



Sharrano Woodley, a point guard for the Vikings, grabs the rebound in midair in the game against the Rams of Winston-Salem, in front of a capacity crowd, during the CIAA Tournament at the Richmond Coliseum. The game was the nightcap of the first day's action. ECSU won by a score of 105-64.

Vikes begin tournament with a bang, but end up losing to rival J.C. Smith

By Jody Riddick

For the second year straight, the ECSU men's basketball team was ousted from the CIAA tournament held Feb. 24-27 in Richmond, Virginia, at the Richmond Coliseum.

The ECSU Vikings began last year's CIAA tournament with a bang, coming in as the fifth seed of the Northern Division and ousting Southern Division third seed North Carolina Central University.

Once again the ECSU Vikings began this year's CIAA tournament with a bang, coming in as the number two seed in the Northern Division and bashing their Southern Division opponent, the Winston-Salem State University

Rams 105-64. The Vikings shot 57 percent from the floor, 75 percent from the free throw line, and out rebounded the Rams 55-44.

The Vikings were led in scoring by Martin "Twiggy" Lacewell with 21 points, nine rebounds, and five assists. Shawn Walker had 20 points. Nate Higgs and Jo-ve Ford combined for 34 points and 20 rebounds between the two "big men." Higgs had 18 points and a team high of 13 rebounds. Ford had 16 points and 7 rebounds.

"I was pleased with the effort that the guys gave, especially on the defensive end", Mackey said. "The guys were very active on the defensive end, sliding their feet, spreading their arms, and crashing the boards on both ends."

Once again the ECSU Vikings were facing another foe from the Southern Division, the second seeded Golden Bulls of Johnson C. Smith. The match-up between the Vikings and the Golden Bulls was the first game to start tournament play on Feb. 25.

The two high powered teams met for the third time this season with Johnson C. Smith defeating the Vikings in their two previous games. Revenge was on the mind of the ECSU Vikings, but the thoughts of sweet revenge were diminished as the scoreboard at the Richmond Coliseum read Johnson C. Smith 100, ECSU 84.

The Vikings tried to keep the game as close as possible, but foul trouble and a few bad calls hindered the Vikings'

quest for the victory.

"The game was very physical and several calls that should have been made weren't made," said Mackey. "How can you beat a team that went to the free throw line 48 times compared to only 22 for us?"

"Our game concept wasn't the same as it was when we played Winston-Salem, especially on the defensive end," said guard Lamar Barrett.

The Vikings shot 43 percent from the floor, and 72 percent from the charity stripe making 16 of 22 attempts. The Vikings were out rebounded by a 38-33 margin in favor of the Golden Bulls. "Offensively we weren't in our rhythm like we were against the Rams," said forward Nate Higgs. "We didn't play