

Basketball Preview

Men's team expected to finish higher than women's in respective divisions

By Donutea Johnson
Argus Reporter

The CIAA held its annual Basketball Press Conference last month at the Marriott Crabtree Valley Hotel in Raleigh. The Pre-Season Basketball Team and the Predicted Order of Finish for the 2001-02 Basketball Season, selected by the CIAA Basketball Coaches Association, were announced.

2001-02 CIAA Women's Basketball Predicted Order of Finish

WESTERN DIVISION
North Carolina Central University
Fayetteville State University

Johnson C. Smith University
Livingstone College
Winston-Salem State
Saint Augustine's College

EASTERN DIVISION
Virginia State University
Saint Paul's College
Elizabeth City State University
Bowie State University
Shaw University
Virginia Union University

The Lady Rams will look to silence their critics and prove that they are better than fifth in their division with new coach Daymond Lindell who is

coming from Vorhees College as head coach of their women's basketball team. He will also serve as Assistant Athletic Director. While at Vorhees College, he guided the women's basketball team to No. 10 NCAA Division I tournament appearance, and received an EIAC Coach of the Year Award. He undoubtedly has the credentials to turn the Lady Ram basketball program around.

2001-02 CIAA Men's Basketball Predicted Order of Finish

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Johnson C. Smith University
Saint Augustine's College
Livingstone College
North Carolina Central University

EASTERN DIVISION
Shaw University
Virginia Union University
Bowie State University
Elizabeth City State University
Virginia State University
Saint Paul's College

The Rams will look to maintain their solid play of the past three years as

new head coach Philip Stitt tries to fill the big shoes of coach Ricky Duckett.

Coach Stitt was here for all of the recent Ram success as he has been an assistant coach at WSSU since 1998.

He has been coaching on the collegiate level for 10 years and knows this team well, so players and the coaching staff won't have to worry about him having to get adjusted to this team and the players.

Coach Stitt has high expectations for his first year as a head coach because the Rams are picked to finish second in the CIAA Western Division.

SportSpotlight

Best wants to lead the Rams to victory on the court

By Daysha Williams
Argus Reporter

Marcus Best will give basketball fans who crave the excitement that the game creates exactly what they want this season.

Best is a small forward/guard from Fayetteville. He attended Seventy-First High School, which has a reputation for producing fine basketball players.

Best, 21, is a management information systems major.

His motto is: "If it's to be, it's up to me."

He said that the WSSU basketball team quotes this motto before every game.

Best usually averages about 11 points in every

game.

His goals are to win the CIAA championship, national championship and the division title.

"I would love to go pro one day," he said.

He has played basketball for nine years and has received many awards for his skills. Some of those awards include Rookie of the Year and All-CIAA team.

To Best, basketball is more than a game.

"It's sort of hard to explain. It's something that keeps me thinking. It's something that allows me to show my true side. Basketball is something that I know how to play, and I love to share that with people."

Good Luck to
WSSU's
Basketball Teams

Men's Schedule

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Dec. 15 | Elizabeth City State | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 4-5 | C.E. Gaines Classic | TBA |
| Jan. 8 | St. Augustine's College | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 12 | at Livingstone College | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 17 | at Shaw University | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 19 | St. Paul's College | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 20 | at Johnson C. Smith | TBA |
| Jan. 23 | at Virginia State University | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 26 | Johnson C. Smith University | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 29 | Fayetteville State University | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 2 | North Carolina Central Univ. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 5 | at St. Augustine's College | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 9 | Benedict College | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 12 | Livingstone College | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 16 | at Fayetteville State | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 19 | at North Carolina Central | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 23 | Strayer University | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 25- March 2 | CIAA Tournament | TBA |

Women's Schedule

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|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Dec. 7-8 | at Wingate Classic | TBA |
| Dec. 15 | Elizabeth City State University | 5:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 4-5 | at Glensville State Classic | 6/8 p.m. |
| Jan. 8 | St. Augustine's College | 5:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 12 | at Livingstone College | 5:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 17 | at Shaw University | 5:30 p.m. |
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