

Lions' Best-Ever Season Ends In Division II Tournament

By Erik Barlik
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Mars Hill Lion basketball season is over. The all-time winning season ended in Division II tournament play with a final score of 87-80 against Elizabeth City State University. However, the score does not tell the whole story. Mars Hill was up against a team of skyscrapers, with Elizabeth City boasting a 7'1" center, a 6'11" forward, and an American 6'7" forward. But the gritty, determined Mars Hill team fought back time after time to overcome large deficits on the scoreboard.

On the court, things went both good and bad early. ECSU's 7'1" Viking center, Jo-ve Ford scored the first points in this single elimination playoff game on a putback under the hoop. Just one minute later, however, he was given his first technical foul for hanging on the rim after missing an

impossible-to-miss slam dunk. Lamont Jones sunk the two free-throws for Mars Hill, and the crowd made its presence known for the first of many times during the game.

Cedric Mansell hit the Lions' first basket at 15:39 left in the first half to make the score Vikings 9, Lions 6. At the 14:18 mark, Matt Hurst was fouled while sinking a 3-point basket and hit his free-throw to give the Lions a 10-9 lead.

With 8:30 left in the first half, the crowd once again exploded after a Stan Wheless slam dunk which gave the Lions the 22-18 lead. However, at the close of the first half, the low-scoring was over, and the Vikings had pulled out a 43-31 lead.

Several players tried to rally Mars Hill back into the game, looking hopeless until ECSU's All-American, Nate Higgins, picked up a technical foul. Later, James Barber hit a layup and a three-pointer to close the Viking lead to 73-68. Mansell

added a dunk, and things looked good for the Hill. But, several scores from poor officiating lead to a 79-71 score with 1:13 left. Fittingly enough, Cedric Mansell added one last punctuating dunk, and Lamont Jones sank a basket when time ran out. But, the Vikings held to their lead, ending the game at 87-80.

MHC notables, Cedric Mansell lead the Lions with 21, and Lamont Jones sank 16 along with 4 assists. If ECSU's Higgs had scored 20 instead of his game high 25, and ECSU's Shawn Walker had only scored 19, not 23, the Lions would have been victorious.

The Hill comes alive again Nov. 1. With five starting seniors returning, Mars Hill should once again threaten opponents in the jungle next year.

Lady Lions Baseball "Swinging" into Spring

By Erik Barlik
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Lady Lions baseball team is gearing up their season, trying to prove their talents to fans and competitors alike.

The Lady Lions are led by a number of outstanding players, including first baseman, Kim Ayscue. Ayscue is tied for the team lead in sacrifice-bunts, and leads the Lions with a .389 fielding average. Melony Winters is tops in batting average, stolen bases and triples. Kim Turner could be a candidate for freshman of the year based on her team-leading 70 win percentage as a pitcher, and her team-leading 70 wins, 25 hits and 10 RBIs. Kelly Brower has the Lady Lions' only homerun of the spring, while Laura Helton leads the team in walks and is tied for the lead in runs with Winters. Kristi Turner has pitched well, with 10 complete games, and a shutout with Turner. As far as positions go, Tracy Schoenfeld leads the team, having played the field positions, third base, second base, and shortstop for the Lady Lions this year.

Sports Information Director Resigns

By Erik Barlik
Hilltop Staff Writer

Chris Smith, Mars Hill's new sports information director for 1993-94, resigned shortly before Mars Hill's Division II Tournament basketball game against Elizabeth City State University (see story, this page). The decision came only seven and a half months after Smith was hired by the college. Smith also resigned from his duties as assistant baseball coach.

Smith felt that he had done a good job juggling responsibilities, going above and beyond the call of duty when necessary. He commented that he also had to un-do some mistakes

made in the past, but that this time it was not possible. Smith left Mars Hill with no ill-will towards the college,

and the Division II play going on. Some felt Smith's talents of communication and organization will surely

be missed.

Smith will be continuing his duties with the Asheville Citizen-Times, and hopes

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or its personnel, and wished he could have been able to do more.

The timing of Smith's decision puzzled many students because of the upcoming baseball season

graduation COVERAGE BEGINS

THE HILLTOP

Graduation Plans Set

By Rhonda Baity
Hilltop Staff Writer

Less than five weeks until graduation. Is everyone prepared?

While most seniors have been stricken with senioritis and have been counting the days until graduation since August, the senior class officers and the alumni office have been busy at work planning the events of graduation.

On Saturday, May 14, the Graduation Banquet will be held. Held in the cafeteria, the banquet is given in honor of the graduates and their family and friends. There will be speeches and entertainment.

At the banquet, the Outstanding Senior Award will be given. Who's Who Among College Students will be recognized, and the senior class will present the Outstanding Faculty and Staff Award.

After the banquet, the band and choir will

present a good-bye concert.

The activities continue with Sunday morning's Baccalaureate services in Broyhill Chapel.

Finally, the moment of most anticipation, graduation exercises will be held that afternoon. Seating for the graduation will begin after 3 p.m. for non-ticket holders. Those people with tickets, such as family, should arrive by 2:45 to ensure their seating.

The bookstore says that each senior will be notified when their announcements will be in. The bookstore will provide an insert graduation list of events to be put into the announcements. Seniors should not forget to pick these up.

The senior class officers are: Emily Giddens and Julie Rae Justice, co-presidents; Monnie Griggs, vice president; Chip Hood, secretary; and Kevin Davis, treasurer.

What The Future Holds

By Patrick Nelson
Hilltop Staff Writer

Imagine the sight of black caps and gowns, the sound of "Pomp and Circumstance" echoing throughout the air, and a host of new graduates marching down the aisle to a new beginning. On May 15, 1994, Mars Hill will be saying "Good-Bye" to 252 students who will be graduating.

Fresh new graduates have made plans that will positively enrich their lives after graduation from Mars Hill.

"I'll leave, work, go to graduate school, play, visit and enjoy life," said Lynne Edwards.

Graduate school is also in the future for Yuka Fukada, who plans to attend Ohio State.

Anthony McCaleb looks forward to "getting married and going on to seminary and whatever else God leads [him] in."

Many graduates hope to find jobs including Cheri Goosby and Lena Barber. Goosby plans on finding a job only after she takes a long cruise, while Barber will look for one sooner.

Teaching is on the minds of some

including Melony Winters, who explains that "when I graduate, I want to get a teaching job in Western North Carolina. If I don't, I plan to go to graduate school."

Senior Clea Caparolie plans to work in a Biology related field. She is particularly seeking to get lab experience, and she may plan to go on to graduate school for nutritional studies and "to have a family."

Sherry French and Steven Whisnant have no idea what to do after they leave college to enter the "real" world.

Todd Lusk indicated that he has everything under control when he said, "[I plan to] have a job, which I am working on now."

Everyone else in the Senior class has plans similar to these students. For each senior, the friends and family they leave behind share one hope: that the graduates find success in their pursuits of happiness.

Peter Alexander summed it up best when he said "Mars Hill has been 'Home' for four years now, and beginning May 16, my search for my new 'Home' begins. I'm planning to stay in the Carolina's region and say 'Hello' to my new world as I say 'Good-Bye' to Mars Hill."