

Press Box

from page 3

teams, Norfolk State and Hampton Univ. It has also seen changes in the tournament's operation. The once passionate crowds of the tournament had become more of a "wine and cheese" audience during the games. But an infusion of fresh ideas has once again made the tournament one of the nation's major attractions, when it comes to African Americans and their leisure time.

Give the conference office credit. After last season's tournament produced one of the smallest championship game crowds since it came to Winston-Salem, Commissioner Leon Kerry and his staff stepped up to the plate. They put their heads together and utilized the involvement of corporate

funding to bring more excitement to the tournament this season.

Although the league's plan to include the students more in the tournament this season didn't come off as planned, they were able to devise a program for the tournament at the conclusion of the 2000 season. By exposing the students to the tournament's festivities, the future of the tournament will again become bright.

As far as the on-the-court occurrences, this season has been one of the most competitive in the league. The talent level continues to improve and the league's coaches have done well with the resources and talent available to them.

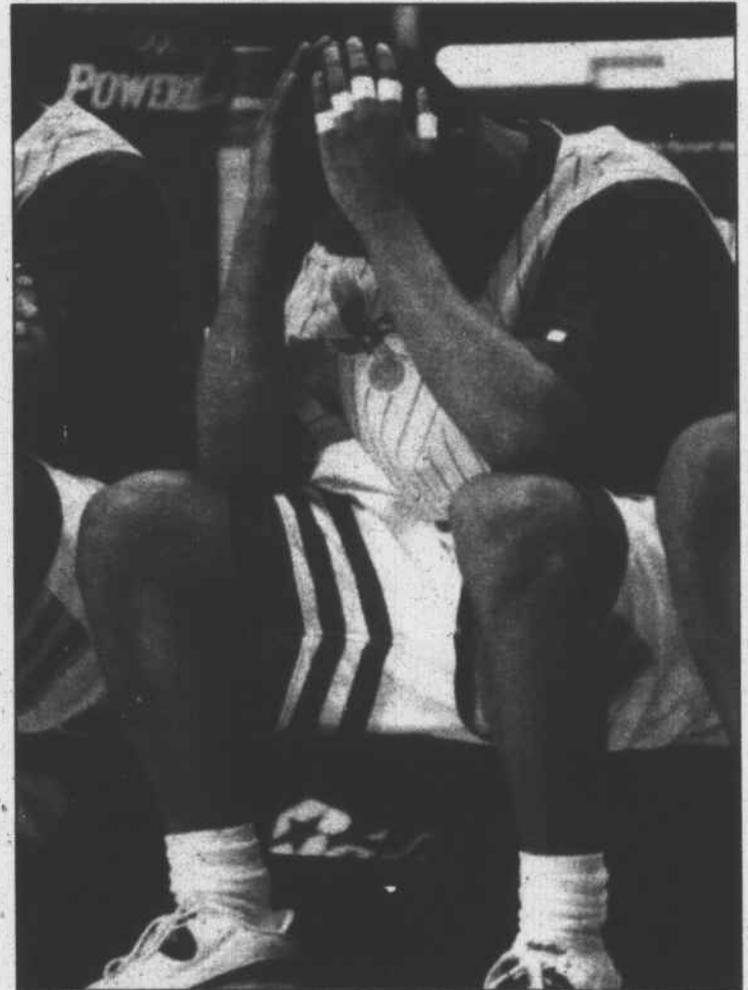
That fact is illustrated plainly in the fact that both the divisional races on the

men's side went down to the final week of play before Virginia Union captured the Eastern Division and North Carolina Central was crowned the Western Division champion.

The only divisional race that wasn't close was in the Eastern Division of the women's standings. Bowie State rolled to the divisional crown and is the prohibitive favorite to capture the Women's Tournament title.

In the west, North Carolina Central surprised the field and held off Livingstone for its first divisional title in many years. Livingstone pushed the Lady Eagles to the wire before finishing second.

But if last season is an indication of things to come, this year's tournament might once again be up for grabs.



NCCU's men are hoping their experience in the tournament is better than last year's when they were knocked off by Livingstone.

Norman Stockton, Inc.



Introduces the
Newest Member of
their Clothing Line-up...
CANALI
Stop by and try
on one of Italy's
Finest Suits!

Norman Stockton, Inc.
Since 1909

249 South Stratford Road
Winston-Salem
(336) 723-1079

State Street Crossing
Greensboro
(336) 333-2353

1999

10th Anniversary

National Black Theatre Festival



Larry Leon Hamlin & Debbie Allen
(NBTF Producer & Artistic Director) (1997 NBTF Chairperson)

Remind You to Invite Family & Friends From Around the World to the
1999 National Black Theatre Festival
An exciting cultural vacation for the entire family

August 2-7
Winston-Salem, NC

Logo design by
Lavon Williams

- Over 90 performances by 20 of the best Black theatre companies from the United States, Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean
- More than 50 celebrities from film, television, and stage
- Attend workshops and seminars facilitated by the stars, scholars, and practitioners - suggestions for workshops welcome.
- Children & Teenagers - participate in the Youth/Celebrity Project & Workshops
- Readers' Theatre of new plays
- International Vendors' Market
- New in '99 - NBTF Fringe - the best in collegiate theatre - call (336) 723-2266 for information.

NBTF Headquarters Hotels
Adam's Mark - East & West Towers
\$85 per night - single, double, & triple occupancy
Call (336) 725-3500 for reservations.

Make Hotel Reservations Today!

For information & Opening Night Gala reservations call
(336) 723-2266

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

The National Black Theatre Festival is an international outreach program of the North Carolina Black Repository Company, NC BRC, celebrating 20 years. Since its inception in 1979, the festival has been a proud member of the Arts Council of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County and receives funds through a grant from the North Carolina State Council of Cultural Resources.