

SPORTS

Vaughan wins 500th game

by Gary D. Shearod

After 33 years of coaching, Elizabeth City State University Head Basketball Coach Robert L. Vaughan established himself as one of the nation's most successful coaches by winning his 500th game in a showdown victory over CIAA rival Norfolk State University, 100-95.

"It feels good to reach another milestone," said Vaughan, who became the fourth winningest active coach in the history of NCAA Division II basketball. Vaughan also has the rare distinction of winning all 500 games while coaching at one university.

Vaughan entered this season with a 485-328 overall record, which gave him a winning percentage. His record now stands at 502-340. He received letters welcoming him to the '500 Club' from fans, former players, and active coaches, including Dean Smith (University of North Carolina), John Thompson (Georgetown University) and Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines (Winston Salem State University), against whom he acquired victory 502 in the CIAA Tournament in Richmond, VA.

In response to questions regarding his return as men's coach, he said that win number 500 is a milestone, but not the end of the road: "I am going to stay with these guys. The potential for this club is outstanding. Kenny Hilton and Lydell Lucas will be eligible and I have recruited a couple of kids for next year."

Vaughan's 499th career win came against his alma mater, Virginia State University and win number 500 was against his roommate while attending VSU, Charles Christian. "Coach Christian and I are very close professional friends, except when the game starts," Vaughan said.

Even though NSU played without their leading scorers, Ralph Tally and Barry Mitchell, the victory did not come easily for the ECSU coach.

However, the Vikings led most of the game from the opening tip-off, before the Spartans came back and took the lead in the closing minutes of the contest.

During the final seconds of regulation, Freshman forward Ernie Griffin rebounded Greg Spruill's missed shot and sank an eight-foot jump shot with two

seconds left to play and sent the game into overtime.

In the overtime period, Jimmy Walker hit two free throws for the Spartans to give them their only lead, 87-86, with 3:35 remaining and ECSU never let up in the final stages of the period.

Spruill led the Viking scoring attack with 28 points. His missed shot at the end of regulation was his only miss during the game. Spruill was 8/9 from the field, including two three-point shots. He also hit 10/13 at the free throw line. Other players who scored in double figures were leading scorer Tim McDaniels, 14 points; Ervin Harris along with reserve John Speller, added 13 points each. Griffin had 11 points. Walker led the Spartans with 29 points.

Vaughan said that even though the Spartans played without Tally and Mitchell, there was still a good chance for an upset victory. "I don't make excuses when we win or lose because the ball bounces both ways."



Coach Bobby Vaughan advises his players.

photo by Curtis Mills

Soaring with the dunk

Basketball's favorite shot returns

by Minor Wiggins

Many people say that the dunk is the most spectacular shot in basketball, although many people warn it is dangerous and it only makes a player want to act as a "show-boat."

The dunk was outlawed in 1967 and people had to flock to the playgrounds to see this piece of artistry take place. Now that the dunk is back in basketball games, everyone is leaping towards the rim and slamming down a shot. Players today are faster, stronger, and great jumpers. Most teams have dunkers down to the last man on the bench.

Atlanta Hawk's "Spud" Webb, 5'7", recently won the National Basketball Association Slam Dunk Competition, held during the pre-game festivities at the annual All-Star game. The University of Louisville Cardinals refer to themselves as the "Doctors of Dunk," whereas the University of Houston Cougars have gone as far to fraternize themselves as Phi Slamma Jamma.

Debate about the dunk is nothing new. For some mysterious reason, college officials prohibit dunking during pre-game warm-ups. Many critics of dunking seemed content until Darryl Dawkins, then playing with the Philadelphia 76ers, smashed two backboards. But basketball experts came up with the idea of the break-away rims.

Most people see the dunk as the "icing on the cake" when winning or as an act of humiliating your opponent to gain respect on the court. Injuries have been sustained due to the dunk, but its popularity has not been affected. Most injuries occur from trying to block dunks, ranging from bumps on the head after hitting the rim to being "undercut" while attempting to land on the court - feet first.

During a game, the dunk could have a tremendous affect on the outcome. The dunk can break a team's spirit as well as a rim. For example, in many games when a player had an opportunity for a simple lay-up and decided to dunk, he missed, and the

momentum swung to the other team and in effect his team lost. On the other hand, a dunk could "fire-up" a team and a crowd and turn the momentum towards your favor. When you dunk the ball, you are telling your man you have no fear in taking him one-on-one. In return, the crowd helps him to remember you were dunked on.

Counting the various types of dunks is like adding up all the moves of Michael "Air" Jordan. Once you learn one, you can expect another one coming. However, some dunks have been classified with names such as the "Punk Dunk" - you dunk on your opponent backwards and point at him afterwards. There is also a Funk Dunk, Cuff Dunk, Rock the Baby, the 360 and the Windmill.

There are a few flat-out dissenters on the dunk. Many coaches are from the old school and think the dunk is for show. Nevertheless, the dunk is a shot that is hard to stop. Tipping in is for "shorties" or non-players, whereas jamming is for those who "fly" in the sky.

"Ice" never quits under pressure

by Minor Wiggins

Two things are usually cited with pride by the people of Halifax, N.C. One is the tradition of having a championship banner placed on the wall in the Mighty Trojan coliseum. The other is that it is the high school where Timothy "Ice" McDaniels, who had been a crowd favorite, earned the reputation as a "franchise maker."

I cannot tell you if he is better now, but I will just sum it up: "Ice is nice." He was great then and he is great now. His personality is certainly the same, and he is very quiet on the court. You would not refer to him as a "gung-ho" leader. But just ask the players. They will tell you they believe in him. They know if they need a shot to win a game, he will get it; it will be in close and it will not be a crazy shot.

Playing ball in the CIAA or for Elizabeth City State University has not been easy for Ice; nor has being ranked number 10 in the nation in scoring in Division II basketball. However, his appetite for success has not been curbed. If he ever achieves the ultimate recognition as the

CIAA's most valuable player, it will be simply because he has earned it.

Even though his basic game is the same, he is smarter now. He has more to prove in the CIAA because there are more good players than there were in high school. He handles the ball exceptionally well for a big man (in the 6'-5" to 6'-7" range) and he is a good shooter. He shoots over big and little men with ease - like a machine. When he is going well he cannot be stopped.

He is known around the league as Ice and most people agree it is a good nickname for a player who never seems to quiver under sometimes incredible pressure. Double-teamed, triple-teamed - it never seems to bother McDaniels. When surrounded, he has the knack of finding his open teammates.

Many say the addition of the three-pointer will make "Ice" even deadlier because of his great range. ECSU's passing offense should also help make him deadlier. "The three-pointer can

win games for you," says McDaniels. "It's a shot from the top of the key and I know I can hit from there."

Playing basketball in the park was not all that "Ice" did when he was growing up in the town of Enfield, N.C. He and his best friend Kenny Hilton helped younger players improve their game. A rival coach said, "Ice is not what you call fast, but he makes the most of his ability - and he's smart. He knows how to use his body, how to pick his holes, when to fake and when not to fake. He glides, turns and picks his way. He moves well without the ball and knows how to get himself open."

McDaniels plays a confusing kind of defense. He lays off players and still bothers their shots. He ranks near the top in blocked shots.

"People have to recognize me if I keep playing like I am," McDaniels says. "I've played well, but I'm not really concerned about the press I get. It will come when you win. That's our goal - to win."

Lady Vikings open with 3 wins

by Deborah Carr

Spring is on the horizon, and so is the Lady Vikings softball season. The Lady Vikings opened their season March 15, 1986 at home against St. Paul's. They split a double-header with the Lady Tigers. The first game was won with a 7-6 victory, but the second game ended in defeat for the Lady Vikings, 11-2.

The Lady V's, as they call themselves, were at it again the next day with a double-header sweep over the visiting Lady Bulldogs of Bowie State. Trailing 9-0 after the first inning, the Lady V's made a devastating rally resulting in a 14-9 win over their opponents. The second match with the Bulldogs also spelled victory for the Lady Vikings (7-6).

Facing a tough season, the Lady V's spend hours practicing and improving their skills in hopes of winning the CIAA title. According to starting pitcher Pamela Brown, the team has the

potential to win it all. "We feel confident and we have strong players. Even though fast pitch is new to us and even though we don't have a very strong pitching staff, we do have enough of a defense to take up the slack," Brown said.

Mary James, a returning player, had this to say, "The Lady V's just have to continue to make a team effort. Together we can go all the way."

The coaching staff consists of head coach James Hoggard and assistant coaches William Brockberry and Steve Lawrence. The other members of the team are Connie Berry, Eliza Stokes, Angela Bobbitt, Walene Harry, Juana Ray, Caralyn Price, Angie Brown, Bettina Gwynn, Yolanda Goodman, Catina Williams, Myra Shivers, Tamara Barr, Pamela Hill, Crystal Gooding, Rhonda Yarborough, Linda Foster, and statistician, Adrienne Jones.

Tuesday by Chancellor Jimmy Jenkins. Vaughan, who has amassed a record of 502 wins during his years with the institution, was dismissed from his position as athletic director last September. That position has yet to be filled.

Jenkins, citing "major administrative and philosophical differences" between himself and the veteran coach as reasons for the dismissals, stated that it was "clear...that our athletic program would have to undergo changes if the university is to turn the program around." His prepared statement told of Jenkins' decision to "allow Mr. Vaughan the opportunity to achieve his objective of 500 wins." Jenkins said he offered Vaughan the option to resign during a conference he called after the official win record exceeded the 500 mark. Vaughan's refusal to resign resulted in Jenkins' exercising his "next alternative of relieving Mr. Vaughan of his duties as head basketball coach."

As a professor with full tenure, Vaughan tentatively plans to remain on the ECSU faculty in the Health and Physical Education Department.

Vaughan admitted to differences of opinions between himself and the Chancellor, saying he has had to recover from many difficult situations during the past.

Vaughan was informed of the Chancellor's decision by a letter hand delivered to him on the ECSU campus Tuesday morning. Not surprised by the action, Vaughan said he was disappointed as he was looking forward to coaching next year.

Vaughan closes out his basketball coaching career at the university in fourth place on the all-time career wins list for the NCAA Division II coaches. He began coaching at ECSU in 1949, and the team is now housed in Vaughan Center, named after the coach in 1980. Vaughan reached his goal of 500 wins with the defeat of Norfolk State. At a banquet prior to the CIAA tournament in Richmond, Va., Vaughan was honored by the conference for reaching that goal.

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