

Sports

More Than Just Basketball!

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From the outside looking in, the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Basketball Tournament (CIAA) is your average end of the regular season conference tournament. But for anyone who has ever attended the annual event, they know it is much more. The annual CIAA tournament will be a week full of festivities, reunions, networking, concerts, step-shows, and parties. Oh yeah, they play a little basketball too.

The CIAA tournament is the fourth largest tournament as far as attendance, right behind, the ACC, Big East, and Big Ten Post-season tournaments. Alumni, students, and parents come from all over to congregate in Raleigh once a year to enjoy the action. The dates for this year's tournament are Feb. 25th - Mar. 2nd. People; watch the calendar year round for February counting down the days until it is tournament time. For that one-week, you do not

have to worry about your parents, teachers, or bosses. Your biggest decision is what event to attend next. Alumni get the chance for a week to act like students again and root on their respective schools. They can come back to see old schoolmates, fellow Greek members and even old teachers. It is a beautiful sight to see two old friends reunite and laugh and catch up on old times. The tournament is usually the only time some of these friends get to reunite.

The CIAA is in its 90th year, and the conference tournament brings in millions of dollars to the host-city each year. Hotels, restaurants, and other businesses increase their revenue whenever the CIAA comes to town. People come from all over, and they do not mind spending a little money. Without a doubt, the tournament takes all year to prepare for, requiring the city of Raleigh, tournament officials, and schools from one year to another to prepare for the tournament. There are rooms to fill, events to organize and promotions to be made to make this tournament what it is.

Over the years, the tournament has gained national attention. Last year, there was an article in the *USA Today* and *Ebony* magazine had a feature section about the tournament in this month's issue. Over the past couple of years, the Tom Joyner Morning Show, a radio show that is played across the country, goes to Raleigh and does the show from the CIAA tournament. Also, games are featured on UPN and HTS television stations so that the CIAA is not just known on the East Coast. Some CIAA alumni currently on NBA rosters include Charles Oakley (Virginia Union), Darrell Armstrong (Fayetteville State), and Ben Wallace (Virginia Union). Those who are die-hard CIAA fans can recall the Legendary John McClendon, CIAA Pioneer and Co-founder of the Tournament or when coaching legends such as Clarence "Big House" Gaines or R.L. "Bobby" Vaughan roamed the sidelines during their coaching days. Last years exciting finish in the championship game between Fayetteville State and Johnson C. Smith will go down as on

of the best finishes on history and will be talked about for years.

Imagine a family reunion with 40,000 in attendance. That is what many consider the CIAA tourney, the countries biggest family reunion. You get the chance to meet people with connections, people who know people in high places [you may want to keep your resume in your pocket]. This year, there is a career exposition on February 27, 2002 from 8:30 am to 12:30 p.m. proving once again that the CIAA is full of opportunity.

For the players, this is what you work on all season for. All of the preseason training, traveling on a crowded bus for a 4-hour ride and playing in small-overcrowded gyms, this is the big payoff. The chance to perform on the big stage, in front of a sellout crowd and on television to represent your school is what you play for. All the records are thrown out the window, in most cases; the seeding does not matter. It is CIAA tournament time and as this year's slogan goes, IT IS ON!

Date	Location	Time
Sunday, February 24, 2002		
Tournament Committee Meeting	Marriott Crabtree	8:00am
Women's Team Practices/Pictures	Arena	8:00 - 4:00pm
Women's Tip-Off Banquet (Food Lion)	Hilton	6:30pm
Monday, February 25, 2002		
Women's Tournament	Arena	1:00, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00pm
Tuesday, February 26, 2002		
Men's Team Practices/Pictures	Arena	1:00, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00pm
Men's Tip-Off Banquet (Capital Broadcast)	Arena Hilton	8:00am - 4:00pm 6:30pm
Wednesday, February 27, 2002		
Career Expo		8:30am to 12:30 pm
Men's Tournament	Arena	1:00, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00pm
Hall of Fame (Reebok)	Marriott Crabtree	9:00am
Thursday, February 28, 2002		
High School Day	Convention Center	8:30am-12:30pm
Men's Tournament	Arena	1:00, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00pm (TV)
Official's Hall of Fame (MetLife)	Marriott Crabtree	9:00am
Friday, March 1, 2002		
Tom Joyner Morning Show	Memorial Auditorium	TBA
Women's Semi-Finals	Arena	11:00 & 1:00pm
Women's Legend Game	Arena	3:30 - 4:45pm
Men's Semi-Finals	Arena	7:00 & 9:00pm (TV)
Coca Cola Presidents/Chancellors Dinner	Wake County Shriners Club	4:00pm
Step-Show	Convention Center	10:00pm
Coaches Social	Marriott Crabtree	11:00pm
SUPER SATURDAY, March 2, 2002		
3 point shoot-out	Arena	8:00 - 9:00am
Cheerleading Exhibition	Arena	9:00 - 9:45 am (4 squads) 10:15 - 11:00am (4 squads) 11:20 - 12:00pm (4 squads)
Battle of the Bands	Arena	9:45 - 10:15am (2 Bands) 12:00 - 12:30pm (2 Bands)
3 on 3 Contest	Arena	11:00 - 11:20pm
Men's Legends	Arena	1:15 - 2:45pm

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

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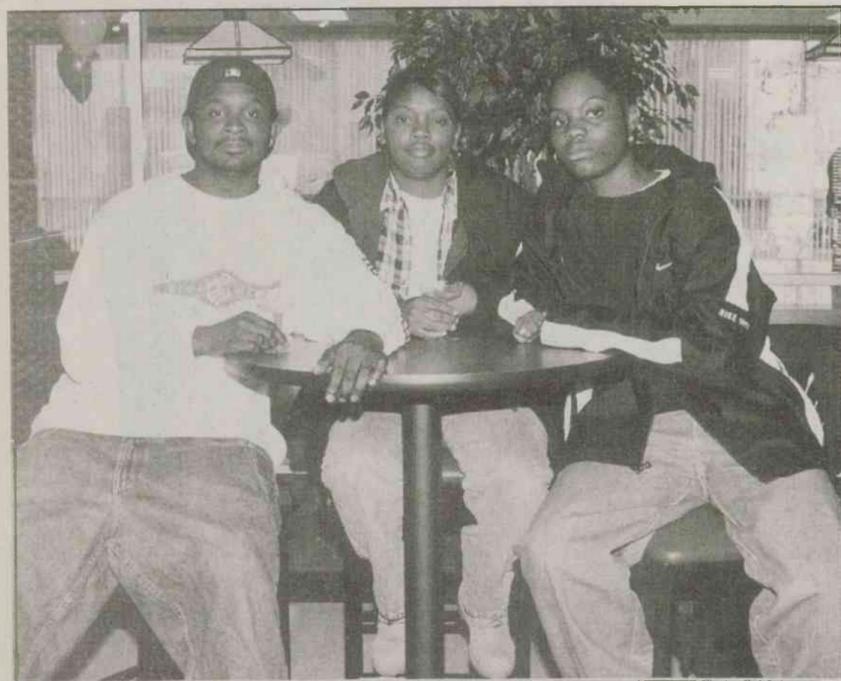
The 2002 CIAA Legacy Basketball Classic was not only a showcase of CIAA basketball at its finest; it also was a tribute to the CIAA legends of yesteryear. The more than 4,000 fans were treated to two very competitive games. In the opening game, The Panthers of Virginia Union University defeated the Tigers from St. Paul's College. The second game featured the Elizabeth City State Vikings and the Virginia State Trojans, with the Vikings winning a very close game.

The Legacy Classic is the brain-child of Robert "Bobby" Vaughn, Marvin Trotman, and Elwood "Coach" Williams. Legacy Classic is organized by the CIAA in conjunction with the supporters of Norfolk's Southside Boys and Girls Club of Berkley directed by Williams. "The Legacy is more than a fundraising exercise; it is a way of keeping HBCU's in the

spotlight, says Williams."

The Classic is held in Norfolk, Virginia because the CIAA was founded in the Hampton Roads area on the Campus of Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in 1912. With the departures of Hampton University and Norfolk State University to the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), the Hampton Roads area was deprived of CIAA sports. "The market was void of the CIAA. There are many alumni and fans of CIAA schools that aren't able to travel to their alma maters to see games, and they enjoy and appreciate the fact that CIAA basketball is being brought to them," says Vaughn.

Division rivalries and memorable finishes are trademarks of the CIAA. The 2002 CIAA Legacy Classic was the perfect example of the high level of competition that has made the CIAA one of the premiere sports conferences in all of collegiate sports.



Students Enjoy New Student Center

Photo Courtesy of Keisha Williams

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