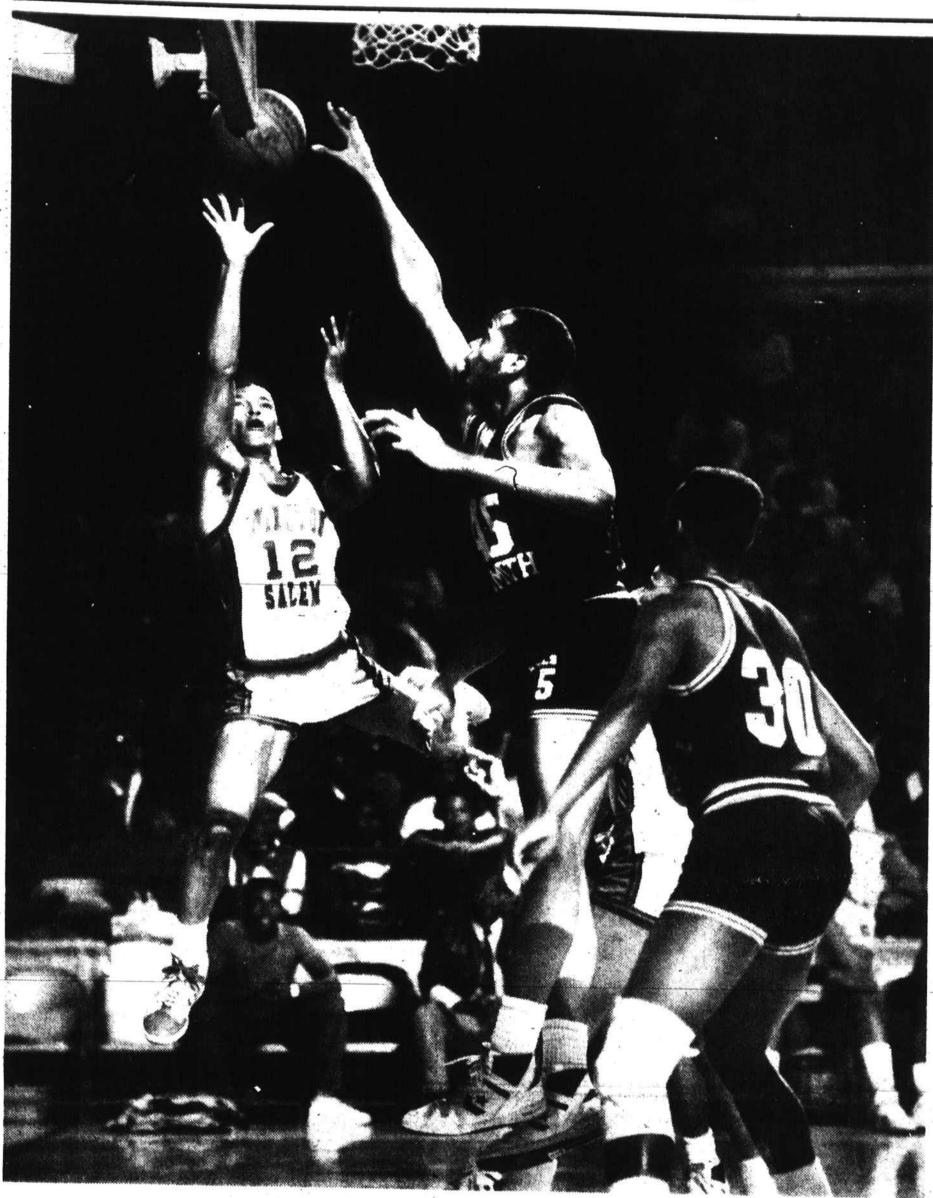
Sports



Fair Game

Charlie Spell gets this shot off over Chris "Big Boston" Jones in the Rams' 86-82 overtime victory

over Johnson C. Smith; Jones blocked eight shots (photo by James Parker).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Hood-led Rams rally for win over J.C. Smith

Junior guard gets 29 in key divisional win

By KENNETH RAYMOND
Chronicle Sports Writer

Memorial Coliseum trembled as the Golden Bulls of Johnson C. Smith stampeded to a 40-30 halftime lead over Winston-Salem State last Saturday night.

The Rams, who still trailed by 10 more than six minutes into the second half, were nearly trampled. But a late rally, led by Steve Hood's near-perfect shooting, enabled them to corral the Bulls 86-82 in overtime.

Combined with a 78-64 win over Fayetteville State Monday night, WSSU stayed within one game of North Carolina Central and St. Augustine's in the CIAA Southern Division. The Rams are 4-2, while the Eagles and Falcons are 5-1. NCCU hosts St. Aug's Thursday night.

In last Saturday's game, a pair of free throws with five seconds to play in regulation by Bull guard Ricky McCormick sent the game into overtime. The Bulls managed to build a quick 82-76 lead behind Reggie Moses. But freshman swingman Jamaal Pierce, who came in after point guard Charlie Spell fouled out, led a second big comeback for the Rams (12-7). Pierce, who has played in 12 of WSSU's 19 games, had four points in the last 2:09 of the extra period to preserve the triumph.

"I doubt that Jamaal played 10 minutes all year," Ram Coach C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines said. "But he came in and did a great job tonight."

The Rams actually had to overcome leads as big as 13 points in the first half before rallying. Gaines also said that if his players came out in the second half with defense on their mind, they would win the game.

"They were killing us in the first half," Gaines said. "But we knew if we played better team defense, we'd take the game."

Gaines also said that his players have all come from winning programs and were used to being in these situations and responding.

"Most of these guys came from winning programs," Gaines said. "They're used to coming through towards the end."

Smith Coach Robert Moore said that it was his team's impatience that made the difference.

Team	Div.			Division All Games		
	W	L		W	L	
Nortolk	5	0		16	1	
Union	6	1		15	3	
St. Paul's	4	2		9	10	
Va. State	2	4	40	8	11	
Hampton	2	4		11	8	
ECSU	1	. 5		6	12	
Bowie St.	1	5		3	15	

"When we had the lead, we didn't play smart at all," Moore said. "We couldn't keep our composure and we rushed ourselves out of the game."

Moore, who suffered another narrow loss after a 75-73 setback to St. Augustine's, said that the Rams outplayed and outhustled his team.

"They came up with every loose ball," Moore said. "When the game came down to the wire, they simply wanted it more than we did."

Center Gary Cromartie exemplified the Ram hustle early in the first half as we went into the stands twice after loose balls.

"They did a great job out there," Gaines said of his team.

Despite the Rams' hustle, the game had all the makings of a runaway -- for the visitors. The Bulls (4-3, 12-5) jumped to an early 13-2 lead. Smith center Chris "Big Boston" Jones, who scored 14 points and hauled down 17 rebounds, dominated the middle and the Rams frequently found their shots being blocked. Jones finished with eight blocks before the game ended.

"Whenever we'd go inside, the ball was being thrown back in our faces."

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Glenn track, West grid head the list of '86's best stories

By DAVID BULLA Chronicle Sports Editor

TO BORROW a phrase from Dick Vitale, choosing last year's outstanding athletic program in Forsyth County is an M&M.

No doubt about it, the Glenn track team was magnificent and marvelous. Mismatched all the way, the Bobcats

Mismatched all the way, the Bobcats of Coach William Butler captured the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 4-A championship in May.

It was a marvelous achievement in that the school was in only its second year at the 4-A level. Magnificent in that the Bobcats took only six athletes to the state meet at Raleigh and came away with the title by a single point against Durham Hillside, a perennial track-and-field power. Indeed, Glenn had no field participants, but won on the strength of sprinter Randy Jones, 800-meter man Jimmy Scott and its relay teams.

Jones, who made a football commitment to Duke last week, was the team's virtuoso, winning the 200 meters and taking second in the 100 to Asheboro's Chuckie Simmons. He also was a member of the Bobcats' winning 4x200 relay team. For his efforts, Jones was named the state meet's most valuable performer.

Scott, who had won an individual championship two years ago while at High Point Andrews, flew like the wind in winning the 800 in an all-America time.

The quiet confidence that Jones displayed provided the team with am-

ple leadership. Meanwhile, Scott's audacity gave Glenn the sort of assuredness that is indigenous to dynasties.

The selfless Butler also gave much of the credit to Assistant Coach Steve Whicker, a former track standout at Appalachian State. Neither coach seemed interested in grabbing headlines for himself and let the athletes' achievements do all the talking. Above all, the coaches' strategy in the sectional, regional and state meets was flawless, and it played a large role in the narrow win over Hillside.

Glenn's track team was not the only organization that had an outstanding year. Following is a list of county athletic programs that enjoyed years of sweet success in '86:

2. West football -- The Titans cruised through the season unbeaten and made it to the second round of the state playoffs before county Player of the Year Herman McKinnie suffered a separated shoulder. McKinnie played sparingly and Charlotte Harding registered a 7-6 win over West, which finished 10-1-1.

It was quite a season for McKinnie, who gained 1,368 yards, and linebacker Donald Carter, who had 124 tackles. Bobby Paige, a fullback and defensive back, was named to the all-conference team and was the team's most soughtafter recruit.

But it's not as if West's prosperity will be short-lived. Coach Denny Zeiters returns Carter and quarterback Derrick Byers next season.

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