

Sports

CIAA Wrap-Up

By Joyce McMillan
SPORTS EDITOR

"It's not over 'til it's over," and it's over for the Winston-Salem State Rams, who lost in the first round of the CIAA tournament to Elizabeth City 91-75.

The Rams, who were the underdogs, fought for 25 minutes and built a 49-46 lead in the second half. The Vikings, realizing WSSU was not there to play volleyball, stopped taking the Rams for granted and went on a 17-3 spurt. ECSU was then leading 63-52 and from then on, it was all over. The Rams were plagued with turnovers, fouls and fatigue.

Forward Lance Jones had four fouls before halftime, and his absence on the inside after halftime cost the Rams the rebound advantage.

At the half, guards Michael Lesane and Boris Battle were nearly exhausted from the hard play. The rebounding of Barber and reserve forward Maurice Edmunds and the scoring of Lesane kept the Rams alive.

WSSU was leading 47-46 when ECSU's forward Tyson Ransom was called for an intentional foul on Barber. Barber sank both free throws and sent the Rams ahead 49-46.

The Rams had 20 turnovers in the second half, including one from reserve guard Howard Byrd. Down the stretch ECSU capitalized on a Lesane miss by turning it into a three-point play. Lesane led WSSU with 18 points and Battle and Barber added 14 each. Edmunds grabbed 11 rebounds.

In the end NCCU and Va. Union met in a rematch of the first CIAA tournament. At halftime the score was 39-29 Virginia. Virginia Union came out on top 78-58. This championship victory was Virginia Union's third championship win in five years. Va. Union's Coach is Dave Robbins.

BET/Toyota sponsored the Second Annual Slam Dunk Contest during the championship game's halftime.

Coaches chose players from their teams they felt would do well in this competition. The participants were Sheldon Owens, Shaw; Charles Jefferson, VSU; Darrell Armstrong, FSU; Gerald Garrin, JCSU; Curtis Reed, Shaw, and A.J. English, Virginia Union. The three finalists were Gerald Garrin, with 136 points; Curtis Reed, 123 points, and A.J. English, who came out victorious, just as he did last year.

For the first time in quite a while, no WSSU player was chosen to be on the All-CIAA Team. The team consisted of Leonard Harris, VSU; Anthony King, Shaw; Antoine Sifford, NCCU; Stacy Clark, Hampton U.; Terry Davis, Va. Union; Walter Hurd, Johnson C. Smith; Mike Sinclair, Bowie; Ernie Griffin, LaMont Walker, VSU; LaShun McDaniel, St. Aug.; Jerome Coles, NSU, and Miles Lark, NCCU.

Norfolk State's Coach Charles Christian was chosen "Coach of the Year."

Lady Rams experience growing pains

By Bryon Tinnin
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Winston-Salem State Lady Rams basketball team has had a very frustrating season. It hasn't been a season of ups and downs, but simply downs. Their season has been a youthful learning experience.

The Lady Rams finished fifth in the Southern Division with a 3-8 record, 6-18 overall. They, like their male counterparts, also lost some important key games due to youth and inexperience.

"We played some talented and far more experienced teams," said Lady Rams Coach Stinson Conley.

The team missed the balanced scoring and leadership of former players Angela Henderson, Sharon Holloway and Dawn Hand. The presence of guards Brenda Maxwell, Andrea Pellon and Denise Conley helped some, but the presence of young and less experienced freshmen was obvious.

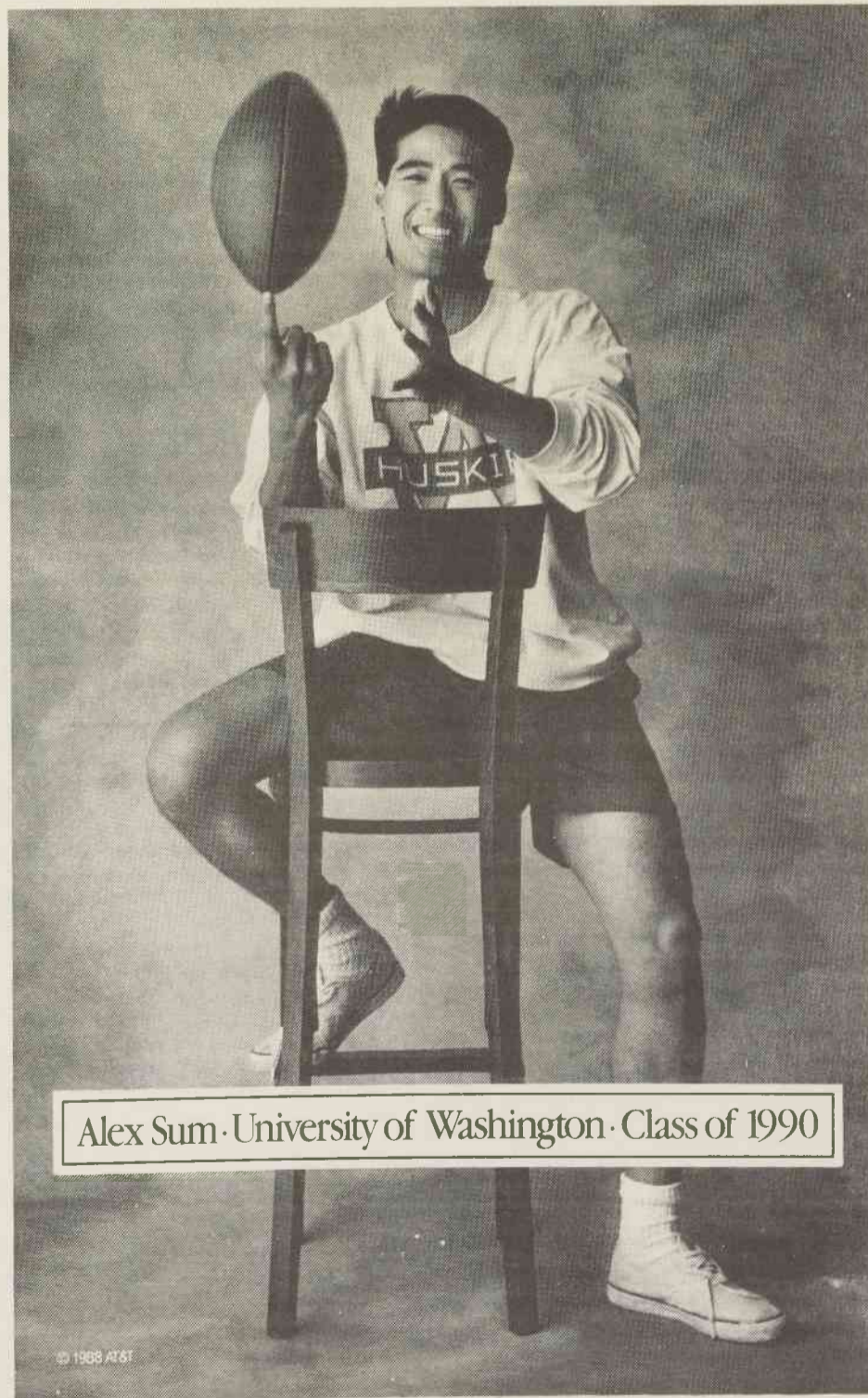
"Our freshman girls did a good job this year, and I think it would be so unfair to single one player out as the most outstanding on the team," said Conley. "Everyone did an outstanding job," he added.

Even though the girls' basketball team received little publicity this season, they deserve credit for playing hard and as a team. As time progresses, and as players begin to mature, the Lady Rams should begin having more productive seasons.

"We have some very bright players that are growing, and that will help us next season," said Conley.

Coach Conley also said that he has had some commitments from some good recruits, so that may also add to the overall productiveness of the team.

"I wasn't rubbing it in—I just wanted Eddie to know the score of last night's game."



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