

## **Hurry Harry**

Winston-Salem State forward Harry Giles blows past Elizabeth City State's Tim McDaniels; Giles totaled 17 points and nine rebounds, but the Rams lost to the Vikings, 81-76, in the CIAA quarterfinal game (photo by Joe Daniels).

### College Basketball

# Rams to play Mount St. Mary's

By DAVID BULLA Chronicle Sports Editor

RICHMOND, Va. -- Winston-Salem State's Rams, 81-76 losers to Elizabeth City State in the CIAA Tournament quarterfinals last week, have at least one more chance to redeem themselves.

Thanks to an automatic bid in the national playoffs for winning the Southern Division title, they'll play in the first round of the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regional Friday night in Emmitsburg, Md. WSSU, 16-10, takes on host Mount Saint Mary's, 24-3, at 8:30.

Fifth-ranked Mount Saint Mary's is led by senior Paul Edwards. The 6-foot-4 wing, an all-America candidate, is something of a basketball Renaissance man. He leads the team in four categories: scoring (16.8), assists (4.5), steals (3.4) and field goal percentage (54). Edwards also is second in rebounding (5.6) and free throw percentage (83). Teammate George Young averages 12.8 points and 3.1 assists from his point guard position.

The first-round regional game will be a rematch of last year's regional final, won by MSM 63-56. The game also features the two winningest active coaches in Division II. WSSU's C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines is 750-342 in 40 seasons and MSM's Jim Phelan is 604-268 in 32 seasons.

"Coach Phelan is one up on me and I don't like being down to a senior citizen," the 62-year-old Gaines quipped. "I want to get even."

While it might seem that WSSU won't have much of a chance in the regional semifinal, the Rams faced a similar task last season against Virginia Union, which was ranked No. 1 and unbeaten in 30 games. "They're a hurry-up group," Gaines said of Mount Saint Mary's. "They come down, and one, two, three passes and they've scored. We'll have to play as effectively as possible and be patient."

Common opponents included Elizabeth City, which MSM beat 109-103 in overtime, and St. Paul's, which MSM beat 83-66. WSSU defeated the Tigers 86-67.

Norfolk State, the CIAA Tournament winner, and Virginia Union play in the other regional semifinal Friday night at 6:30.

The regional will be like a convention for some of the nation's top Division II coaches. Norfolk Coach Charles Christian and Union Coach Dave Robbins are both ranked in the top five in winning percentage among active Division II coaches.

The Vikings built a 44-39 halftime lead in the IAA quarterfinal game, then pulled away in the last stant minutes. They shot 62 percent in the second half, compared to a 31-percent mark for the Rams. ECSU also did a solid job at line, making 19

"This was one of those close ones," ECSU Coach Bobby Vaughan said after he registered career win No. 503. "A bounce here and a bounce there -- that's what made the difference."

The Vikings, who reversed a 95-85 overtime loss at Winston-Salem Jan. 11, also played effectively on defense, especially on all-CIAA wing Alexander Hooper. The 6-foot-5 junior was held to 14 points on a five-of-13 shooting night. Hooper, who had just one field goal in the second half, failed to reach the 20-point mark for only the eighth time this season. WSSU has lost each of those eight games.

"We had to deny Hooper the ball," Vaughan said. "We were supposed to take the base line from him, but we didn't in the first half. We made some adjustments."

Matthew "Ice" McMillan, the Rams' talented sixth man, also was ineffective against ECSU's defense, making only two of nine from the floor while finishing with seven points.

"We went with a full-court press in the first half, but they handled it rather well," added Vaughan, whose team was eliminated in the semifinals by Norfolk State, 76-63. "We went to a halfcourt 1-2-2 -- we call it our 'Big Mac Attack' -- to try to delay their offensive flow. Winston-Salem tries to get you in these little three-on-threes with lots of cutters. So we wanted to get them into their offense later."

WSSU's Gaines couldn't comprehend the way his team played in its only tournament appearance.

"I can't explain after the practice we had yesterday (last Wednesday) why we were so flat," Gaines said. "My son came all the way from California to watch his dad's team play like this. My daughter was thinking of coming up tomorrow. I might just call her and tell her not to come.

"We were reluctant to shoot," he added. "Sometimes I wonder what goes on in kids' minds. Everybody wanted to blame somebody else and that's the coach's job."

Among the plusses, there was a coming out of sorts for reserve guard Oscar Williams. With point guard Charlie Spell in foul trouble, Williams was pressed into duty in the last eight minutes. The 6-4 junior from Chicago finished with six points and two assists.

"Oscar played very well," Gaines said. "If there was a bright spot tonight, he was it.

"Sometimes I wonder if it's worth keeping kids out of school when you don't play any better than this."

WSSU forward Harry Giles was another bright spot. The Suffolk, Va., sophomore finished with 17

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