

Shaw . . . . . 83	Elizabeth City . . . . . 73
Winston-Salem State 78	St. Paul's . . . . . 62
Hampton . . . . . 95	St. Augustine's at Fayetteville State
Bowie State . . . . . 45	

### Black College Scoreboard

HOME	VISITORS
★ MEAC	★ CIAA
★ SWAC	★ SIAC
Last Week's Scores	

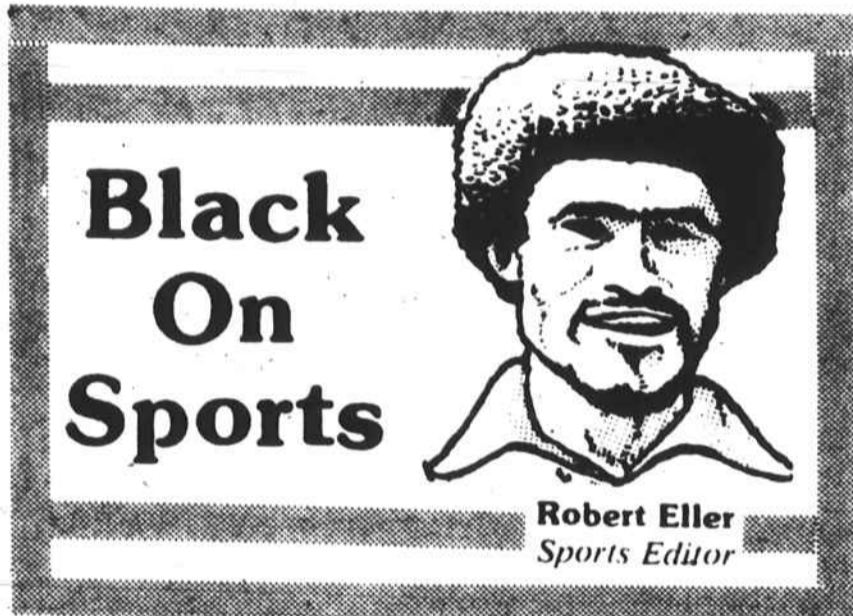
J.C. Smith . . . . . 111	N.C. Central . . . . . 66
Livingstone . . . . . 99	Winston-Salem State 65
Norfolk State . . . . . 99	J.C. Smith . . . . . 86
Virginia State . . . . . 72	Livingstone . . . . . 63

# sports Winston-Salem Chronicle

## Gaines On HOF Ballot

By Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

It will be the middle of February before C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines finds out if he will be elected to the



Back in November as the 1980-81 basketball season was about to get under way a number of writers and fans were predicting that for the first time in a number of years WSSU coach "Bighouse" Gaines wasn't pulling anybody's leg when he as always predicted that his Rams would not be among the favorites to win the Southern Division title.

As far back as anyone can remember "House" has always "cried the blues" before the season began only to end up on top of the division come tourney time. Things were different this season however, the Rams had lost All-American Reggie Gaines and four year starter Mike Robinson. With them went not only the teams top scorers but also their top rebounders and their only players above 6-5.

Meanwhile, Robert Moore had brought in James George, a 6-10 transfer from UNC-Charlotte to go along with an already overpowering frontline. Harvey Heartley was returning four fifths of a team that won the district w6 title last season, and the rest of the division and league were getting stronger.

Still the feeling was that Gaines would as always find a way to win even without the big man he had always talked about wanting.

Now 15 games into the season it looks as if the roof is caving in on the House. After surprising everybody with two victories in the Thanksgiving Classic, the Rams proceeded to win only 2 of their next 13 games. During that stretch they lost silky freshman James Mitchell, only 6-4, but possibly their best frontcourt player to a knee injury. Less than 24 hours later 6-5 freshman Willie Miller also went down with a knee injury which will require surgery.

Now for the first time since 1968, the year after Earl Monroe led the team to a national title, Gaines faces the prospect of a losing season. The 10-14 record of 68 is Gaines only non winning year since he started coaching basketball more than 900 games and 34 years ago.

During the recently concluded road trip the Rams beat only St. Augustine, for the second time this year, while losing to Elizabeth City, St. Paul, Fayetteville and even Livingstone. The final nail may have been put in the coffin in Raleigh last Friday night. The Rams jumped out to a quick 12-2 lead on the Bears who had won but 2 of their last 43 games.

The team still looked in control at the half leading 38-33 after allowing the Bears to take a 31-30 lead at one point in the first 20 minutes. A little more than 10 minutes into the final half all looked as well as the Rams built another 10 point cushion 52-42. But the Bears, looking for their first CIAA victory in two seasons, came back and tied the game at 63 with 14 seconds left. And as had happened on four other occasions this season, the Rams couldn't convert a final shot as the game went into overtime.

Again in the extra five minute period the Rams had a shot at winning. They tied the game at 68 on a drive by Kevin McRae with 1:35 left and after a turnover took time outs at 1:14, :30, and 08 seconds but failed to score and were dominated in the second overtime as Warren Reynolds got his first CIAA win as a coach.

Now with 9 league games left Gaines can only hope that with seven at home his squad can overtake North Carolina Central, a team that beat the Rams in Durham, but has seven road games left.

Gaines admits that he doesn't have an answer to the problems that face the Rams, lack of height, two scoring guards who need the ball to be effective, and who are both defensive liabilities because of their lack of height.

Unless the games winningest coach can come up with some kind of miracle, and the Eagles fold, Gaines will suffer his second losing season and will go to the CIAA tourney without a team competing in it for only the sixth time in the events history.

James Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, but for the nation's winningest active basketball coach the honor of being recognized even by nomination after some 35 years of coaching is honor enough.

"It's the highest honor one can receive in basketball," he said this week as he sat in his office, talking to this reporter as he signed a travel expense voucher for a football coach, checked the schedule of various P.E. students and talked with the equipment manager simultaneously. "The significance of it is so broad," he continued after a few more interruptions. "You can be honored as a player, a coach, an official (referee) or contributor."

For Gaines it is one of the few honors he has not received since he came to WSSU in 1946. His first CIAA crown came in 1953, an NCAA college division title followed in 1967. The next year he was chosen for the NAIA Helms Hall of Fame, became a member of the CIAA Hall of Fame in 1973 and a member of the North Carolina Hall in '78.

The Naismith Hall has a special meaning for Gaines for a number of reasons. First, he would become the first black coach to be selected.

John B. McLendon was named as a contributor in 1978.

Secondly, he would be the first coach to be named since Ray Meyer, who ranks behind him in wins, to be chosen since the legendary John Wooden in '72. North Carolina's Dean Smith is also on this year's ballot, however. And most importantly, Gaines would finally gain the recognition he deserves by entering a Hall where he would be among the select ranks of such coaches as Adolph Rupp, Red Auerbach and Frank McGuire.

Another reason Gaines would like to get into the Hall, although he didn't say so, might be the effect it could have on recruiting at WSSU, where in all his years, Gaines had never been able to attract the "big man."

Should he be inducted, what would be left as goals for

the man who has sent a number of players to the NBA, had two first round draft choices taken in the league draft, traveled the world as a good will ambassador for the sport he loves and had a new athletic facility named for him on the WSSU campus.

"I'd like to win 700 games and then devote my time to building the athletic program here and making it sound financially."

Then he jokingly added, showing he still has a great sense of humor, despite facing the possibility of the worst record in his coaching career this season. "Getting to 700 may be very difficult or I may get too old to coach before it happens at the rate I'm going now."

On a more serious note he concluded, "It is the original Hall of Fame, and a huge number of people go to Springfield, Mass. each year just to tour it."

Now in its 20th year since the first induction in 1960, the Hall is the pinnacle of basketball honors, a fitting place for a man who is at the top among basketball coaches.



Dee Dee Wardlow of the High Point College Panthers grabs one off the boards during their game against the Winston-Salem State Ramettes. The Panthers won the contest 90-60, leaving the WSSU with a record of 3-11.

## All Stars Take V-Ball Tourney

Fowlers All Stars defeated the Hornets in five sets to win the Fifth Annual Twin City Volleyball Classic at the Patterson Ave. YMCA, Jan. 23 and 24.

The All Stars, led by captain Ron Fowler, defeated the Hornets 13-15, 17-15, 7-15, 15-13, 15-12.

The tournament consisted of 15 games with teams from R.J. Reynolds, Western Electric, Merita Bakery, Winston-Salem Police Department, Winston-Salem State University, the YMCA and an out-of-state team from Martinsville, Va.

The Mean Machine, last year's stars and lost in the second round to the Hornets 11-15 and 10-15. More than 800 spectators showed up for the two day event.

The Patterson Ave. YMCA Family Circle Volleyball League was represented in the finals by the Hornets. The team's captain is Oscar Brayboy. The game's Most Valuable Players were Charles Jordan and Sarah Mitchell, both All Stars.

Robert Cook, tournament director, says the league still has openings for teams or individuals interested in playing volleyball.

## Albany State Dismisses Two

Albany State College has been beset by disciplinary problems. Head men's basketball coach Oliver Jones was forced recently to dismiss two of his top players because of behavior problems. Gone are Mark Jackson, a guard who averaged 20.1 points per game last year, and Johnny Hayes, a 6-foot-8 senior forward. The Rams are 5-7 now, and are 1-4 since losing Jackson and Hayes.

## Del. State Hires White Coach

Quite a controversy is brewing up at Dover, Del., where the Hornets recently became the first school in black college history to hire a white head football coach. He's Joe Purcycki, formerly a defensive backfield coach at mostly-white University of Delaware.

Purcycki replaces Charles Henderson, who was fired at the end of last year's 1-9-1 campaign which included a 105-0 loss to Portland State.

Already Delaware State fans and alumni are grumbling about the hiring of a white coach to head a black college team. Most blacks in the Dover area were hoping Philadelphia Eagles assistant coach Billy Joe would get the job. The Delaware State administration passed over Joe however, opting to go with Purcycki.

It was a stunning announcement, and word leaked that it could be a shocker when the Delaware State administration huddled in secret sessions to talk about Henderson's successor. News of Purcycki's hiring was kept strictly hush-hush until the official announcement was made recently.

"I don't think there is going to be any problem working at a black school," said Purcycki. "Athletes are athletes."

The mostly-white media in Dover pushed hard for Purcycki's appointment, saying it would give Delaware State a chance to do something no other black university had done.

Also said to be an aspirant for the Delaware State job was North Carolina A&T Coach Jim McKinley. Sources say McKinley was also being interviewed for other jobs, but decided to stay put at A&T when his contract was extended and he was given a healthy raise.

"The controversy will calm down," said one writer who asked that his name not be used. "Things will be alright once Purcycki gives them a couple of winning seasons."

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