

SPORTS

CIAA Basketball and Wrestling Wrapup

By Bryon Tinnin
Sports Editor

ECSU Tames Rams

Elizabeth City State ended the hopes and the season for the Rams as Ernie Griffin hit an 18-foot jump shot from deep in the corner with six seconds remaining in the 1 p.m. game on Wednesday at the CIAA Championship Tournament.

The outcome was an 81-78 victory, knocking the Rams out in the first round of the CIAA tournament.

Griffin was guarded on the play by Steve Hood, who played excellent defense on the Vikings streak shooter, but it was just one of those shots that just happens to fall.

"Steve played him perfectly and had a hand in his face," said Gaines.

The Rams closed out their season with six losses in their last seven games. Seniors Charlie Spell, Steve Hood, Gary Cromartie, and Matthew McMillan end their season at 16-12.

"We had a lot of experience on this club, but not really a lot of talent," said Gaines. We were able to get the ball inside all year, but we could never do that much with it after we got it in there. Our inside game never really improved."

Trojans Win CIAA Crown

The Virginia State Trojans won their first CIAA crown since 1947 with a 75-72 victory over Norfolk State. The victory earned Virginia State an automatic berth in the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Virginia State led by as many as eight points in the second half, but the Spartans could get no closer than the final margin. Virginia State improved their record to 23-8 while the Spartans finish the year out at 22-6.

Rams Take Wrestling Crown

Congratulations are extended to the Winston-Salem State Wrestling team. They won the CIAA crown this year and two of its wrestlers made it to the NCAA Division II tournament. Willie Mouzon placed 8th in the nation with his victory. He also added All-American to his credentials. All of this as a freshman. James McLinnaham didn't place as high as Mouzon, but he did become a two time CIAA Champion.

Coach Melvin Fair has done an extraordinary job with these athletes and has high hopes of continuing a string of CIAA crowns.

Women's Softball Season Has Begun

Spell Says Goodbye to WSSU

By Bryon Tinnin
Sports Editor

Let's take time to recognize one of Winston-Salem State's prolific players. His name is Charlie Spell. Spell, a 6'1" point guard out of Fayetteville, N.C., finished his 4-year college basketball career under the watchful eyes of C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines. He was a starter each year.

Spell has found that over the years, the pressure in the classroom, as well as on the court, has made him a stronger person.

"By me being a Medical Technology major, it is an added weight to carry because of the constant moving around," said Spell. "Getting up at 6 a.m. and heading to Thomasville for my internship, then heading to practice soon-thereafter for a grueling workout takes its toll on a person," he added.

Even though he stated that hitting the books and hitting the courts took the whole day, he did find time to work in a social life.

Spell said that conversation between him and Coach Gaines decreased over the years mainly because of the great deal of confidence Coach Gaines has in Charlie.

"Coach was more of an instructor in the early years, but as I progressed more into a team leader his confidence in me increased."

When asked about Coach Tim Grant, he had this to say, "Coach Grant is everything 'Chief' is not. The players can talk to him on a different level than 'Chief', more like a brother. He's very helpful and will someday make a good head coach."

His scoring average this year was 18 points a game, while also having 8 assists and 4 steals a game. He said that the game that stands out the most in his mind is beating N.C. A&T last year in the Winston-Salem Coliseum.

Spell is scheduled to graduate this summer, then head off to dentistry school at UNC-Chapel Hill. "I just want to thank the coaches for being such good teachers, and thanks to the student body for their support. I'll cherish the memories."

Thomas Wins Bronze at Olympics

By Bryon Tinnin
Sports Editor

The hopes of the United States' Debi Thomas plummeted when she relinquished her hold on second place and was denied the gold medal. The gold medal went to Thomas' arch-rival, Katarina Witt of West Germany.

Ms. Thomas placed second after the compulsory round and was favored to take the gold. Unfortunately, Ms. Thomas slipped on a couple of occasions due to the amount of pressure that was on her to do so well. Her final standing was third place, a bronze medal.

Ms. Thomas exemplified true character on the ice, but she voiced a great deal of displeasure on her performance. Just being there was good enough because she was one of the "hand-ful" of blacks who performed in the winter games. She did not state whether she would skate in the next Olympics, but she does plan to defend her U.S. Figure Skating Championship later this year.

Congratulations
**Coach Melvin Fair
and the
WSSU Wrestlers
for winning
the
CIAA Wrestling
Championship
from
The News Argus Staff
and
WSSU Faculty and
Student Body**

Congratulations
Student Athletes

**Charlie Spell
1987-88 All CIAA
Men's Basketball Team**

**Willie Mouzon
"All American"
in Wrestling**

**Angela Henderson
1987-88 All CIAA
Women's Basketball Team**