

THE COMPASS

The Student Newspaper of Elizabeth City State University

Rams Defeat Vikings, Win CIAA Crown

By Artelia Covington
Editor

Winston-Salem— In the last Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association game played in the Lawrence Joel Coliseum in Winston-Salem before the tournament moves to its new venue in Raleigh next year, the Rams of Winston-Salem State University defeated Elizabeth City State University 89-71.

The Vikings, who brought a record of 35 wins and five losses into the game, jumped out to an early 14-7 lead with 13 minutes left in the opening half when guard Burundi Bembury picked up his second foul and was forced to the bench. The undersized Rams then took advantage of his absence and scored 17 points during the half, 14 off Viking turnovers.

"I think we turned it (the ball) over tonight more than we have all season," said ECSU coach Barry Hamler, the CIAA's Coach of the Year, during a post game interview.

"Winston-Salem was just the best team tonight. They've been the best team all tournament."

The Rams advanced to play the Vikings following a shocking semifinal

victory over top seeded Virginia Union University. The victory was the Rams' first since 1977.

The Rams took a 38-31 lead into the locker room at halftime largely due to Torrian Wyn's 11 first half points.

The Rams scored the first three points of the second half when the Viking bench was charged with a technical foul.

Throughout the half the Rams continued to extend their run and took a commanding 50-31 lead with 16 minutes remaining in the game.

Behind the scoring of Che' Lugo, Marcus Riddick and Anwar Atkinson, all of whom scored 10 points, ECSU stormed back to cut the Ram lead to 68-61 with 2:45 left in the game.

But the Rams closed the door for good behind clutch free-throw shooting to seal the win and the championship.

The Rams' Larry Patterson scored a game-high 23 points to lead Winston's scorers. Marcus Riddick lead ECSU scorers with 16 points. He also had seven rebounds.

Despite the CIAA title game loss, ECSU recieved an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

It was ECSU's second at-large bid

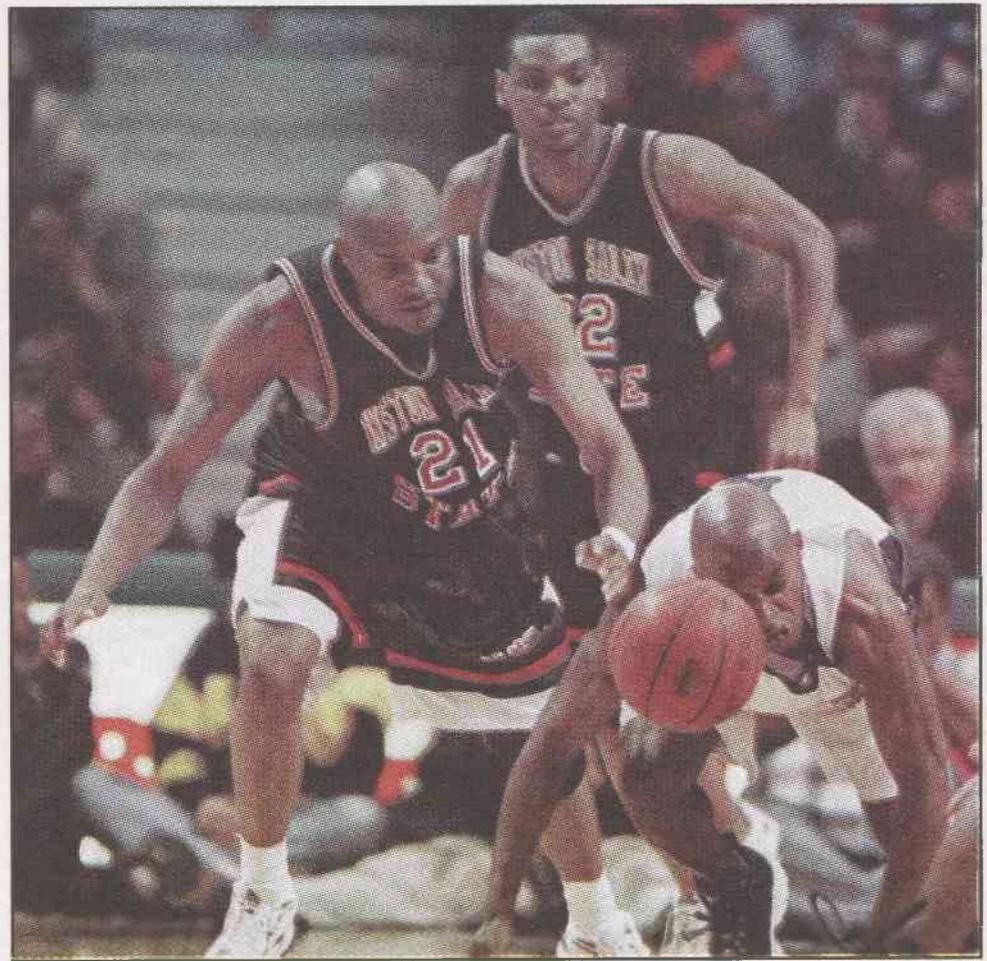


Photo by Sam Wolfe - The Daily Advance

ECSU guard Burudi Bembury scrambles for loose ball during the championship game Feb. 27 at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Coliseum in Winston-Salem. The Vikings suffered a disappointing 89-71 loss to the Rams.

in the last three years.

Raquita Washington of the Lady Vikings was named to the All - CIAA Women's Team, while returning starter Marcus Riddick and CIAA Rookie of

the Year William Fitzgerald were named to the All- CIAA's Men's Team. Fitzgerald, a transfer from Fairmont State, led the CIAA in scoring with a 23.6 point per game average.

Campus Renovations Underway

By Xavier Wise
Staff Writer

With the year 2000 just around the corner, so too are renovations to the Elizabeth City State University campus. Several months ago the R.L. Vaughn Center was repainted, its floors were stripped and new lights were installed throughout.

Over at the Bedell Hall Cafeteria new windows were installed and, according to Mr. John Smith, special assistant to the Chancellor, more serving lines will soon be added.

Before the start of the new millennium, and after I have graduated, Elizabeth City State University will have almost a totally new look.

But will the entire ECSU campus be "ready" when the next millennium dawns? Mr. Smith says we will be. Although not all campus improvements will be as noticeable as the opening of

the new Performing Arts Center, they are all expected to enhance the campus.

A number of other buildings are also slated for renovation, with the dormitories needing special attention according to Mr. Smith. Whether structural, carpet replacements or plumbing, no dorm will go untouched once the project gets underway. Mr. Smith said that the plans for dormitory renovations include providing Internet access. Like students in other area universities, ECSU students will be closer to the information superhighway.

"What we'd like to do is provide Internet access in the dormitories," said Mr. Smith. He adds that while the rooms will be wired, students will be required to bring their own computers.

For Tinika Bunch, a junior sociology /

(continued on page 2)



Photo by J'aime Powell

Construction is expected to be completed by mid-summer on the new Fine Arts Center.