

SPORTS

ECSU's Hamler Named CIAA Coach Of The Year

By: Shekeria Smith
Staff Writer

Elizabeth City State University head men's basketball coach Barry Hamler is this year's Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Coach of the Year.

Mr. Hamler was notified of his selection by the CIAA's executive board the weekend of Feb. 19, following his team's 97-71 loss to the conference's top seed Virginia Union University.

Mr. Hamler said that he was flattered by his selection and award but he would rather have beaten arch rival Virginia Union.

During an interview Hamler stated, "I can't speak for the kids, but I'd gladly trade it in for an Eastern Division championship."

Hamler guided the Vikings to a 21-4 record as well as a No. 19 national ranking this year. However, the four-year coach did not lead his team to the CIAA title. The new-look Vikings spent most

of the year at the height of the league standings.

Replacing four starters from last year's 18-10 team, Hamler's squad still compiled a respectable winning regular season with a 13-3 (8-2 Eastern Division) conference record.

"I knew we'd be good this year, but I never dreamed we'd have the kind of season we've had," said Hamler. "But the credit has to go to the players."

"They've really overachieved this year. We've at least been in the finals of every tournament we've played in, and although we didn't win the conference, at least we were in the chase the whole year."

After directing the Vikings to the conference championship in 1997, Hamler also earned Coach of the Year honors. His team won the South Atlantic Regional title and was among the NCAA's Division II Elite Eight.

Former NBA Great Pursues Second Career

By Sochiameya Humphreys
Compass Staff Writer

Former National Basketball Association star John Salley and Beverly Hills-based Sagestone Entertainment announced recently that they have entered into a joint venture for Salley's label, Total Entertainment.

The Atlanta-based label, run by Salley and producer Soul Messiah, will focus on rap and R&B artists and will be distributed by Sagestone through Navarre Entertainment.

The debut single "What We Be Bout" from Total artist Mozae will be released on March 30th and followed by their album *Southbound* on April 20th.

Mr. Salley played in the NBA for the Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls.

Mr. Salley is no stranger to the entertainment industry. He has also appeared in such films as *Bad Boys* with Martin Lawrence, *Eddie* with Whoopi Goldberg, and hosted NBC's NBA pre-game show "NBA Showtime". He also appeared on the Fox Network's Family game show "I Can't Believe You Said That."

Salley is also known as the man who discovered R&B singer Tony Rich, who is now signed with LaFace Records.

Sagestone Entertainment was founded in 1996 by Stephen Metz who

has worked with a wide range of artists including the Beatles.

The label's current releases include Street Institute's "S.I. Riders" with volume 10's hit "Raised In The Hood (Pistol Grip Pump 2)" and T.I.P.'s (Totally Into Pleasure) *The Game*.

Raleigh To Host CIAA Tournament

By Monique Boyce
Staff Writer

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association has selected Raleigh as the host city for the men and women's basketball tournaments in 2000-2002. The CIAA tournament is the third largest basketball competition in the United States, providing an opportunity for fans and alumni to enjoy exciting hardwood action.

Raleigh was one of four cities to submit bids to host the annual event. The other cities were Fayetteville, Winston-Salem and Richmond, Virginia. Winston-Salem is this year's host city, as it has been for the past five years.

Dr. Bernard W. Franklin, the chairman of the CIAA board of directors, said the decision to choose a host city was difficult.

"The selection process was especially difficult this year, due to the outstanding quality of each city under consideration," he said.

One of the decision-breakers was Raleigh's proximity to all the member

schools, which provides the opportunity for greater student involvement. The Triad is the home to three of the 12 participating institutions: North Carolina Central University, Shaw University and St. Augustine's College.

Another decisive factor in the selection was Raleigh's new \$150 million Entertainment and Sports Arena.

Chancellor Mickey Burnim, a member of the CIAA board of directors, is excited about having the tournament a little closer to home.

"It's a central location that will make it easier for students to attend games and minimize the number of classes they will miss to do so."

The CIAA, founded in 1912, is the oldest African-American athletic conference in the nation. This year will be a celebration of 86 years of athletic competition and 25 years of women's participation. It is made up of 12 historically black colleges and universities, which makes it one of the largest Division II conference in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.



University students, staff, faculty and alumni turned out in full force for the Winter Homecoming basketball game.

photo by Al Randolph