

THE COLLEGE SCENE

He's proposing pay for pay for colleges

By BARRY COOPER
Associated Columnist

In Nebraska, they either hate Ernest Chambers or love him. Most people hate him. Chambers is a state senator, and he is black. He is very outspoken, even brutal in his brash approach to politics. His brazen methods have sometimes shaken Nebraska, which prides itself on being one of the country's most conservative states. Occasionally, Chambers grabs national headlines, and he did it again recently. He has an idea that has some merit, especially if you agree that college athletes are being used only for their athletic talents.

Chambers has introduced a bill in the Nebraska Legislature that would make all University of Nebraska football players employees of the school. They would be paid for their services, just as part-time student workers in the library are paid and just as part-time student workers in the cafeteria are compensated.

Whether Chambers' bill will become law is doubtful. However, he has again raised the consciousness of Nebraska citizens regarding the exploitation of college athletes. And if politicians around the country pick up on Chambers' lead, well, we could have some very interesting discussions indeed.

For now, Chambers has limited his attacks on college sports to the University of Nebraska. He says that football players at the school are serving no more than "internships for professional football," and calls football grants-in-aid "contracts of indenture."

This is not the first time that Chambers has suggested paying players. He remembers that, "when I first brought the issue up, people laughed and joked. But I have continued to push. Now, whenever the idea is raised, they hook it to the name of some little coach or athletic director."

Chambers says it is time to make radical moves in college athletics because of what he calls widespread cheating during the recruiting of the players, as well as a blatant disregard for their education.

"I have been talking about the cheating that goes on for years," Chambers said from his office in Lincoln, Neb. "I was the one who said the University of Illinois was going to go on probation. I was the one who said Nebraska has assigned families to look out for players, and soon after I said that, the program was quietly dropped. There is a junior college not far from here where schools send these guys so that they can manufacture some phony grades and become eligible for football."

"You think cheating does not exist at the University of Nebraska? How do you think they get these players to come from Los Angeles or Houston and play for Nebraska, where there aren't very many black people around and there is four feet of snow?"
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NCAA DIVISION II

Rams stun top-ranked Virginia Union

By ROBERT ELLER
Special To The Chronicle

A very unfunny thing happened to Virginia Union its way to the NCAA Division II national championship.

Winston-Salem State Coach Bighouse Gaines and junior college transfer from New York named Alexander Hooper sent the Panthers and their 1984-85 record, 30-0, all-America center, homecourt advantage in the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regional and reputation as the best team in Virginia, packing.

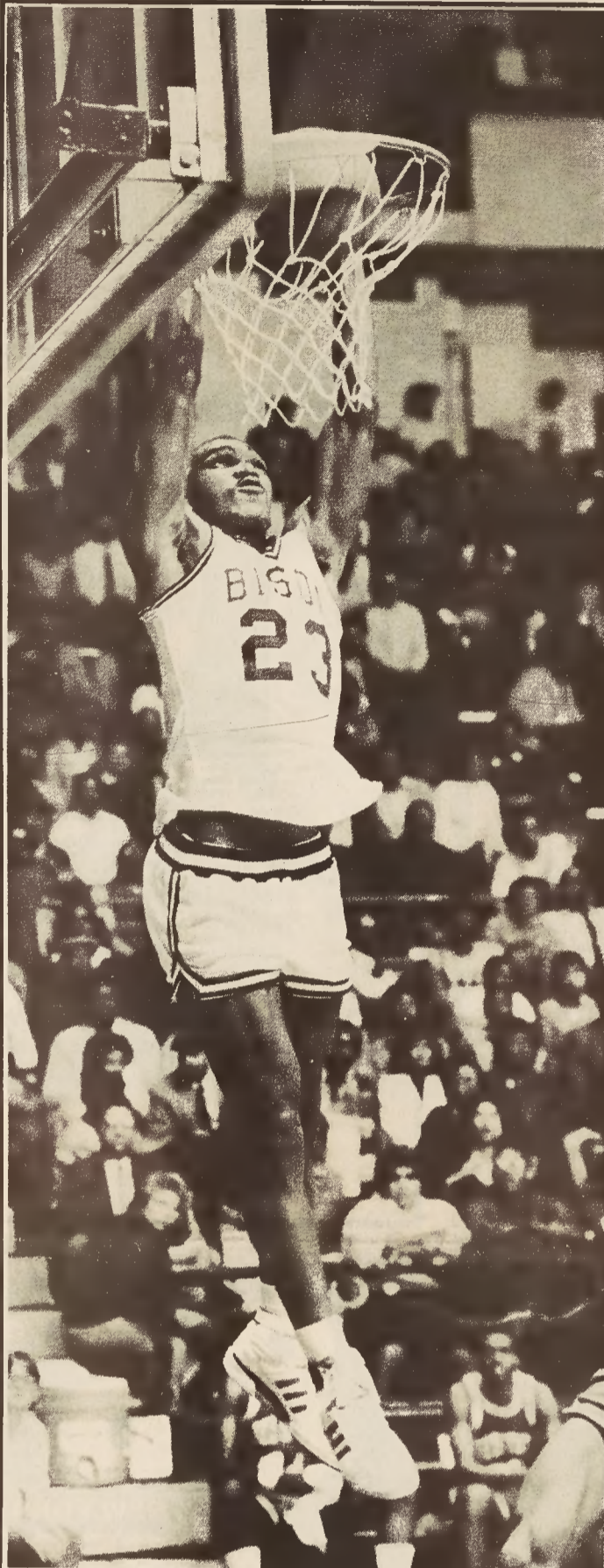
"It was a big win for us, but, after I thought about it, I felt sorry for Robbins. You know, that team (Union) had a real shot at the national title."

-- Bighouse Gaines

The Panthers entered the season with no less than their top eight players back from a team that upset ranked Norfolk State in the same South Atlantic Regional last season.

With the addition of freshman shooting guard Eugene Penick to the Panther ranks, the sky looked to be the limit for Dave "The White Shadow" Robbins and his team.

Led by 6-9 center Charles Oakley, a contender for Division II Player of the Year honors and the best player in Virginia, the Panthers ran roughshod through the CIAA during the regular season. Only Union came within two baskets of the Panthers,



Making Sure

Howard's Mike Hampton gingerly dunks in the Bison's MEAC Tournament semifinal win over Delaware State (photo by Joe Daniels).

MEAC TOURNAMENT

Aggies survive Howard, face Oklahoma in NCAAAs

By ROBERT ELLER
Special To The Chronicle

PHILADELPHIA -- The drama's setting had changed.

But its players, script and outcome were painfully familiar to Howard University, which lost for the fourth straight year last Saturday night to archrival North Carolina A&T in the championship game of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference basketball tournament.

In winning the right to represent the league in the NCAA Tournament for the fourth straight season, the Aggies had to come from behind before a crowd of more than 6,000 at the Palestra on the University of Pennsylvania campus.

Trailing 62-57 with 4:43 left, A&T surged to take the lead, then survived a desperate Howard rally that came within a hair of succeeding. First, sophomore George Cale drilled a jumper from the key. Next, 5-8 freshman walk-on Thomas Griffin calmly sank two free throws before the Aggies went to their seasoned vets.

After Howard's George Hamilton hit a free throw, Aggie senior Jimmy Brown drove to the middle and scored from the key to knot the score at 63 with 3:12 showing on the clock.

A minute and a half later, Brown was at it again, this time winning a scramble for a loose ball in the lane and scoring while being fouled in the process. His three-point play put the Aggies in front for good.

A Howard misfire on the ensuing possession led to an outlet pass that saw A&T senior Eric Boyd score another three-point play and give the Aggies a 69-63 lead with 1:26 remaining.

Just as importantly, the Bison's leading scorer, Fred Hill, who had tallied 19 points, most of them with his deadly jumper, committed his fifth foul on the play.

But the youthful Bison, playing without a senior, didn't quit. Hamilton hit an 18-footer at the 1:06 mark, cutting the Aggie lead to four and, after the Bison defense forced the second of two straight A&T turnovers, Hamilton struck again, this time from 22 feet, bringing Howard to within a basket with 50 seconds left.

Forced to foul, Howard sent Boyd to the line with 45 seconds left. Boyd missed the front end of a one-and-one and a 14-footer at the other end by Howard's Mike Jones tied the score at 69 with 25 seconds left.

Shunning a timeout, the Aggies again called on their seniors. Brown drove to the basket with 12 seconds left and was fouled.

He made the first of his free throws but missed the second. But, as Howard's Robert Jones grabbed the rebound, Boyd came from behind to steal the ball.

Howard's Mike Jones immediately fouled Boyd, who sank the first of his free throws but missed the second. The Bison rebounded and called time out with five seconds left.

Without Hill in the lineup, Howard went to Hamilton for a last shot but his 22-footer was way off the mark and the horn sounded as the teams battled for the rebound.

Howard Coach A.B. Williamson, who has managed to beat the Aggies only once in five title games, had said after Friday night's semi-final win over Delaware State (73-59) that the title could hinge on a loose ball or an errant pass. But being right

MEAC TOURNAMENT '85

SEMIFINALS
N.C. A&T 96,
B-CC 57
Howard 73,
Delaware St. 57

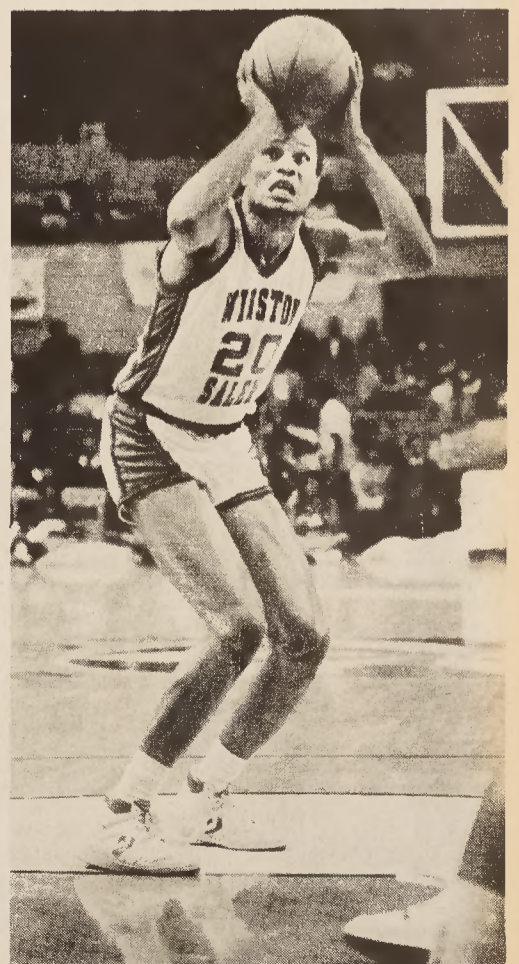
FINAL
N.C. A&T 71,
Howard 69

about that was little consolation for yet another loss to A&T.

"Every year the ball rolls and they seem to get it," Williamson said after the game with his head hung. "It is just unbelievable. This is really hard to take. Every year it's the same way."

On the other side of the court, Boyd, who led all scorers with 27 points, was about to receive his third tournament MVP award in four seasons. "This feels real good," he said, flashing a boyish smile. "Last year we had Joe (Binion) to take the pressure off, but this year a lot of pressure was on me and Jimmy (Brown). I think the whole team played better than they have all year tonight."

Corbett, sitting in the Aggie dressing room, and looking more tired than his players, also managed to smile, and used what energy he had left to praise the play of his senior aces. "Boyd has been a marked player."
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Key Rams

Alexander Hooper, left, supplied the firepower, including the game-winner, while Eugene Penick contributed a key steal and free throws (photos by James Parker).

and Robbins' crew had easily dispatched WSSU by 25 points in December.

Norfolk State did give Union a tough time in the CIAA Tournament title game, but the Panthers prevailed anyway, 67-65, when Dallas scored with two seconds left.

Union's road through the South Atlantic Regional looked all the more inviting when it grabbed the homecourt advantage and drew outmanned WSSU -- which has no true center and had played horribly in its last outing against Norfolk State -- as its first-round opponent. But Gaines, a winner of more games than any active coach in college basketball, had an ace up his sleeve.

"We knew we had to take some time off the clock because we were outmanned," Gaines said earlier this week, "but our kids played smart and only took the good shot. Union had people running with them all year but without the shot clock we controlled the tempo."

Control the tempo WSSU did, scoring the game's first basket almost two minutes into the first half on a short baseline jumper by Eugene Penick. The teams played to an 18-18 first-half deadlock.

In the second half, the Rams continued to play deliberately and Hooper took charge. Nine straight points by the thin wingman gave the Rams a 27-22 edge little more than five minutes into the final period.

But unbeaten teams don't die that easily. Led by Oakley, who averaged 21 points and 18 rebounds during the regular season, the Panthers surged back to take a 34-33 lead into the final five minutes.

But, after Oakley's three-point play put Union in

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