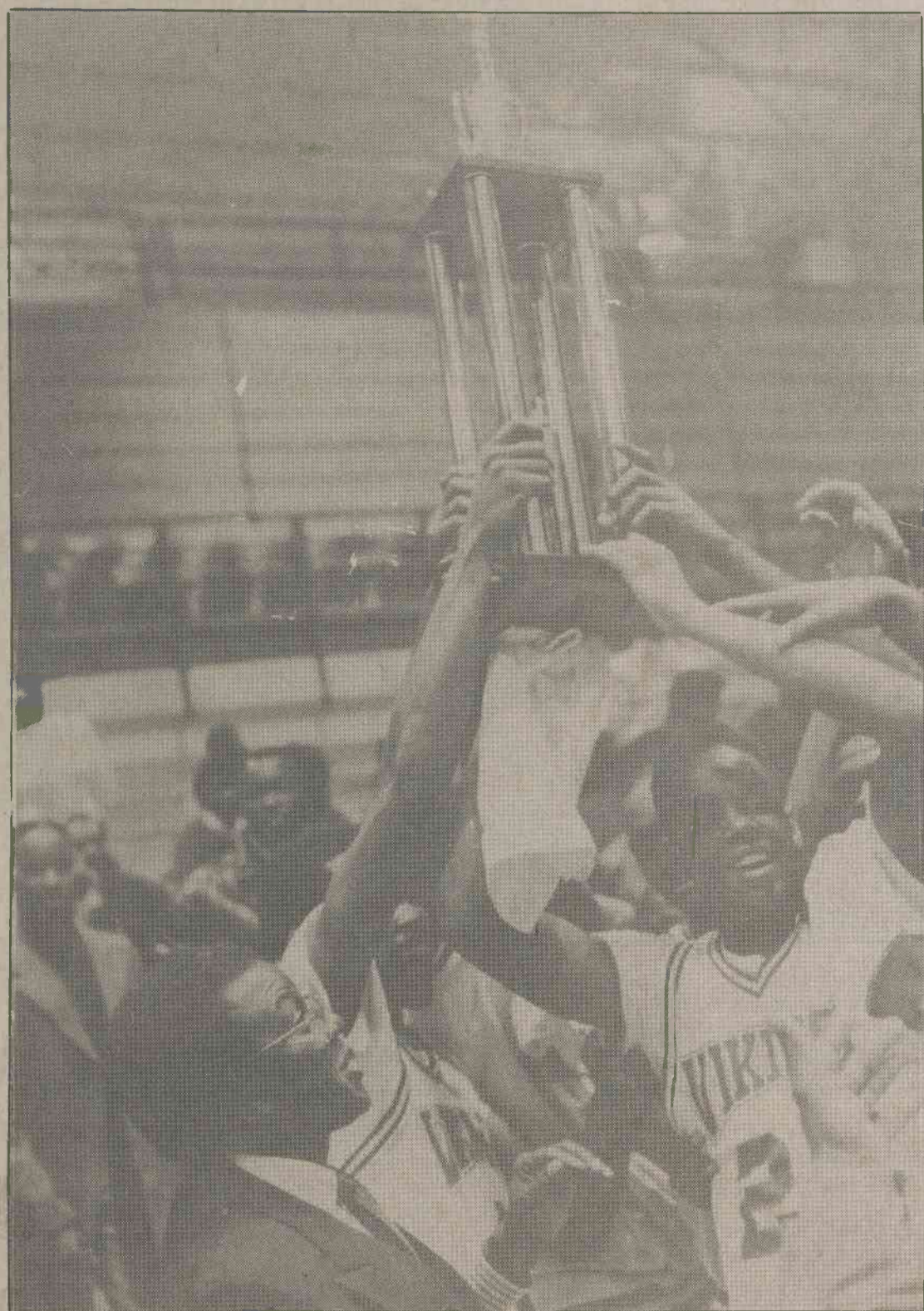


SPORTS



Sophomore forward Tysom Ransom raises the first place trophy high in the air in jubilation after receiving it from ECSU Chancellor Jimmy Jenkins.

Photo by Richard McIntire

ECSU pounds Hampton 98-77

Vikings capture Tip-Off

By Andre Smith
Sports and
Information Director

The Elizabeth City State University men's basketball team opened their 1988-89 home stand in impressive style in route to winning the Second Annual ECSU Tip-Off Basketball Tournament held in the Vaughan Center December 2-3.

The Pirates of Hampton University got things started by defeating the Captains of Christopher Newport College in the first game. Then the excitement increased as the Vikings took to the court for their game against the Broncos of Fayetteville State University.

From the opening tip-off fans knew they were going to be in for a treat.

And the team did just that, treating the nearly 2,000 faithful to an offensive clinic. When the final horn sounded, the scoreboard showed ECSU 134, Fayetteville State 116. Setting up a classic showdown between the Vikings and the Pirates on Saturday Night.

In the consolation game between Fayetteville State and Christopher Newport, it was close for most of the contest. But the Broncos pulled it out for the win and third place. Then it was time for the show-down.

Hampton came into the game with a 5-0 record, and the momentum to try and take the first place trophy back up Highway 17 when they left, but the Vikings had other ideas.

The first half of the game was as close as everyone had expected. But the Vikings running a motion offense kept the Pirates on an uneven keel maintaining a 47-43 lead at the half. The second half was to be

somewhat of a similar tale.

ECSU jumped out in the second half and added to their lead. Several times the amount grew to a 20 point advantage for the Vikings. The fans who were there were looking for another 100 point game.

After all, the games averaged over 100 points each. But it was not to be; the Vikings held on for a 98 to 77 win to keep the first place trophy in Elizabeth City.

The Vikings were led in the scoring department by senior Ernie Griffin with 22 points. Other players in double figures were Tysom Ransom, Reginald Joe and Darryl Riddick with 18, 15 and 15 points respectively.

Hampton University was led by Peltre Williams with 17 points and Keith Hunter with 14. Only two other Hampton players had double figures. With the win the Vikings record improved to 3-2 overall and 1-0 in the CIAA.



Lady Viking Center Erika Ruffin plays keep away with a Shaw University opponent in a game at Vaughan Center November 30.

Photo by Richard McIntire

Basketball Preview 1988-89

Viking Men: Mackey says it's 'back to basics' for 1988-89 team

By Wayne Corpew

Third year coach C. J. Mackey says his men's basketball team is getting "back to the basics" in 1988. "We will not do many new things, but we will do those things well," said Mackey. "It is called taking what you have, where you are, and doing the best you can without excuses."

Last year's Vikings were 10-17 but lost several close ball games. Seven of those losses were by five points or less, and according to Mackey, can be attributed to a young, inexperienced team.

But this year's team is different. Fifteen players have returned to men's basketball roster, including ten sophomores.

While most coaches are eager to cite those players on whom the weight of a team must fall upon, Mackey says he expects all of his players to contribute. "If one is not playing a lot, he is pushing the others," said Mackey.

And while Mackey is looking for a team effort to lead his Vikings to a winning season, he admits that people like pre-season All-CIAA pick Ernie Griffin will play an important part. Griffin, a 6'5" senior forward, averaged 16.3 points, 7.5 rebounds, and 3.4 assists last year.

Other returning starters are James Eaton, Darryl Riddick, Reggie Joe, and Melvin Satchell.

Among the key reserves are sophomores Tyson Ransom, Galvin Walker and Derrick Alston, and juniors Ronald Cousar and Kevin Dickens.



Coach Claudie Mackey emphasizes the "basics" during a preseason practice session.

Photo by Richard McIntire

Lady Vikings: Kelley looking for a championship

By Mark Morris

"I'm looking for a championship every season," said ECSU women's basketball coach Alvin T. Kelley. That statement is symbolic of the type of enthusiasm with which he and the lady Vikings are approaching the 1988-89 season.

Although the Lady Vikings are picked to finish fourth in the CIAA this season, Kelley doesn't plan a season based on predictions. "I'm looking for a championship every year," said Kelley. "I say that because if I were to make predictions

such as we're going to play 50 basketball this season, then I would be saying that we are going to practice very hard to lose half of our games, and I don't believe in that."

Kelley's quest for a CIAA championship will be led by sophomore Tara Jackson and senior Carmel Roland. Jackson, a 5'8" forward guard, leads the team in scoring averaging 18.3 points per game in the first three contests. Roland, a 5'8" guard, is the team's second leading scorer at 12.3 points per game. Roland and Jackson are expected to anchor the Lady Vikings scoring attack this season.

Two other sophomores, Demetrius Rowe and Ericka Ruffin, are also expected to make a sizeable contribution to the 1988-89 team. Rowe, a 5'6" guard, is currently averaging just over 10 points and 7 assists per game. Ruffin, a 6'1" center, is currently pulling down 8 rebounds a night and averaging just over 10 points as well.

If there is one nemesis that looks as though it may haunt the Lady Vikings this season, it would appear to be injuries. "We certainly are not where we want to be because of injuries," said Kelley. "However, we feel like we can really be a force in the CIAA despite them."

Kelley speaks very highly of the sophomores on the squad. "They are a year older and that is more experience. Anytime you have experience, it's going to help your basketball team." According to Kelley, the additional experience is most valuable in terms of what can be accomplished during practice time. "What I taught last year, I can actually coach this year. It makes a difference because the players pretty much have an idea of the system."

It is no secret how competitive the CIAA conference is each year. Kelley noted that for the last seven years, the CIAA has either produced a Division II women's national championship team or been represented in the final four. "We are facing a tough, tough schedule, up and down," said Kelley. "It's a tough division. Basketball in the CIAA is second to none."



All-CIAA Honorable Mention selection Derek "Zeke" Williams runs towards the end zone during the Homecoming game against the Pirates of Hampton University.

Photo by Richard McIntire

Six Vikings gain honors Biggs, Mabry named to first team All-CIAA squad

Although it was another disappointing season for the ECSU football team, the Vikings placed two players on the first team All-CIAA roster, while four others received honorable mention.

Brian Biggs, a 6'2" sophomore defensive linebacker from Washington, North Carolina, and Michael Mabry, a 6'2" defensive back from Rocky Mount, North Carolina, were named to the All-CIAA first team defensive squad. Mabry led the Vikings in tackles and was third in the CIAA with 85 unassisted tackles and 41 assisted tackles. Biggs recorded 31 unassisted tackles, 22 assisted tackles, and 24 sacks on the season.

Honorable mention All-CIAA honors went to senior wide receivers Robert Tiller and Derrick Williams, freshman punter Rodney Holloman, and junior center Landon Mailes.

Tiller had 318 yards receiving in 1988, including 28 receptions for a 11.3 average, while Williams had 7 catches on the year for a 5.1 yard average.

Holloman was sixth in the CIAA in punting with 57 punts for 1932 yards for a 33.9 yard average. The CIAA's leading punter had just over 1600 yards punting for a 39.1 yard average.

The Vikings finished the 1988 season with an overall record of 2-7-1 and a conference record of 1-4-1 while being outscored 261-94.

"It was very disappointing for me—for us," said head coach T.J. Little. Little, in his thirteenth year as coach of the Viking football team, said that while he had hoped for a better year "things just didn't work out that way."