Sports . . . . .

Rams Lose First Game In CIAA Tournament

Earl Williams says the Greensboro Coliseum is a jinx to the best team in the CIAA Tournament. A lot of people are inclined to agree with him, not necessarily because of the Rams first Round knockout this year, but because of past seasons the highly rated Rams have made early exits out of th Championship brackt.

Going into tournament competition the Rams had reeled off five straight victories and lost their bid for a third consecutive Southern Division title. Their final surge made them the sentimental favorite to win it all in Greensboro.

The Virginia Union Panthers defeated the Rams 84-81 in overtime in a game the Rams should have easily won. The Rams held a seven point lead with 52 seconds remaining in regulation, but poor foul shooting gave the Panthers the opportunity to make a dramatic comeback. This sent the game into overtime. In overtime, the Rams hopes of winning came to an abrupt end when Earl Williams committed his fifth foul. This left the Rams inside defense at the mercy of the Panthers' big men. It was only a matter of time before the Panthers had pulled off the upset of the opening round. This marked the second time in three years that Virginia Union has defeated the Rams in the first round of the tournament.

A Look At Spring Sports

It is Spring again and that means along with Spring fever, it's time for fun in the sun and Spring Sports.

WSSU will not participate in baseball this year. Coach Gaines says this is because of the school calendar which finds the students home during Spring Break and the Easter Holidays.

There will be plenty of action in track, golf, tennis, and in addition a girls' softball team.

The success of the golf and tennis team are in doubt because of lack of participation. Eyes should be on Rick Cuberson in golf and Roy Mitchell in tennis to lead their respective teams.

The Track team should be strong again this year. Returning from last year's Southern Division Championship team are Van Carter, Ollie Ballard, George Macklin, Jerald Todd, Kenneth Holt, also returning following a year's absence is James Ijames.

The trackers here have encountered some difficulty in the early part of the season. Most agree that it is because many track teams have participated in indoor track meets. This puts the Rams at a disadvantage, but they hope to reach their peak by midseason.

Answer to Puzzle No. 146

Earl Williams receives CIAA Player of the Year Award

Girls' Sports Program Started At WSSU

It looks as though the WSSU girls will have something to do besides cheer at athletic events which only feature male players.

At the CIAA meeting last fall, it was decided that the conference should initiate an athletic program for girls. The girls have already participated in basketball.

Mrs. Mandeline Scales is the advisor for the girls. Eddie Gregg and Raymond Cobb will handle the coaching duties.

The girls will also participate in track, volleyball and tennis, this spring. The coaching staff is looking for girls who are interested in participating in these sports.

Snapshots of All CIAA Team

Sports Editorial

Is The Game of Basketball Going To The Dogs?

N. C. State is on top of college basketball today thanks to David Thompson, who is fast becoming a living legend in these parts. There is not a newspaper in the state that did not carry photos of his great fall during the Eastern Regional playoffs.

The Wolfpack beat UCLA in the semifinals of the NCAA then defeated Marquette for the NCAA Championship title. I am not going to discuss the legitimacy of their victory over the Bruins who dominated college basketball for nearly a decade, but I think the Bruins are 10 to 15 pts. better than State on a neutral court. No one could call the Greensboro Coliseum a neutral court.

David Thompson is a great college ballplayer and with some maturity could become a good pro. It makes one ask how does a school like N.C. State which has practiced segregation nearly all of its existence acquire black ballplayers of Thompson's caliber. It's simple, they buy them.

When Black high school players choose predominately white schools over a small black college they usually give as an excuse, "they had more to offer." They are not referring to a better Science, Business or Math Department, but it's usually sports cars, apartments off campus, and fancy clothes. Sometimes the player's coach is hired or their parents get better paying jobs.

Most people know that N.C. State recruited Thompson illegally. As a result of someone blowing the whistle on them probably another ACC school would have tried to recruit him illegally. The NCAA placed State on one years' probation.

The Thompson case can be applied across the nation. Predominately white schools view Black Talent as a valuable commodity and available to the smoothest talker and highest bidder with only a casual regard for the athlete's education. Whereas a college president or chancellor may be lukewarm towards more black students on campus or social integration, he instructs his subordinates to get all the Black Talent they can and by any means necessary.

Southwest Louisiana was caught paying their black players under the table and was placed on two year's probation. This prohibits the school from participating in intercollegiate basketball for two years. The black basketball player had to transfer or drop out.

Texas at El Paso, in the 1966 NCAA championship had five blacks in their starting line-up; none of them graduated nor signed lucrative pro contracts.

A recent study on the Black Athlete particularly in regard to basketball reveals how difficult it is to get drafted and make pro teams. For every David Thompson who may someday make a lot of money, there are many black players that will be thrown back into the community like an old used car most of them with only a scrapbook full of press clippings to remind them of their glory years.