

SPORTS

With two tournament victories, Vikings spell trouble for CIAA

By Mark Morris

The men's basketball team started their season with a bang in the nation's capitol the weekend after Thanksgiving, winning the University of the District of Columbia Tip-Off Classic.

After two tournament victories, Viking fans are hopeful for their team's chances this year, and some feel that with nine seniors, a transfer player from the Big East Conference, and a 6'9" freshman that defines power forward, ECSU head coach Claudie J. Mackey just may have the ingredients to cook up a 1990-91 CIAA championship.

"I feel good about our team this year," said Mackey. "We have an attitude that we aren't losers and we feel we can get the job done."

The Vikings played their first game on Friday, November 23, achieving with a 96-88 victory over Dillard University.

ECSU started the game showing some pre-season rust. However, by the middle of the first half, they began to outclass Dillard. Senior guard James Eaton went on an assault that left him with 24 points, 7 rebounds, 8 assists, and 4 steals.

The Vikings also got an outstanding performance from Ronald Cousar, the senior center who was absent from the Viking roster last season.

"The year out had me a little nervous before the first game" said Cousar, "but I knew that I had to be a big factor this season and after the first basket I just became motivated."

Cousar produced 15 points and 9 rebounds and provided the dominating "big-man-in-the-middle" concept that the Vikings missed last year.

"Melvin Satchell helped us tremendously last season," said Mackey, "but when you go from 6'4" (Satchell) to

6'9" (Cousar), naturally it improves your inside game."

The following night, the Vikings were pitted in the tournament championship game against the hosting Firebirds of U.D.C.

U.D.C. looked intimidating going into the contest, with three players who stood 6'8" or better, and having posted a 113-73 victory over Roger Williams University the night before.

The Vikings were not to be denied, though. After surviving an opening 10-2 run by the Firebirds, Eaton once again fired up his teammates with tough defensive play and the Vikings, on the back of 19 points from both John McNeil and Nathan Higgs, as well as continued inside rebounding from Cousar and Darryl Riddick, won by a score of 91-79. This allowed the Vikings to walk away with the tournament trophy, an MVP award for James Eaton and an all-tournament spot for Darryl Riddick, who hit five three-pointers in the two contests.

McNeil, a former player at the University of Pittsburgh and 1986 North Carolina High School Player of the Year, is a known scorer. He stood as a constant offensive threat throughout the tournament, scoring double figures in both games.

Nate Higgs, on the other hand, is new to the Viking's roster this year. The young power forward from Tarboro, N.C., was impressive during the U.D.C. Tip-off and may symbolize a "changing of the guard" in Viking basketball.

"I'm depending on our nine seniors to help me get to the level that they are on right now," said Higgs. "I know that if I work hard and stick to the things that I do best, I can really play well in the CIAA."

Another spot of potential on the team this year is Ryan Dixon, a fresh-

man out of Washington, N.C.

Dixon received limited playing time at U.D.C., but showed good poise for a freshman.

So far the biggest problem for the Vikings has been injuries at the forward position.

Senior forward Reginald Joe and Sophomore Mike Williams were both forced to sit out during the season opener due to injuries during the pre-season.

Also, Tyson Ransom, last year's leading scorer, was nullified in the opening tournament by knee pain.

The Vikings have lost two road games since then, but the team's spirits have not been dampened.

"On the way to a championship you expect some ups and downs," said Coach Mackey. "We have played two teams who both have a shot at winning the CIAA Southern Division (Johnson C. Smith and Shaw) and we played well against them on their home courts."

The Vikings' home opener took place on November 30. ECSU hosted its fourth annual Invitational which featured St. Paul University, Gardner-Webb University and U.D.C., which promised to be more competitive. Yet the Vikings felt the support of their fans in the R. L. Vaughan Athletic Complex and posted their second victory over U.D.C. with a score of 91-74 and a 19-point blast over Gardner-Webb, 76-57.

Once again Eaton won the tournament MVP award, while Nate Higgs made the all-tournament team.

"The chemistry of our team is exciting," said Mackey. "We have a group of young men who are playing their last year of college basketball...they have set goals for themselves and have their minds set on achieving them."



Senior Melvin Satchell (50) shoots a foul shot during the Viking' season opener against Dillard University on Nov. 23. The game was the first of the annual U.D.C. Tip-Off Classic in the Nation's Capitol. The Vikings defeated Dillard and went on to capture the tournament title from U.D.C. the following night.

Despite a losing football season, defense finishes with top ranking

By James Sims

The Vikings began the 1990 football season winning the first two conference games and tying their third. Once again the Vikings could sense a winning season, however they were once again sidetracked in Norfolk.

On Sept. 22, Norfolk State posted its second consecutive shut-out in the annual Fish Bowl game with a 37-0 victory and began a five game skid for the Vikings.

Included in the losing streak were losses to Grambling University, Virginia Union, Bowie State and Virginia State.

The Vikings were able to salvage an important part of the season, capturing a 14-7 victory over Hampton University in the homecoming game. It was their first win against Hampton since 1981.

The following week the Vikings travelled to Daytona Beach, Fla. and suffered a 24-20 loss to the Bethune Cookman Wildcats on a controversial call by the referees.

"It's hard to beat a Florida team in Florida," said assistant coach Stanley Whitehurst.

Whitehurst made the comment in regard to the call-back of a potential game-winning punt return by junior McGrue Booker. Booker's touchdown was nullified by an official's signal that he had stepped out of bounds.

Sophomore Andre Nelson from Lugoff, South Carolina, was selected to the CIAA all-rookie team. Nelson finished the season with 234 yards on 56 carries.

Billy Powell led the team in rushing yards, finishing the season with a total of 339 on 91 carries, following close behind him was senior running

back Nelson Welch who compiled a total of 284 yards on 86 carries.

Leading receiver for the Vikings was Roderick Barfield, achieving a total of 353 yards on 24 catches, followed by Shawn Bridges who netted a total of 185 yards on 12 grabs.

The Viking defense, however, finished the season ranked number in the CIAA standings, despite an overall losing record.

The leading tacklers for the Vikings were Michael Mabrey with 50 solo tackles and 62 assisted and Everette McIver finished with 34 unassisted and 32 assisted. Van Freeman closed out the top three with 31 unassisted and 14 assisted tackles and sophomore Mark Hines registered 30 unassisted tackles and 30 assisted.

Both Michael Mabrey and Everette McIver were selected to the 1990 All-CIAA team.



Viking Center Ronald Cousar (15) towers over a Dillard University player during opening tip of holiday tourney at U.D.C. Cousar has already had a major impact on the Vikings' season. Looking on up front is John McNeil (22) and all-tournament selection Darryl Riddick (34) in the rear.

Lady Vikes 1-1 in conference play; Rowe close to 1,000 pts. for career

By Mark Morris

On Saturday, November 10, the ECSU women's basketball team opened their season at home with a scrimmage against the Soviet Union's University of Tartu.

The Russian women had a field day against the Lady Vikings, using fundamental basketball to score easy layups.

The Lady Vikes looked better in their CIAA conference opener on November 26, at Johnson C. Smith. During that game they posted leads as large as 19 points, but still left Char-

lotte with a 72-66 loss.

However, the Lady Vikings rebounded at home on November 28, with a 64-45 win over conference rival Shaw University, leaving them with a record of 1-1 and their hopes of finishing first in the CIAA intact.

"We are going to take this season one game at a time," said senior guard Demetrius Rowe.

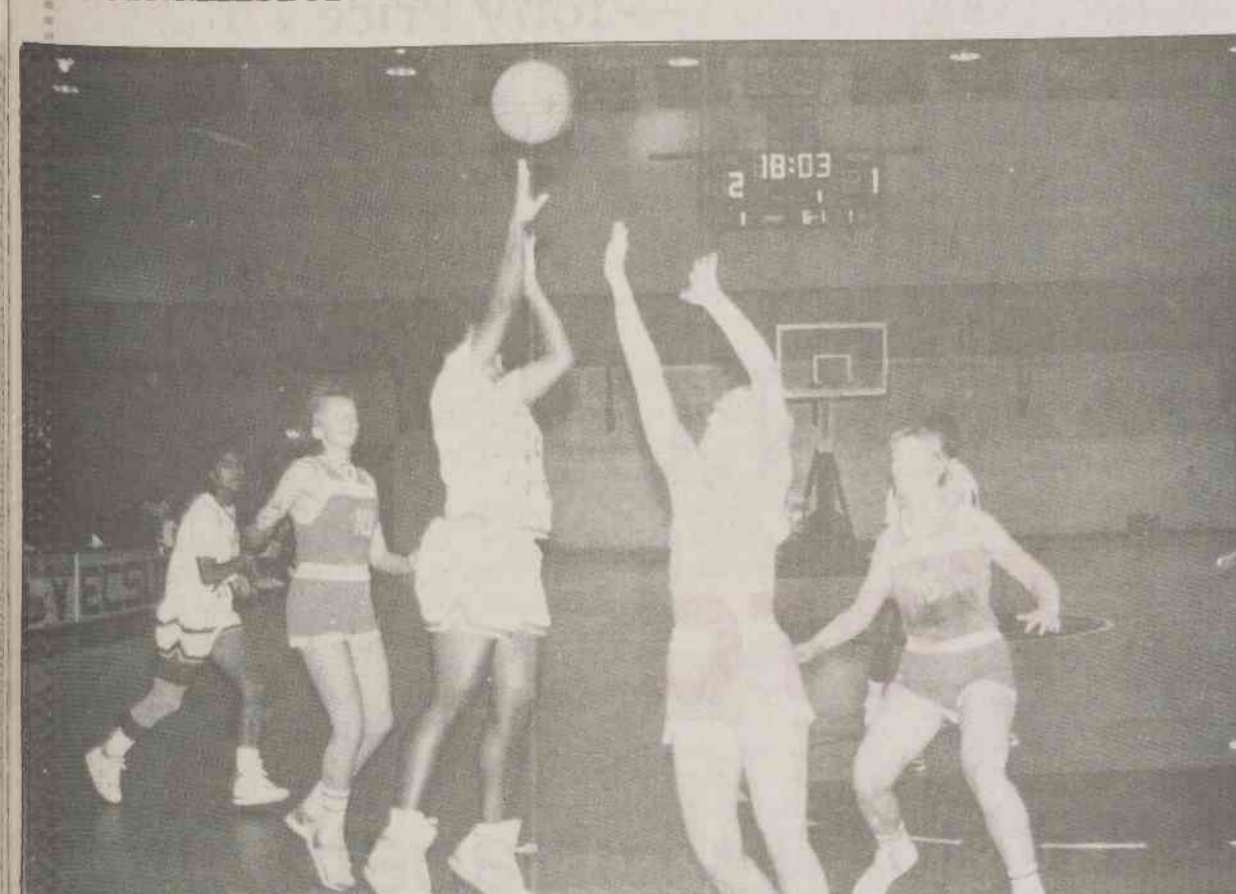
Rowe, who needs only thirteen points to go over 1,000 for her career, is once again a pre-season all-CIAA pick.

Senior Tara Jackson is also expected to turn in an all-conference

performance this year.

The team's leading scorer after two games is Patricia Taylor who is averaging 17.5 points per game. Rowe comes in second with 11 points per game and Tara Jackson rounds off the top three with an average of 10 points per game. Anissa McNeil and Erica Ruffin are both averaging 9 points and sophomore Terri James is averaging 8.5 points per game.

Leading rebounders are Anissa McNeil and Erica Ruffin. McNeil has 26 rebounds, giving her an average of 13 per game while Ruffin has 20 rebounds giving her an average of 10.



Viking Guard Demetrius Rowe (14) shoots a jump shot over a Russian defender during the Lady Viking's scrimmage versus the University of Tartu. Rowe is the team's second leading scorer and is 13 points shy of going over 1,000 for her career. The Lady Vikings looked tense in their meeting with the Russian basketball team, but after their first two games they are playing at .500 and are rebuilding confidence.

ECSU to compete in all-star meet, first one between all-black schools

ECSU will compete in Campus All-Star Challenge 1991. The competition is modeled after the annually televised College Quiz Bowl, yet it will be the first academic competition between historically black colleges.

The schools participating are ECSU, Norfolk State, N.C. A&T, Alabama A&M, Albany State, Arkansas-Pine-Bluff, Bennet College, Bethune Cookman and others that will round out a field of 64 institutions.

Each school will be represented by teams of four that will compete for a

share of nearly \$250,000 in monetary grants made available to upgrade campus facilities, institutional resources and improve the quality of student lives.

The challenge is sponsored exclusively by American-Honda Motor Co., Inc. It has been sanctioned by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO).

ECSU students will compete for slots on the team in a campus wide tournament scheduled for January 10-

11, 1991.

The students who make the ECSU varsity squad will go on to the sectional play-offs on February 15-17. The sectionals will be held in four different locations including Morgan State University in Baltimore, Spellman College in Atlanta, and a fourth site to be announced. The top four teams from each sectional play-off will advance to the National Championship Tournament in Washington, D.C. on April 16. BET will broadcast the event.