

# NCC Hardwood-Men End Season With 3 Wins, 1 Loss

By Robert C. Bell, Jr.

The Eagles of North Carolina College romped past the Trojans of Virginia State College in the R. L. McDougald Gymnasium February 6. NCC entered the game looking toward the Greensboro Coliseum and February 27, 28, and March 1. Breaking early in the first half, the Eagles carried a 38-36 lead to the dressing room at half time. The lead was pushed ahead during the second half at 46-40 by a fantastic steal by NCC's Billy Rose who darted the ball to Ronald McCrimmon, who made the surprise lay-up.

With 15 minutes in the final half, NCC held a 10-point lead at 52-42. The entire gym seemed amused by the clowning moves and maneuvers of Virginia's Roach. With 12 minutes on the clock, the Trojans narrowed the gap and added 8 points while NCC added 2. This brought the score to 54-50.

Then the Eagles went "on the warpath," as Washington stole the ball and made a lay-up. The Eagles pushed their lead to 12 points at 10 minutes of play. Washington, who occupied the bench during most of the season, again came through when he scored some beautiful jump shots.

"Hustle, boys, hustle." Everyone took up the chant. And then NCC was amused by bougaloo moves from its own "Pete" Pridgen. With 9 minutes on the clock, Washington and Slade replaced Ronnie Mac and Pridgen, who had foul trouble, but re-entered the game during its dying minutes. As the minutes ticked down to one, NCC held a 13 point lead, 75-62. With 56 seconds left, the Eagles added 1 point through a free throw by Billy Rose and held a 15-point lead at 80-65 with 20 seconds remaining. Joseph Pridgen fouled out of the game with 10 seconds left to play. The final score was 82-69.

"Hey, Virginia, you should've

known better than to mess with us," the crowd cheered as they left the gym.

Two nights later the Eagles met the Hampton cagers in McDougald Gym. Teamwork and tournament aspirations produced the victory for the Eagles. Hampton's Harrell got the first two game points followed by Joseph Pridgen for North Carolina College. The first half of the game produced a lot of clumsiness on both teams and at one point, Hampton benefited greatly from ball stealing tactics.

Ronald McCrimmon, NCC's sharpshooter, continued his scoring fame by thrilling the home crowd and amazing Hampton with his backcourt shots. Joseph Pridgen, senior co-captain of the team, entered the final one minute of the first half with no fouls and before that one minute was over Pridgen had committed three fouls. The Eagles were favored with a 35-28 half time score.

After the second half had gotten under way the Eagles ventured to a 43-33 lead with 16:00 showing on the clock. After two minutes of play, a surge by Hampton brought the score to 46-40. The teams went scoreless for two minutes and NCC began to succumb to devastating pressure by Hampton who came from behind at 46-44 with 12 minutes remaining to tie the score at 46-46.

At this point, the home crowd began to get upset as Hampton hooked 2 more points and led the Eagles 48-46. The Eagles seemed little disturbed and were spurred on by the action-getting chant, "Hustle, boys, Hustle!" Two points by Hank Brown and a long jumper by "Ronnie Mac" brought the Eagles from behind 50-48. Steve Humphrey added 2 points and NCC assumed an uneasy lead at 52-48. But the Hampton cagers came on strong again and tied the score. NCC's Slade broke the tie with 8

minutes remaining. At 5 minutes, NCC again assured itself of a safe lead at 60-52. With 30 seconds remaining, Billy Rose added a lay-up and the score stood at 75-62. Joseph Pridgen fouled out during the last 5 seconds and Hampton added 1 more point. The final score was 75-63.

The Eagle five suffered only one defeat during the season's end as their wings were clipped 66-62 by the Fayetteville State College Broncos. The Eagles handed over an insurmountable lead to the pack of hungry Broncos in McDougald Gym. The loss shattered all NCC's dreams of going to the conference tournament in Greensboro. NCC blew a 14-point lead in less than six minutes and even had numerous opportunities to pull the game out of the bag in the last few minutes of play.

They led the Broncos 38-31 at half-time and increased its lead considerably to 14 points before Fayetteville State's Monroe and Randy Brown took charge, wooing spectators with fancy ball handling and maneuvering.

With 52 seconds left on the clock in the final half, the Broncos led the Eagles 63-62 with Eagles' aspirations to even the score or pass them on by them on by free throws. The case seemed hopeless as Fayetteville added 3 more points to end the game at 66-62. Joseph Pridgen, NCC's yeoman led the home quintet in scoring with 19 points and Dennis Robinson followed with 13 points. William Monroe of Fayetteville State led the game in scoring totaling 25 points. This loss gave NCC a 9-10 mark in CIAA standing and a 11-10 overall.

NCC hosted Shaw University, to end the 1969 basketball season. Seniors Joseph Pridgen and Dennis Robinson played their last game for North Carolina College. Pridgen gave his home team points in the victory and grabbed 16 rebounds while Robinson netted 19 points and 14 rebounds. Both made a spectacular showing in their finale and received a standing ovation from the crowd as they left the game with 1:30 left on the clock.

The Eagles, playing one of their best games of the season in this CIAA win over Shaw, clocked 40 points at halftime over Shaw's 29 points. The game went along smoothly until NCC's Lewis Ellis and Shaw's Kelly Utley had a brief "fist" en-

counter and were ejected from the game with 8:30 left in the first half.

During the half time, the near-capacity crowd witnessed a thrilling exhibition from the Shawettes, Shaw's girl drill team.

After the second half got under way, NCC scored 8 points during a two-minute span after the Bears had narrowed NCC's lead to 10 points at 42-32. With 16:05 left in the contest, Pridgen scored two field goals and Hank Brown and Dennis Robinson

each broke for 2 points, widening the Eagle lead by 18 points, 50-32.

The Eagles totaled 42 points in the second half while Shaw added 40 points, ending the game at 82-69.

Billy Rose was the third high scorer with 12 points, followed by Humphrey with 9, Brown with 8 and Ellis with 6. Bobby Moore was the high scorer for the Bears with 20 points. NCC finished the season with a 10-9 slate and a 14-10 overall record, and no chance of entering the tourney play-offs at Greensboro.

## Sharks Regain Championship

By Robert Bowies

Not since the Truman-Dewey shower has there been a bigger upset than the Sharks' 58-53 overtime victory over the Hustlers for the coveted IAA basketball crown. Truly it was a sweet victory for the Sharks who waited one long hectic year to avenge a 58-54 set back at the hands of the Hustlers in last year's championship game.

Picked a 7-1 underdog, the Sharks displayed the poise and skill which earned them the title two years ago "the team that the IAA is all about." Losing their second leading scorer (Thomas Cameron) and their number one reserve (Ricardo Samuda) via graduation, everyone gave up on the quintet but the Sharks themselves. Time and time again they fought back,

becoming only the second team in Intramural history to go undefeated.

Ole Man River (Frank Bullock) led the victors with 20 points and 12 rebounds. Pete "Hondo" Quinn added another 19 points and the game's high of 16 rebounds. Julian Martin and Moses Bryant scored 23 and 16 points, respectively, for the losers.

Pure and simple shooting was the difference in the game which saw the lead exchange hands twelve times and tied at the end of the regulation period 50-50. The Hustlers hit on 24 of 82 field goal attempts for 29 per cent. On the other hand, the Sharks connected on 32 of 73 field goal attempts for 43 per cent and 12 of 20 free throws for 60 per cent accuracy.

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