C. Smith in the semi-

finals. Johnson C. Smith's defense stifled the Bulldogs in the semifinal battle and Bowie never challenged. The Bulldogs trailed 43-33 at halftime and never got closer than 8 in the second half before dropping an 84-67 loss with 18,053 fans in attendance at the Entertainment & Sports Arena.

"I really don't know what went wrong but we just didn't put together a good game," D'Alessio said. "It's one thing to win during the regular season but I think our lack of experience in the tournament really hurt us. We never got acclimated to this arena, the crowd and the aura of this tournament."

The Bulldogs, featuring many former standouts from the

city of Baltimore, where D'Alessio spent many seasons as the head coach in the junior college ranks at Catonsville Community College, didn't live up to their billing as the top scoring team in the CIAA.

"It was one of our worst performances of the season," D'Alessio said. "But I have to give Johnson C. Smith a lot of credit for that. Their defense was really good. They came out and challenged us on our perimeter shooting."

Tim Washington a 6-8, 240-pound transfer from American University, scored 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds, but got little help from the rest of the Bowie starters. Omarr Smith came off the bench to score 17 points, but that wasn't enough to

help the Bulldogs overcome the defending champions.

Probably the biggest disappointment was the lack of scoring from Jamal Shivers, an All-CIAA player who had only 8 points on 2-for-14 shooting from the field. Stephen Moss-Kelly, a 6-6 forward from Oakland, Calif., had only 4 points.

Still, D'Alessio said the future is bright for the Bowie program.

"We feel good about our program and where we're heading," D'Alessio said. "This is basically a junior team and we'll have just about everyone coming back next season. We have a 6-8 transfer from Rutgers coming in and with what we have coming back I think we're only going to get better."

Hanes Hosiery All-Stars take 63-41 victory over Sprague Street

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Hanes Hosiery's 14-and-under All-Stars went on a 20-4 run in the fourth quarter and rolled to a 63-41 victory over the Sprague Street All-Stars last week in a City/County Recreation Center battle.



Hairston



Galloway

The Hosiery trailed for most of the first half against a scrappy Sprague Street team. But Hanes Hosiery woke up in the second half behind the play of Marcus Harris, who scored 15 points; Tay Springs, who scored 14; and Bernard Lyons and Jonathan Williams, who scored 11 points each.

Hanes Hosiery put on an offensive show during its fourth-quarter spurt, running set plays, and clamped down on defense with a 2-1-2 full-court trap. DeAron Smith, Trey Bailey, Myron Hairston, Sherrod Brannon and Rico Dodd led the defensive effort. Hanes Hosiery, which was coached by Art Blevins, John Harris, Keith James and Hurk Shaw, advanced to the State 14-and-under Tournament in Sanford.

Galloway leads Hanes Hosiery 16-and-under All-Stars to 59-48 victory over 14th Street

Eugene Galloway set the tone early with his physical presence and Hanes Hosiery jumped out to an early lead and never looked back in

capturing a 59-48 win over 14th Street.

Galloway finished the game with 20 points, 14 rebounds and seven blocked shots to lead his team to victory. Hanes Hosiery, which also got 14 points and nine rebounds from Valario Bethea, will advance to play in the SWAC State Tournament on March 9.

Matt Fagan, Ronnie Gist, Whykette Morrison and Devaun Harrison also played well for Hanes Hosiery, which was coached by Art Blevins, Ann Chance, Mark Worthy and John Harris.

Lakers hold off Pistons 52-51 in Hanes Hosiery 13-15 division

Trey Bailey scored 20 points and Wilbert Johnson scored 15 as the Lakers handed the Pistons their first loss in Hanes Hosiery Youth Basketball. Steven Gamble pitched in with 9, Denis Cody scored 6 and Debo Smith added 2.

Whykette Morrison led the Pistons with 15 points. Johnathan Williams had 11 points, Bernard Lyons scored 9, James Squire added 8, B.J. Dubose tallied 6, and Patrick Blackwell chipped in with 2.

Sonics 47, Hornets 43

Jay Switzer scored a game-high 24 points and Devin Harrison added 9 to help the Sonics take a victory. Cedric Braddy backed them with 8, Tay Springs scored 3 and Red Crosby added 2.

Ronnie Gist led the way for the Hornets with 15. DeAron Smith scored 11, James Davis had 6, and Adrian Mitchell and Cortez McIntyre scored 3 points each.

Raptors 36, 76ers 29

at the club team level for this year while St. Augustine's will immediately jump into the fray in CIAA competition.

Shaw could be called "Second-chance" University

With the number of players on his team who originally attended school elsewhere, it is understandable why coach Joel Hopkins' Shaw team might be considered a second-chance squad. Three of the Bears' top three players came to Raleigh after first playing at Division I schools and finding themselves in hot water with their former coaches.

J.R. Raymond might be the most notable of the three. Raymond played for two seasons at Oklahoma and started until he got himself in trouble with coach Kelvin Sampson. A for-



The Hanes Hosiery 14-year-old All Stars

Donnez Johnson scored 15 points and was too much for the 76ers to handle in a Raptor victory. David Williams backed Johnson with 6 points, and Wayne Crowell and Dwayne Penn chipped in with 5 points each. Fred McClure added 4 points.

Fred Turner scored 14 points and Tristan Martin added 8 points to pace the 76ers, who fought hard to make it a tight game. Tyrell Russell had 3 points and Tremaine Clement and Jerry Summers added 2 points.

Spurs 42, Jazz 38

The Spurs, led by Devaun Harrison's 25 points, fought back from a 10-point deficit to defeat the Jazz. Marcus Harris, the Spurs' floor leader, scored 9 points to support Harrison. Myron Hairston scored 6 points and Alphonso Smith added 2 points and nine rebounds to back them.

from the University of West Virginia. He hails from the same hometown as Ronald Murray, the CIAA's Player of the Year, who was discovered by Hopkins playing on the blacktops in Philadelphia.

Pupil wins duel against former teacher

When Shaw squared off against Fayetteville State in the semifinal round last Friday night, the game matched Mike Bernard against Joel Hopkins, one of his former players, in a coaching duel.

Bernard was the head coach at N.C. Central during Hopkins' playing days as an Eagle. In 1989 Hopkins was on the N.C. Central team that lost in the semifinals of the CIAA Tournament but went on to capture the NCAA Division

Eric Tate led the Jazz with 15 points and Rico Dodd scored 10 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Craig Amos had 8 points, Chris Grash had 3 and Matt Edwards rounded out the scoring with 2 points.

Yellowjackets hold off Cavaliers 13-11 in Hanes Hosiery 7-12 division

Vonderick Davis scored 7 points to pace the Yellowjackets to a victory over the Cavaliers in a tight battle. Davis got help from William Miller, Anthony Davis and Kevin Clark, who scored 2 points each.

Perry Rowdy scored 8 points to lead the Cavaliers. Harrison Davis added 3, while the rest of the team played solid defense.

Blue Devils 19, Tarheels 16

Malcolm Springs scored 13 points to pace the Blue Devils to victory. Wes Harri-

son added 3 points, Antoine Simmons scored 2 and Jamie Dodd chipped in with 1 point.

Kendall Wicks led the way for the Tarheels with 8 points. Marquise Pullen scored 5, and Leon Smith added 3.

Seminoles 24, Terps 20

Alphonso Green scored 14 points and the Seminoles toppled the top team in the division. Casey Felder backed Green with 8 points, Johnathan Noah and Gerald McCloud scored 1 each.

Tristan Martin scored all of his team's 20 points for the Terps, who got solid defensive play from the remainder of their team.

Wolfpack 37, Deacons 12

Tyrone Dunlap scored 13 points and Demario Blockson and Trashawn Blockson scored 9 each to lift the Wolfpack to an easy victory. James McKeever added 6 points in the win.

Chandler Cheeks scored 9 points to lead the Deacons and Steven Brown added 3.

Lakers 17-and-under to host tryouts at Winston Lake Family YMCA

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Tryouts will be held for the Winston Lake Lakers 17-and-under AAU basketball team on

Sunday, March 10, from 3-5 p.m. The tryouts will be held at the Winston Lake Family YMCA on Waterworks Road.

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is out there signing guys to help fill out the roster."

In only a matter of days, the Falcons will begin preparing for the upcoming season when spring football drills get under way.

"We know it's going to take time to build a program," said Williams, who also doubles as the school's athletic director. "But we feel very confident that in time we will be able to compete with the other top schools in the conference."

St. Augustine's is one of three CIAA teams that will add football back to their list of intercollegiate sports. Shaw and St. Paul's also will launch their programs. However, both Shaw and St. Paul's will play

II national championship.

Getting a good look at the merchandise

Nearly every NBA team had a scout present during the tournament to watch Ronald Murray perform. Murray, a 6-4 guard, who led the CIAA in scoring with a 25.8 scoring average, is rumored to be one of the top guards coming out for the upcoming NBA draft.

At the start of the season, most NBA analysts considered Murray a draft possibility. However, his stock has continued to rise throughout the season and now there is speculation that Murray could become a lottery pick. It doesn't hurt that Joel Hopkins, Murray's coach, was the man behind the early development of Tracy McGrady, who has turned into

one of the NBA's rising stars.

Sean "P Diddy" Combs one of the faces in the crowd

Saturday's CIAA Basketball Tournament championship games drew some 20,000 fans to the Entertainment & Sports Arena, but none drew more attention than entertainer Sean "P Diddy" Combs. Combs, who was in town to perform at a CIAA event sponsored by former Winston-Salem State and NFL wide receiver Yancey Thigpen, made a grand entrance midway through the game and sat at the press table along a sideline of the court.

Combs signed autographs for fans close by while his entourage prevented fans from getting too close to the controversial performer.