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Gaines Wins 800th



Coach Gaines Receives Gifts From Loyal Fans. Photo By: Tuttle

By Ernest S. Simpson

Before starting a career that would span five university chancellors, nine U.S. presidents, 100s of players, and over 40 years you can only wonder if even "Bighouse" Gaines himself could foresee the astronomical success that lie ahead of him.

Whether or not coach Clarence Bighouse Gaines had anticipated his phenomenal success more than 40 years ago, the eyes of Winston-Salem State along with those of basketball

and trivia fans around the country watched with nervous anticipation as Coach Gaines approached his 800th career victory.

With all eyes focused and fingers crossed, Coach Gaines captured the crown jewel of his coaching career on Wednesday, January 24, 1990. The jewel: win number 800. The pawn shop: Livingstone College. It was Livingstone that gave the Rams two wins in less than a week, the second of course, the 800th game milestone.

The forgotten quotient lost in "Bighouse's" shadow are the players who brought home the prize. At the ceremony paying tribute to his legend, Bighouse praised his players and thanked them for their effort. Just talking to the players, it becomes immediately evident that they are extremely proud to be a part of basketball history.

Junior Lorenzo White commented, "Once our time has passed, our names will be on this earth forever. I hadn't seen so much media since my high school state championship. BET, ESPN, WSNC, plus other local stations were all there covering the victory game."

It was once said that perseverance and humility is the mark of a champion. Humility is evident in "Bighouse" Gaines. During the ceremony in his honor, Coach Gaines stood silently in the back ground, a large but apparently friendly figure, as a succession of well wishers sang his praises. When the coach finally addressed the audience he talked not just about his personal achievement of 800 career wins, but expressed pride to have brought positive national attention to Winston-Salem State and black institutions in general, something that has been hard to come by lately.

One man who had the opportunity to benefit and grow under Gaines' experience is the Lady Rams' Head Coach Stenson Conley. Conley played on "Bighouse's" last team to go undefeated in conference play. The season was 1974-1975 and Coach Conley points out that although "Bighouse" has mellowed some, his fundamental coaching philosophy is as sound as ever.

In recounting his playing years with Gaines, Conley recalled that



Dick Gregory Photo By: Tuttle

Dick Gregory Speaks On Campus

By Ernest S. Simpson

When you say Dick Gregory, you've said a mouthful. A man who is a comedian, political rights activist, and a satirist made a speaking visit to WSSU's Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on Thursday, February 8, 1990.

An accomplished author with twelve books to his credit, Gregory has written extensively on diet and weight control. He is the engineer of The Gregory Diet Plan. Much of Gregory's inspiration for dietary writing could well have come from personal experience.

Taking a quick glance at Gregory's 57 year old frame, one would never guess that the very same frame once carried more than 300 pounds. This fact could explain why nine of his

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