

# Gaines Receives Overdue Honor

By Ralph McKnight  
Sports Editor

Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, who built his reputation in North Carolina, will be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame May 3. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is located on Springfield College campus, where James Naismith invented the game in 1891.

"When I first started, I could be totally authoritarian," Gaines said in a Charlotte Observer story. "But now that doesn't work, and I've had to alter the way I work. The one thing I keep, though, is discipline."

Gaines has been inducted into the NAIA, CIAA, Helms, Morgan State and WSSU Hall of Fame. He has also won the Paul Robeson Award for his contributions to black athletes. He is director of the National Youth Sports Program, which brings over 400 young people to WSSU's campus each year.

Gaines, 59, is closing in on 700 career victories. Now active in his 36th season at WSSU, Gaines is the winningest active collegiate coach. His 1967 team, featuring guard Earl Monroe, won the

NCAA Division II Championship.

George Foree, one of Gaines' proteges, is head basketball coach at High Point Andrews High. Foree stated, "Gaines expects mistakes, but not over and over again. He expects that with age and experience come wisdom and understanding. Playing for Gaines, you play by his rules or not at all."

The late Everett Case will also be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Case, former N.C. State basketball coach, is considered the father of basketball in North Carolina. He compiled an 18-season record of 376 wins, 133 losses and ten ACC and Southern Conference titles.

Coach Gaines is the first black coach to be elected into the Hall of Fame. Four players will join with Gaines and Case. They are: Hal Greer, Slater Martin, Frank Ramsey and Willis Reed. Big House" will join the 125 individuals and four teams already in the Hall of Fame.

Coach Gaines' election by a 16-member committee was announced Feb. 20. Twelve votes were required for induction.



Gaines gives instructions to players during game.

## Lady Rams Work Under New Coach

By C. "Sport" Page

In his first year as head coach, Tim Grant and the women's softball team opened the season with an impressive doubleheader victory over the Aggies of NC A&T, 2-0 and 6-0 on their home field.

Grant who is no stranger to the game, played baseball in high school and has coached softball in both the summer league and junior high school divisions.

Grant who has coached both male and female athletes feels that females are harder to coach.

"The girls are harder to coach because you have to be a lot more patient with them," said Grant.

"Female attitudes and emotions change from day to day and you have to be aware of that and what kind of mood they're in before practice," added Grant.

Willie Yellock assists Grant with this year's squad. Yellock was the head coach of last year's team that finished 13-2 in the conference and 15-6 overall.

Togetherness of the team has grown since pre-season practices.

"At first it was a learning experience for both the team and myself. They were trying to find out how I coached and I was trying to find out which way I was going to coach them," said Grant.

Grant added, "I knew I had some good athletes returning from last year's team, the challenge was putting them together with this year's girls so that they could play as one unit."

This year's team which is currently 5-0 overall and 1-0 in the conference is starting six first year girls.

"With only four girls returning from last year's team that started, we had to use some freshmen to make up the starting squad."

"The play of these girls has really helped the team," said Grant.

All teams have strong points and weak points and the Ramettes are no exception.

"This year's team's strongest asset is our defense. We have a real good infield and outfield, but our weakness might be in our hitting."

"We have the trouble of hitting consistently from day to day," said Grant. "One day we will hit real good and the next game we have trouble getting on base."

Grant, as a coach, has set some goals for himself and his team.

"I'd like to finish the season above .500. I'd like to develop more knowledge of the game to each of my players, to get them to understand that you have to think in all aspects of the game," said Grant.



Sophomore third baseman Margie Jones awaits pitch against Pfeiffer College, The Rams lost the game 4-2. Photo by C. "Sport" Page

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