

# Bighouse Gaines: "Still The King"

You can talk about Ray Meyer, Dean Smith, Carl Tacy, or anybody else coaching college basketball today.

"The King of the Hardwood," still resides in Winston-Salem and coaches at Winston-Salem State; his name is Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines.

After 36 years of coaching at Winston-Salem State, Gaines has chalked up 668 victories more than any active coach in the country.

He has been named to several Hall of Fames, has a gymnasium named after him, and is one of the most influential members of the NCAA coaches committee.

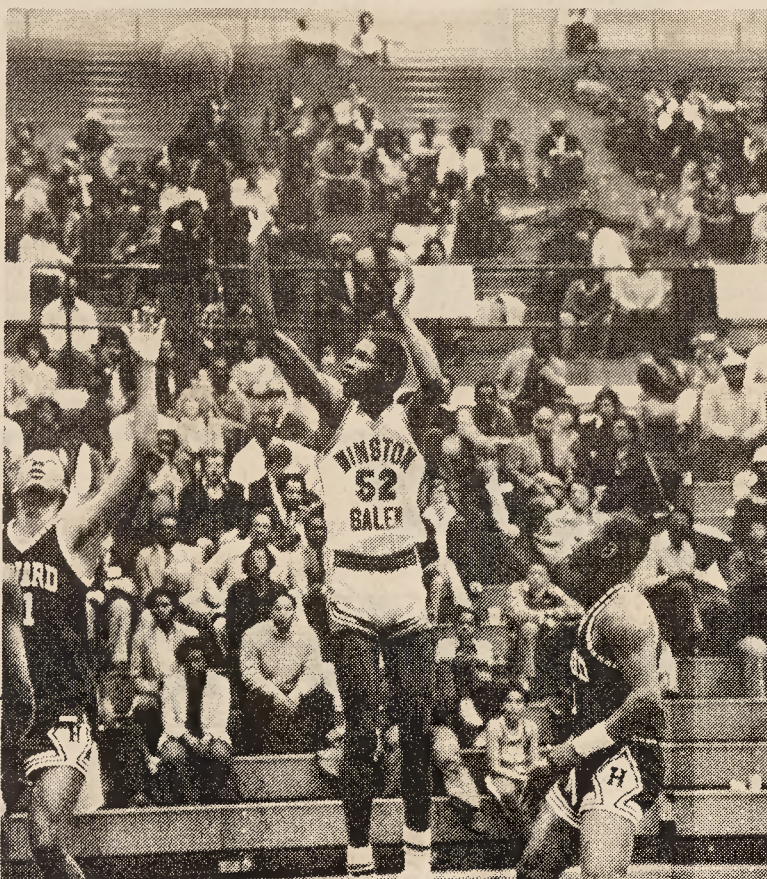
Like Muhammad Ali, Gaines is asked frequently when he is going to retire. And just like Ali, Gaines feels he still has a lot more left to contribute to the young men he recruits to Winston-Salem and the game he loves so dearly.

Last season, he was caught in a rebuilding year and fell to 10-15. After that, he immediately went out personally to sign several student-athletes who can return the Rams to CIAA prominence.

The Chronicle salutes Coach Gaines and the contributions he has made to the development of college basketball.



Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, one of the greatest coaches ever in collegial basketball. He's still active at Winston-Salem State.



Roger Mason handled the bulk of the rebounding load for the WSSU Rams last season and at 6-6 found himself in a mismatch most of the year. With a solid recruiting year and a year of experience behind him, Mason and the Rams should be back in the thick of the CIAA Southern Division race.

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top performers before enrolling at A&T; 6-7, 220 junior Tony Glover, who has seen considerable action in two previous seasons, and 6-6, 210 sophomore Warren Berry, who is an excellent rebounder.

Lopez sat out last season with an injury but is now fully recovered and at this writing, may have a slight edge over the other candidates.

"Certainly, on paper we appear strong, and we have the talent available to improve on what we accomplished a year ago," said Corbett, who was selected by his coaching colleagues as

the MEAC's Coach of the Year last season.

"But basketball games are won on the playing floor, and we can't rely on what we did a year ago or the fact that we have so many people returning. You can look around the league and the country to find any number of teams who enjoyed a big season and had a nucleus returning the following season but failed to meet high expectations. We are a young team, with no seniors. The potential is there if we approach each contest with a high level of intensity and execute our game plan."

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And on Mondays and Fridays at 4:25 p.m., Rod hosts "Ram Review" which focuses on the various sports activities, coaches and players at Winston-Salem State University, providing an in-depth analysis of what has happened and what is expected to happen.

Rod is from Petersburg, Virginia and graduated from the University of Richmond where he majored in journalism. Prior to joining WAAA, he was working as a public information specialist with PBS station WCVE-TV in Richmond, Va. He has also worked as the Sports Information Director of Virginia State University and attended the Boston University Institute in Sports Broadcasting. Rod enjoys sports, is knowledgeable and is your KEY to a better understanding of your favorite sport. He is an Aquarian.

