

WSSU's Coach "Bighouse" Gaines Joins 700 Club

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portant to me. I knew when I got 699 that 700 would come sooner or later. I'm just glad it didn't have to come any later. It's a good feeling. The kids rose to the occasion."

For Gaines' team, the win meant more than a 1-0 record for the season. "We put a lot of emphasis on this game from the first day of practice," said center Kevin Vaughn, who paced the Ram attack with 23 points and 11 rebounds, both game highs. "Really, we have been pointing to this game ever since we lost to Hampton last year in the tourney. We wanted him to have the win then, but we were going to make sure he got it the first time out this year."

The outcome of the contest was never in doubt as the Rams jumped to a 13-4 lead in the game's first four minutes, led 28-14 after 12 minutes of play, and fastbroke their way to a 50-27 lead at intermission.

The Rams outscored Barber-Scotia by only three points in the final half as Gaines used 13 players, watching each move on the court as if one might determine the outcome of the lopsided contest.

In his post-game comments, Gaines expressed his appreciation for media coverage of the event but also talked about the lack of support from the community.

"I appreciate the great media coverage but I would like to have seen more fans out," said Gaines. "You would wonder with all the publicity if the Chamber of Commerce and the (Winston-Salem) Sports Commission are for the entire community or not."

"I'm not a racist," he said. "And I know a lot of folk are solid Wake Forest fans, but I still wonder why at WSSU we don't have more identifiable fans. We have done a good job organizing our boosters, or they have done a good job organizing themselves, but a majority of our programs are not getting the support they need. You get a lot of pats on the back but what you want and need is for those people to buy a 10-buck ticket."

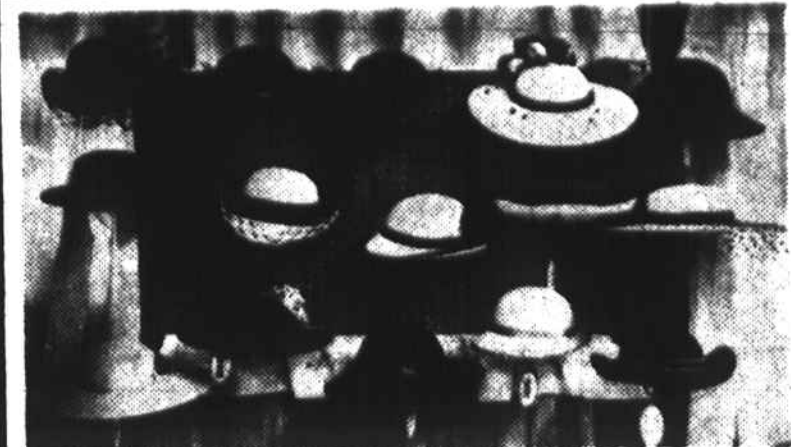
Gaines placed part of the blame for lack of support for WSSU and other predominantly black and Division II sports programs at the feet of the media. "The media has made it seem that if it's not ACC or Big Four or Division I, then it's not worth watching," said Gaines. "But that

is not true. Those of us that play at this level need a fair shake. We don't need to boycott; we just need to be given a chance to get some of the pie. Some schools get half a million dollars for getting to the final four while other schools can't afford to buy hamburgers after the game."

The coach also leveled a blast at the exploitation of athletes at large Division-I institutions. "Lots of black kids have been exploited by these institutions. I have been on committees with guys from places like Georgia and Arkansas, and when you start talking about exploiting athletes, those guys get up and go out to get a drink of water."

Despite his admission of being frustrated at times, Gaines says he has no idea of giving up coaching. "I like coaching and it's still a challenge. I haven't conquered it or mastered it, and, quite frankly, it's the only thing I want to do," he said. "I probably could have sold insurance and made more money than I have coaching and teaching, but that's not my reason for doing it."

Whatever Gaines' reasons, only four men have won more games than he has. And Gaines, at 60, says he's not through yet.



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WSSU Student's Death Stirs Reaction

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in music education, also described him as a student who seemed to have everything in perspective.

"In my opinion, he was no more depressed than any of the other students," said James Simpson. "He had the same student problems as all students have. But he was a little older than the average student and had had the opportunity to work for a while before coming to school. He seemed a little more concerned about not having money than most students. But that didn't seem to be that much of a problem."

Simpson said that because Halliburton had been a member of the marching band and was still a member of the symphonic band, he and Halliburton had developed a close relationship.

"He was a very good student and a religious person. He spent a lot of time in the music department and was concerned not only about being a good student but with learning how to be a good teacher," said Simpson.

"But there is a lot more to college life than

academics," he said. "You have to be concerned about the overall perspective of students. I talked to him about the usual things most students deal with and I felt he was comfortable with the conversations."

Simpson added: "But it's not an easy life being a student. There is a tremendous amount of pressure. It's a growing process where a student is forced into making very crucial decisions alone without the help of mother or father. But you have to learn to deal with it and not take it to the extreme."

"We have a number of resource people around to help students who have problems," Benson said, "but David did not discuss his problems. That means that we as resource people are going to have to heighten our sensitivity to that student who does not exhibit those overt signals that there is a problem. We have to sensitize ourselves to what is being said beyond what we hear and what is being done beyond what we see."

In addition to the resource people on cam-

pus, Benson said that WSSU has a contract with an outside agency to provide assistance when the problem is more serious than what the campus personnel can handle.

"The key to helping a student is if you know there is a problem," said Benson. "How can you deal with it when you are dealing with an unknown. You can't. The only thing is to try to read the manuscripts and pick up as much as you can from that you can observe."

Benson continued: "We have a good group of students here but they are students. They have problems just like anyone else. And we exist to help them. But we have to know the problem. Most often they will let us or someone know if something is bothering them."

Earlier this week, the student body was scheduling a memorial service for Halliburton on Wednesday.

Taylor, who said he would attend the service, said that, despite what happened to Halliburton, he is pleased that "David lived a good life, and he did some good things and he should be remembered for that."

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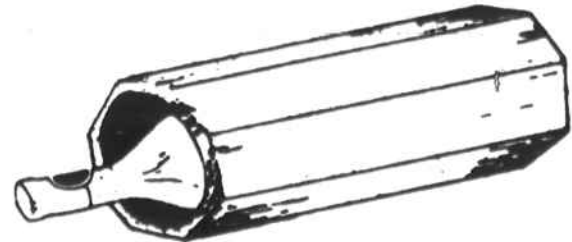
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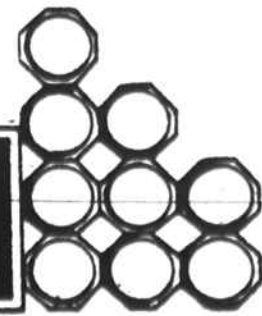
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