

FTCC is now 17-0

By Chronicle Staff

Forsyth Tech just keeps rolling right along on its way to an undefeated season on the hardwood. Last week, Tech swooped to two more wins, giving them an overall record of 17-0. They ended regular season play in the community college conference by trouncing Alamance Community College to run their conference record to 8-0. In the City Industrial League, they handled TFI and now carry a 9-0 mark in that league.

Alamance is ambushed

The Techsters came out sluggish in the first half of their game against Alamance. But they ended in a flurry by burying Alamance 125-80.

FTCC has six folks scoring in double figures. Melvin Little and Winzo Caesar scored 26 and 22 points respectively. Elston Johnson had 18 and Monte Odom scored 14. Darryl Keller and Byron Witherspoon chipped in with 13 points apiece.

Tech came out uncharacteristically flat against Alamance. At the end of the first half, they held a 58-48 lead. "We played like a Jekyll and Hyde team," says Richard O'Pharrow, Tech's coach. "It was as if our guys were saying to them: 'you go down and score and we'll get the ball and score anytime we want to. We didn't play defense like we should have in the first half.'"

O'Pharrow carried on the bulk of the conversation during intermission. Defensive pressure is his philosophy and wanted to make sure that his team got the message. It is the reason why nobody has beaten them in 17 games and the reason why they're champions of the Community College Conference.

"The second half was much better," the coach says. "They knew they weren't playing defense like they were capable. So they went out and showed me that they could do it."

That's an understatement.

In the second half, FTCC erupted for 67 points to totally dash any hopes that Alamance had of coming away with an upset. Little and Eddie Eastland became more authoritative on the glass to crank up the running game and Keller ran the fast break to O'Pharrow's liking.

Greater intensity vs. TFI

Apparently, FTCC still had somewhat of a sour taste in their mouths because of the inconsistent performance against Alamance. It was TFI's misfortune to be the team to play Tech as the next opponent.

The Techsters jumped to a 40-29 lead and the game was pretty much over from that point on. Caesar led the offensive charge with 26 points and Little added 21. Keller got in the offense with 12 points.

"I was pleased with what I saw in that game," O'Pharrow adds. "They came out and played the way I want to play. And when they do that, we win."

CIAA Basketball Standings

As of February 12, 1989

Northern Division			
Division	Conference	Overall	
Norfolk State	8-1	13-2	21-2
Virginia Union	9-2	15-2	21-2
Elizabeth City State	6-4	10-6	14-8
Hampton University	5-5	10-5	15-6
St. Paul's	3-7	6-9	7-15
Virginia State	2-7	7-8	11-9
Bowie State	1-8	2-13	4-17
Southern Division			
Division	Conference	Overall	
North Carolina Central	8-0	11-3	18-3
Shaw University	4-4	6-9	9-14
St. Augustine's	3-5	6-9	10-13
Fayetteville State	3-5	4-11	9-14
Johnson C. Smith	3-5	4-10	5-17
Winston-Salem State	3-5	4-11	5-15
Livingstone College*			

* Livingstone College isn't ranked in the conference standings because they just recently resumed their basketball schedule. The Bears have been out of action since late December because of the measles epidemic in Rowan County. Livingstone will participate in the CIAA basketball tournament in Norfolk, Va. and will be the No. 7 seed in the Southern Division.

MEAC Basketball Standings

As of February 12, 1989

Conference	Overall
South Carolina State	11-1
Florida A & M	9-3
Morgan State	7-4
Coppin State	7-5
North Carolina A & T	5-7
Bethune-Cookman	5-7
Delaware State	4-7
Howard University	3-8
Maryland/Eastern Shore	1-10
	1-21

This is not a vintage year for Gaines

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE
Chronicle Sports Editor

If you're an ardent WSSU basketball loyalite who has become accustomed to Rams victories on the hard-

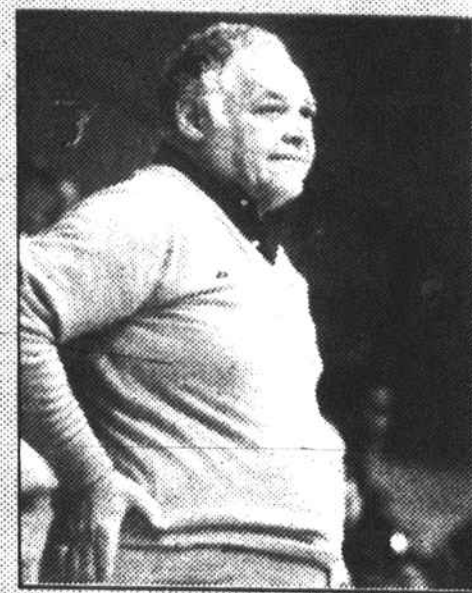


Photo by Craig T. Greenlee
It's been a trying season for Gaines. His quest for career victory No. 800 will have to continue next season.

wood, you're having a tough time coping with the team's hard-to-believe dismal season.

You might be led to believe that there's a grinch lurking somewhere who has stolen the Rams basketball season for the '88-'89 campaign. For Rams coach Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, this has been a year of un-

pected lows. The Rams were 6-15 at presstime and aren't likely to get past the first round of the CIAA Basketball Tournament which starts next week in Norfolk, Va.

The season hasn't been all thundershowers and hailstones though. Gaines has seen a few bright rays of sunshine peaking through the clouds.

"I can see some development in our players," he says. "Boris Battle, Maurice Edmonds, and Toby Barber are coming along. Barber is doing well as a rebounder -- he leads the conference in that department (13.6 a game)."

Gaines quickly admits that it's not too early to start thinking about next year. It should be the year when he captures college career coaching victory No. 800. But for now, the 800th win is something that will have to wait. "Actually, I've been looking forward to next season for quite a few weeks," Gaines says with a chuckle.

In athletics, it's clear that coaching wizardry by itself, isn't going to guarantee winning records. Players are and will always be what enables a coach to reach beyond the .500 mark and avoid mediocrity.

"At our level (Division II), coaches realize that you're not going to get the super kids to sign up and play for your program early. To even have a good chance at getting those

top caliber players, you have to have radar. You have to know who those kids are and that they won't be able to attend a Kentucky, or Indiana, or Georgetown."

The CIAA coaching dean is blunt when he describes the present skill level of his current team. "One of our biggest problems is that we don't have enough competition on this team where we can go into practices and beat up on each other. That's the only way a team is going to get better."

With the conference tournament fast approaching, Rams fans are wondering aloud if it's worth the team's effort in making the trip to Norfolk. Many observers are picking the Rams to exit after game one in the tourney. But in Gaines mind, having his team pick up a win or two isn't all that unrealistic.

"We're going to beat somebody," he insists. "It's really a matter of us having a point guard that will take charge. Michael Lesane has been playing at lot at the point for us, but he's really not a point guard. He's more suited to the shooting guard position. But still, some of our problems are involve us not getting the kind of leadership from the older guys that we need. It's just not there."

"If we can just cut down on the mistakes that we've been making. We'll beat some people."

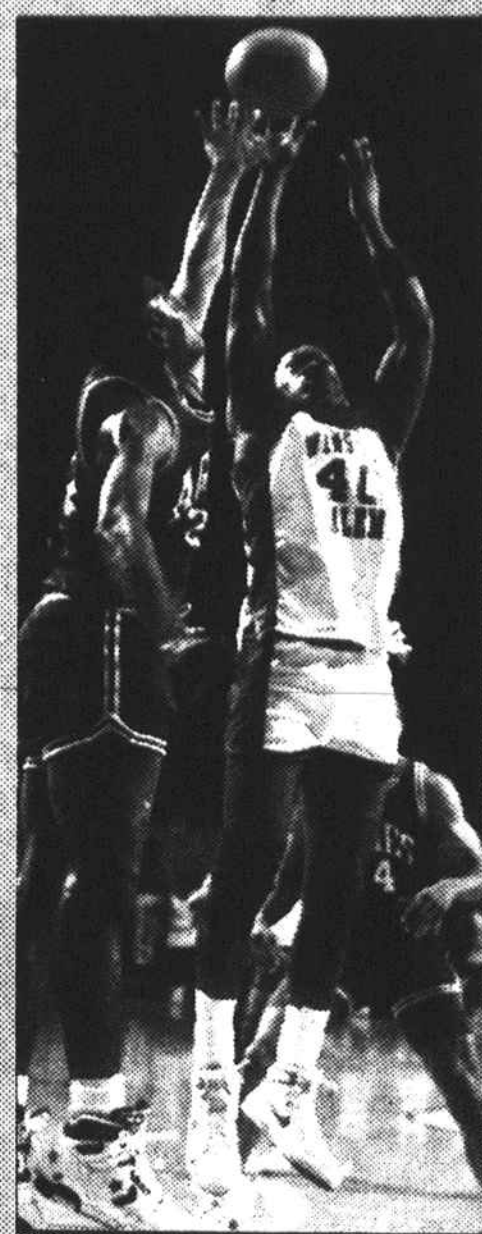


Photo by Craig T. Greenlee
Toby Barber is the CIAA's top rebounder at 13.6 boards per game.

How the Lyons twins engineer their own reality.

Early on Mamie Lyons taught her twins, Vincent and Elliot, a very important lesson: Life only gives you what you have the courage to demand. So they demanded excellence.

And they got it, from themselves and from others. That's why they were able to graduate from a small town high school in Wynne, Arkansas to a full scholarship in engineering at Southern University, in Baton Rouge, LA. It's also why General Motors is paying for that scholarship and providing them with challenging summer jobs through the GM internship program.

Looking toward the future, General Motors has made a commitment to community development. It's the reason we invest in promising young people like Vincent and Elliot by establishing scholarships at minority colleges and universities across the country. It's also the reason why we have 12.3 billion dollars in property damage insurance managed by minority insurance brokers.

At General Motors we realize that standing behind the people who buy our Chevrolets, Pontiacs, Oldsmobiles, Buicks, Cadillacs and GMC Trucks is more than just a corporate responsibility—it's good business.

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