



SPORTS



WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CIAA?

Travis Billups

Over the years the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) has been more than just basketball. The tournament, which is in its 58th year, has developed into one of the largest social events in the country. The 80,446 people who came to support the CIAA did more than just watch basketball.

The CIAA wasn't just for adults and college students. On Thursday, the Raleigh Convention and Conference Center hosted its annual event, High School Day. This year, 1,700 high school students, mostly juniors, came to attend and learn about the CIAA's 12 universities and colleges.

"Our focus is the high school junior who has at least a 2.0 GPA or above," said Gladys Graves, a 1969 alumna of Shaw University and the director of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship Program. "We want juniors because we want to plant the seed that you can't wait to be when you grow up."

After the morning talks came to an end, the high school kids were taken to the RBC Center for the afternoon games.

On Friday from 6-10 a.m., the "hardest workingman in radio," the "Fly Jock" Tom Joyner was on hand hosting this morning radio show at the BTI Center. Joyner's show was the earliest of events. CIAA participants say that it is not to be missed.

"It's indescribable," said Reekitta Grimes, Director of Alumni Relations at Shaw University. "It's an early morning party."

This year, the hype around Joyner's show is that he presented Shaw University with a check for being Joyner's School of The Month. Joyner is one of the biggest supporters of historically black colleges and universities. Joyner has a foundation dedicated to raising money for support.

"They won't tell us how much the check is for," Grimes said.

Well, if you didn't get up early to catch the Joyner morning show, don't worry about it because later on that Friday night, the CIAA held its annual CIAA Step Show. This

gave Greeks a chance to represent their respected fraternities and sororities.

Dexter Scoot, the step shows coordinator said, "It's a tradition of black fraternities and sororities competing at the same time, showcasing their talent in unison in the African tradition. It is high energy, it's really hot, and it's like going to a concert."

The last day of the tournament, "Super Saturday" was the highlight of the tournament with non-stop activities. The day started at 8 a.m. with the 3-point shootout, but the CIAA cheerleading competition was a can't-miss event. The CIAA cheerleaders don't do a lot of high-flying stunts or pyramids, but they make up for it in hurling insults in unison. During the Shaw-St. Augustine's basketball game, the Falcon cheerleaders walked to half court and said "Shaw is nothing, nothing."

At the end of the cheer, St. Augustine's cheerleaders pulled out little pompoms in Shaw's colors and tossed them on the ground. "We really get into it, whether our team is winning or losing. We're going to win," said Sakinah Shakoor, the head cheerleader.

And for the fashion gurus, the CIAA didn't forget about you. The BTI center hosted a fashion show that was sponsored by Bovanti Cosmetics and Upscale Magazine. Anita Bohannon, the executive director of the show, said, "First of all, we're going to be featuring African-American designers from all over the world." To spice the show up a bit, Bovanti's production featured live music acts, including a jazz ensemble, and dancers.

But let's not forget the reason why these events are taking place, the CIAA Basketball Tournament. For all you die hard basketball fans that would rather see a nasty dunk than a step show, then the RBC Center is where you should have been. Vivian Sansom, a former education teacher at Shaw has been going to the CIAA Tournament since it started in 1946. She said that other people go for the entertainment.

"I go for the games," Sansom said. "I just enjoy them so much."

EMMITT SMITH RELEASED BY THE DALLAS COWBOYS

Anthony Griffin

On Thursday, February 19, the Dallas Cowboys, after a disappointing season, released future hall-of-fame running back Emmitt Smith. Smith is coming off his least productive season with 975 yards. He is known for breaking Walter Payton's old rushing record (16,726 rushing

yards) in a late October loss against Seattle to become the NFL's all-time leading rusher with 17,162 yards. He was also the all-time leading scorer for running backs with 153 touchdowns, has been league MVP and Super Bowl MVP, led the NFL rushing 4 times, and has won 3 Super Bowls.

LADY VIKINGS PLAY IN CIAA

Maishia Parrish

When the Elizabeth City State University women's basketball team got to Raleigh for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association tournament this year, no one knew what to expect-not the players, most of whom were in their first major tournament, or the coach, Fred Batchelor, who had never coached in front of the throngs of people who come to the tournament annually.

Still, the Lady Vikings had high hopes and believed that they could win the tournament even if no one else did.

The Lady Vikings opened the CIAA tournament against Johnson C. Smith University Lady Golden Bulls on February 24.

During the first half both teams led by as many as five points. The lady Vikings came out with a 16-3 run in the second half that led to a 42-34 lead with 16 minutes to play. The teams battled back and forth until Joi Surratt gave the Lady Golden Bulls a 67-63 lead at the 4:01 mark.

Center Hope Riddick scored 18-points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Freshman Venkia Jones scored 13 points while Sheneka Ellis helped keep the Lady Vikings in the game with three 3-pointers and 12 points off the bench.

The Lady Vikings lost to the Lady Golden Bulls, 79-72.

"I was pleased with how we played most of the game," said Lady Viking's head coach, Fred Batchelor,

II. "They [JCSU] played well enough to win the game."

This was coach Batchelor's first year leading the Lady Vikings.

"I felt a little pressure because I just got here and had to play like a veteran but it caused me to step up on my game," said point guard Venkia Jones.

With a new head coach, injuries to key players and an inexperienced core of starters, the makeup of the Elizabeth City State University Lady Vikings basketball team was very different this season.

This season the Vikings had four new players: Angelica Dempsey, Trevia Pittman, and Shaneka Ellis, all juniors, along with Freshman Venkia Jones. All four were playing in the CIAA tournament for the first time.

Ellis had been to the tournament before but never played until this year. Pittman, on the other hand, had never been. She had heard about the games and always wanted to go. Finally her opportunity came to play in the tournament this year.

"It was a nice atmosphere, we played harder then ever as a team," said Pittman. "Even though we lost 5 key players, 3 of them were post, we pulled together."

Though the season was filled with difficulties and the loss of key players, the team looks forward to next season.

"We've lost players this season and been through a lot, we just have to continue to play hard, every game," said Ellis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Vike' Nu Fashion Troupe
of Elizabeth City State University**

Presents

**"Mesmerized by Fashion...
Hypnotized from Alpha to Omega"**

April 4, 2003

Fine Arts Auditorium
Doors Open: 6:00 p.m.
Show Starts: 7:00 p.m.

ECSU Students: \$5.00
General Admission: \$7.00

(Viking Idol will be the opening act)

ATTENTION MAY GRADUATES!

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TO POST THEIR MEMORIES OR
GOODBYES IN THE COMPASS,
PLEASE CONTACT ANTONIO
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TISDAL AT 331-8743, OR VISIT
JOHNSON HALL ROOM 111.**