

Rams Stopped At Final Four

By Kenneth Raymond
Sports Editor

The Rams of WSSU went into the 39th Annual CIAA Tournament in Norfolk, Va., with high hopes. They were determined to show the league that they were better than an 18-7 regular season team.

The Rams opened up the tournament at 9:00 a.m. on Feb. 22 by having the Bowie State Bulldogs for breakfast. Bowie State couldn't rub the sleep out of their eyes during the first half. The Rams held them to a 33% field goal percentage and forced them into 23 turnovers in the game.

The Bulldogs were without their starting forward Charles Warner during key moments of the game because of foul trouble. John White carried the load for the Bulldogs with 16 points and 17 rebounds.

Playing at such an early hour didn't seem to affect Troy Russell and James Mitchell. Russell and Mitchell combined for 31 points and 15 rebounds to make the Bulldogs wish that they had stayed in bed. The Rams defeated Bowie State 67-48 and advanced to face Virginia State the next day.

Virginia State went to guards Dwayne Wood for 27 points and Kevin Bush for 18 points and 7 assists. Cliff Straughn was the man on the boards for Virginia State with 14 rebounds; he was also good for 21 points.

Rodger Mason led the way against the Trojans with 23 points and 6 rebounds followed by Linwood Gorham with 17 points and John Watkins with 14 points.

With the score 85-87, Rams leading, Kevin Bush went to the basket for two points after Rodger Mason scored from the free throw line. Bush immediately called for a time-out without knowing that the Bulldogs already used all of their time outs. Mason went back to the free throw line for two shots because of the technical. He made one shot and missed the other. The Rams defeated Virginia State 88-86 to advance into the semi-finals against Norfolk State University.

The Rams had their hands full against the Spartans. Norfolk State shot a perfect 100% from the free throw line in the first half. They were led by forward Barry Mitchell with 15 points and eight rebounds, Ralph Tally with 12 points and Alexander Gatling with 11 points.

For the Rams it was Rodger Mason leading the way once again. Mason led all scorers with 19 points followed by Linwood Gorham with 13 points. The Rams' defense caused 16 turnovers against Norfolk and held them to a 38% field goal percentage. But in spite of their efforts the Rams were stopped one game short of making the finals 64-60. Coach "Bighouse" Gaines was stopped at 719 victories, and Norfolk went on to defeat St. Augustine for the CIAA championship.



Rodger Mason soars to the hoop against Norfolk State in CIAA Tournament.
photo By Keith Hilliard

Recipient of expense-paid weekend

Eddie Sauls Is Honored — Again

by Angela Miller

Senior Eddie Sauls, captain of the 1983 WSSU Southern Division CIAA football champions received the "biggest" award of his career recently.

Sauls was honored by the 100 Percent Wrong club of Atlanta, Ga. as the Defensive Player of the Year in the CIAA. The Club is an organization associated with the Atlanta Daily World newspaper.

"It was a very high class and fun experience," said the Goldsboro native. "It was an honor to be there with such important dignitaries and media people," Sauls said.

"Some of the other distinguished people that attended the event were Hank Aaron, Jake Gaither and Joe Black, a former pro baseball pitcher who went to school with coach Gaines," Sauls said.

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Also present for the presentation of awards were Andrew Young, Mayor of Atlanta, and professional football players Lester Hayes and Billy "White Shoes" Johnson.

During the three day stay in Atlanta, Sauls and the other award recipients attended press parties, banquets and individual interviews with each other. Stu-

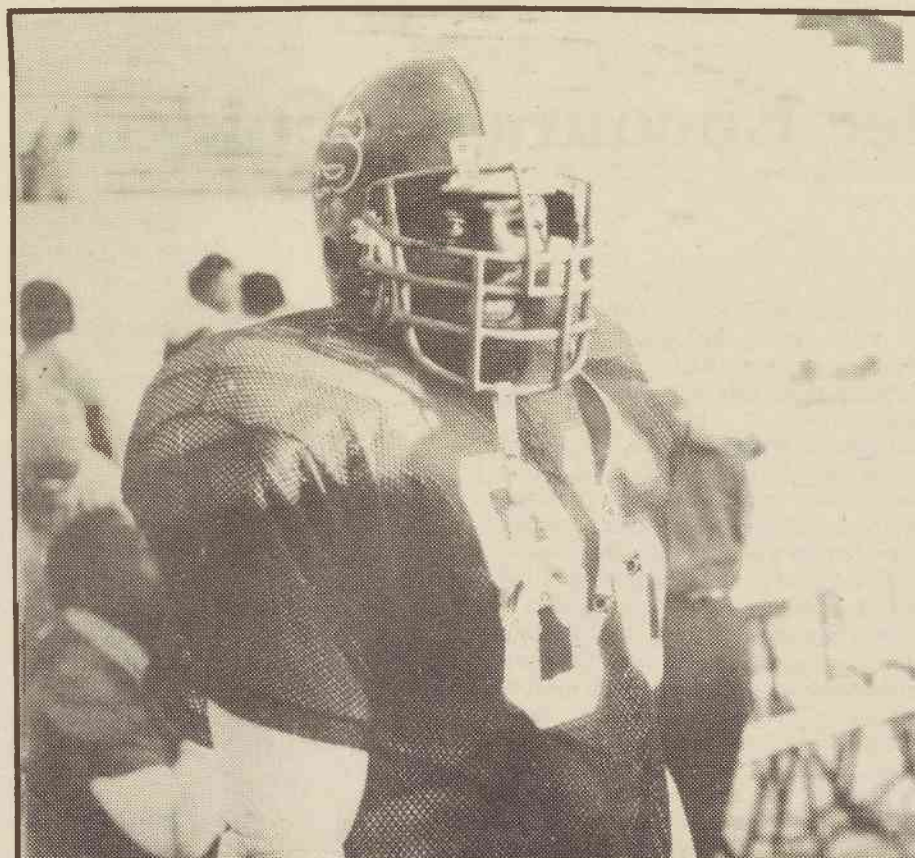
dent athletes from the SWAC, MEAC, SIAC, CIAA, ACC and SCC conferences were also honored for their performances during the '83 football season.

Besides living in the Peachtree Plaza Hotel, the players also dined in the famous Sundial Restaurant on the 72nd floor of the hotel. Eddie said that while the cuisine was very tasty it was also expensive. "It was very nice and was something I will remember, being around all those famous people," he said. "I was given a rental car for the weekend and with the freedom I had, I found very little time for sleep."

After the weekend trip, Eddie returned home exhausted, but nevertheless enthused about his experience and his laminated plaque.

The purpose of the 100 Percent Wrong Club is to promote and honor special black talented athletes and prominent people in the sports world.

Masters of ceremony for the awards presentation were former professional football players-turned actors Bubba Smith and Dick Butkus. WTBS Television Station of Atlanta covered the event.



An honor student, Eddie Sauls has won numerous awards off the field as well as for his athletic ability.

Russell Named To All-CIAA Team

Troy Russell, a 6'4" senior WSSU basketball player from New York City was recently named to the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's All-conference team."