

Coach Gaines And Rams Vie For CIAA Crown

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through the conference schedule undefeated winning all 16 of their CIAA contests.

They became the first team to accomplish this feat since 1967 when Earl Monrow lead them to the NAIA championship.

Gaines has his eye set on another NAIA crown. Last season virtually the same team made it to the third round of the NAIA without the services of All-CIAA guard Tom Paulin, the team's top scorer, who was injured in the CIAA tourney.

Many fans compare this seasons team with the '67 team. Gaines says the teams are comparable. "This team plays as well together as any team I've had", he said recently.

The Morgan State grad points out that this team lacks the great inside attack of the '67 team (no starter is over 6-5 and the team's tallest player is only 6'-6").

"These kids rely on quickness and pressure to bring the big men outside and a helping defense."

Many fans say that the team has the greatest shooters in CIAA history but Gaines is quick to point out that his cagers are dead last in the conference in field goal percentage (40%) and near the botton in rebounding.

The key to the team's success has been defense. The Rams have held their opponents to an average of 78 points per game by playing excellent defense.

The team is favored to take the CIAA crown and has already clinched a berth in the NAIA District 26 playoffs.

They are the No. 2 ranked black college team according the the Mutual Black Network Basketball poll.

Gaines, who is also WSSU's Athletic Director and also a Health and Physical Education instructor, credits his success to his ability to get along with people and co-operation. "When I came here the people were hungry to help any coach develop a successful program. Everyone was cooperative, sympathetic and helpful."

Gaines credits former WSSU Business Manager I.A. Terrell with being the father of the school athletic program. "Mr. Terrell was also the Athletic Chairman and I never had to beg for money. I never brought a kid in and had to send him home because of a

lack of funds."

He also says that both WSSU chancellors Dr. Francis L. Atkins and the present mentor Dr. Kenneth Williams have always wanted a first class program in everything and this has been a major factor in his success.

Gaines says he has no favorite team. "I've enjoyed working with everyone of them."

As this season's team boarded a bus for Hampton one could see that special rapport the coach has with his players. They kidded "Big-house" about his clothes, his hair and called him slow.

One player said, "Until practice or game time he's jsut one of the guys. He never throws his weight around

because he never has to. He never has to ask for respect because if you're around him, you can't help but love and respect the man."

Another says, "he's taught me more basketball than any man I've ever known but he's also taught me more about life than any man I've ever known. He's one of the few people in the world who practices what they preach."

Gaines, whose teams have captured eight CIAA championships, says his coaching philosophy is simple.

"I try to get a group of youngsters who are talented, treat them all alike, and try to teach them the golden rule."

With 576 victories to his credit, who can argue with his philosophy?

Black American Heritage LOST, Stolen, Forgotten?

This being the last week of Black History Month, let's concentrate on dates, facts and figures that are pertinent to the black American during the American Revolution War.

In so doing, we'll take a quick look at some pre-war facts which covers the years 1770-1775; the war years from 1775-1783 and post-war from 1783-1793.

In 1770, Crispus Attucks was the first of five men killed in the Boston Massacre and in 1772, Lord Mansfield's decision AGAINST SLAVERY in English territory affected future decisions in New England.

The first Negro Baptist Church was organized in 1773 in Savannah, Georgia by George Leile and in the same year, Bill Richmond, the father of modern prize fighting was born in New York.

During the war years, the Continental Congress barred blacks from the army in 1775, so the Royal Governor of Virginia offered freedom to all slaves joining the British Army, therefore, Washington got Congress to accept free blacks -- and about 5,000 served.

In the year 1776, Prince Whipple and Oliver Cronwell crossed the Delaware River with George Washington and in the same year, although slavery was one of the earliest grievances against the King, the Declaration of Independence was signed WITHOUT denouncing it and also, the Mason-Dixie line was surveyed to separate Maryland from Pennsylvania - later separated FREE/SLAVE states.

Four hundred blacks held off 1,500 British in the Battle of Rhode Island in 1778 and the first license issued to a black preacher was done so in the year 1780.

However, after the war, many slaves were freed as a reward for their military service during 1783. And, in 1785, the Constitutional Convention upheld slavery in three sections of its writing and also that year, David Walker was born. He later became the first Negro writer to openly attack slavery.

Although blacks had been allowed to fight during the American Revolution, things were still bad for the black Americans.

During the 1790 census, out of a total population of 4,000,000, 757,181 were Negroes, and out of that amount, only 59,557 were FREE.

Things got so bad that in 1793, the Fugitive Slave-Law was passed by Congress which made it a criminal to assist an escaping slave.

The list is endless about the black American. We could go on forever talking about either his accomplishments or setbacks. But, these are just a few of those things which serves as an insight to our Black American Heritage.

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GOOD LUCK WSSU RAMS In The
CIAA Tournament!!

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