

SPORTS WEEK

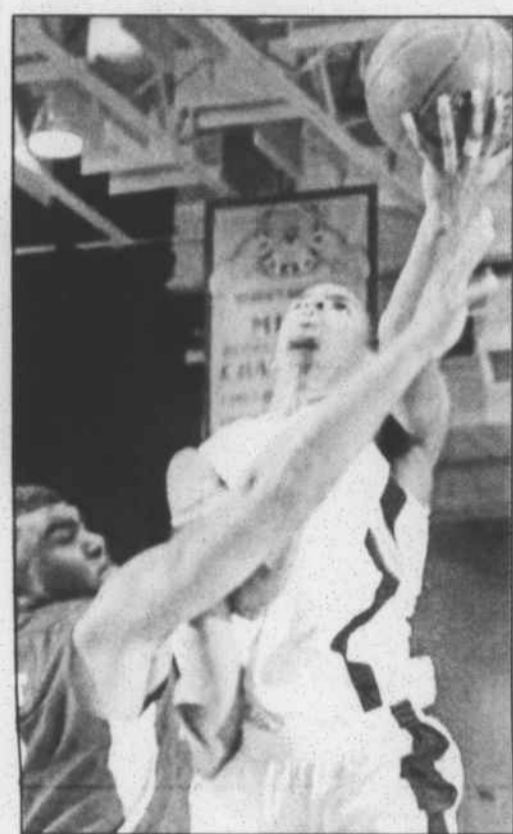
FEBRUARY 24, 2011

Aggies get the best of the Eagles

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina A&T and N.C. Central put forth another back-and-forth battle in front of another sellout crowd with the Aggies coming away with a 72-67 win at Durham's McDougald-McLendon Gymnasium on Monday night.

Thomas Coleman recovered from his worst game of the season on Saturday to finish with 21 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Sophomore Adrian Powell had 13 points, including a pivotal 3-point play that clinched the win for N.C. A&T (13-15). The two longtime rivals split the season series with each team winning on the other's home floor.



NC A&T Sports Information Photo
Adrian Powell had a huge game, scoring 13 points.

"This game is Duke-Carolina," said A&T Head Coach Jerry Eaves. "This was a dog fight. They hit so many big shots, and I was proud of my guys because we hit some big ones too. This truly is one of the best rivalries in the country with two of the best fan bases in the country. The rivalry is everything people said it was."

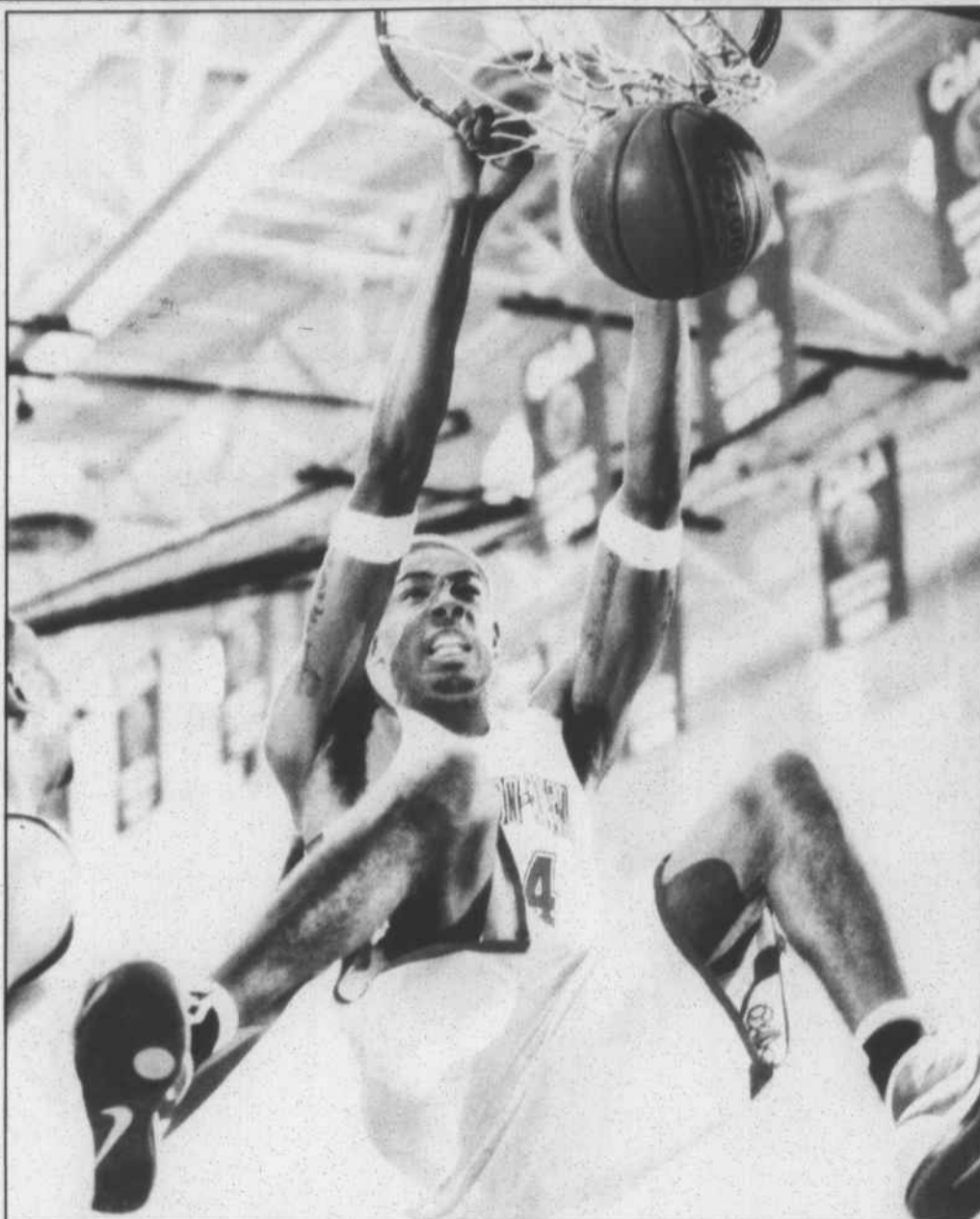
Thomas Coleman gave the Aggies a one-point lead thanks to a lob pass in the post from Austin Witter with 1:44 remaining. Marc Hill extended the Aggies' lead to 67-63 with a 3-pointer from the top of the key. C.J. Wilkerson hit two free throws to get the Eagles to within two with 46 seconds to play.

On the ensuing inbounds play, the Eagles' pressure defense forced Witter to throw the ball away, giving the Eagles a chance to tie the game for the 10th time. Landon Clement instead went for the lead as he launched a 3-pointer from deep in the corner. His three banged off the back iron and into the hands of Marc Hill.

Hill raced to the other end of the floor and found Powell along the baseline for a layup. He was fouled on the play, went to the free throw line and converted to give the Aggies a commanding 70-65 lead with 21 seconds remaining.

Eagles' shooters C.J. Wilkerson and Clement were a combined 9-for-22 from 3-point range. Nick Chasten went 3-for-4 from 3-point range and finished with a game-high 24 points. Wilkerson and Clement had 20 and 17, respectively.

"This is the fun part of the season," said Eaves. "All of our remaining games are going to be just like this - wars. When this one counts in the conference, it's going to be even better for both teams."



Paul Davis scores in dramatic fashion.

WSSU Photo by Garrett Garm

Seniors get win in last home game

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State Rams came up big in a 59-49 senior night win over the Shaw Bears on Monday in one of the most important games of the season. With the win, the Rams move into a tie for first place in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Southern division and will have a chance to claim the title with a win on Saturday.

"This game was big for us. We understood what it meant. [The team was] really focused today," WSSU Head Men's Basketball Coach Bobby Collins said. "I thought our coaching staff did a very good job of preparing with our zone and against their zone, we did a couple of things and we were successful."

The win was an especially emotional one for the Rams as the team's six seniors took the court for the final time at the C.E. Gaines Center. Riding the emotional wave in front of a raucous WSSU crowd, the Rams gave a tremendous defensive effort, holding the Bears to shooting 35.2 percent from the field with 19 turnovers. The game was a special one as Davis, Jackson, redshirt-senior

guard Shelton Carter, senior guard Ricky Bolton Jr., senior forward Corey Morris, and senior forward McIntoché Alcius took the court at the C.E. Gaines Center for their final time as Rams. "We call those six seniors 'The Unforgettables,'" Collins added. "They stuck with me when they had a chance to transfer. They showed loyalty to this program and for that they deserved this night."

In a fitting manner, it was the Rams' seniors who led the way for the team in the win. Senior guard Andrew Jackson scored a team-high 12 points with three assists and a steal while senior forward Paul Davis finished the game with 11 points and eight rebounds. Not to be outdone, redshirt-sophomore forward Stephon Platt added 10 points with three rebounds.

With the win, the Rams improved to 11-5 in the CIAA and 6-3 in the CIAA Southern Division. The Rams move into a first place tie with the Bears and will look to close out the season on a high note when the team takes on the Fayetteville State Broncos in a televised game on Saturday at Capel Arena in Fayetteville.



Collins



The Men's and Women's champs.



Photos by Donnamarie Jones

NSU, Hampton win MEAC track championships

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Hampton Women's Track and Field Team and the Norfolk State Men's Track and Field Team won the 2011 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Indoor Track and Field titles Saturday afternoon at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md.

Hampton posted 188.50 points to win their ninth overall women's MEAC indoor title. Their score breaks the Lady Pirates' previous meet record of 179 points set in 2007.

The Norfolk State women finished in second with 102.50 points, followed by Maryland Eastern Shore in third with 100 points.

The Norfolk State Men captured their sixth consecutive MEAC indoor crown, breaking their previous meet record in points (188) with

200. The Hampton Men finished second with 104 points, followed by Maryland Eastern Shore to round out the top three with 74 points.

Norfolk State Head Coach Kenneth Giles was named the Outstanding Coach for the sixth straight year. Hampton Head Coach

Maurice Pierce was named the Women's Outstanding Coach.

"It was a total team effort," said Giles. "The student-athletes did an amazing job and we are looking forward to the upcoming outdoor season."

Sanders, Wells high on HBCU NFL draft list

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Senior tailback Walter Sanders and senior offensive guard Justin Wells of Saint Augustine's College are considered top NFL prospects from historically black colleges and universities according to a recent ESPN.com article.

The story rates Sanders as the fourth-best HBCU

running back, while Wells is ranked sixth among offensive linemen. Both players played key roles this season for the Falcons, who posted a 9-2 overall mark and captured the Pioneer Bowl championship in 2010. The nine wins were the most for the Falcons since at least 1934.

Sanders led the CIAA with 1,377 yards and 15 touchdowns, earning him league offensive player of the year honors and a spot on the All-CIAA first team. The nation's fourth-ranked Division II rusher as a senior, Sanders is the Falcons' career rushing leader (2,747) in the modern era.

Wells anchored the offensive line, which helped Sanders become the league's rushing king in 2010. The Falcons averaged 152.6 rushing yards per game and were second in the CIAA in time of possession (30:43).

The Falcons relied on Sanders and the offensive line to churn yards and burn the clock late in contests. The 2011 NFL Draft will be held April 28-30.

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CIAA makes All-Freshman Team selections

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association has announced the 2010-2011 Men's and Women's Basketball All-Rookie Teams as decided by the CIAA Sports Information Directors Association. This year's teams are headlined by Saint Augustine's College's Umeka Benson and Joel Kindred.

Benson was voted as this year's CIAA Women's Basketball Rookie of the Year after averaging 10.1 points per game and pulling down 8.4 rebounds per game. Others on the Women's Team are Saint Paul's College's Alisha Hardley; Johnson C. Smith's Raquel Davis; Lincoln University's Cynthia Johnson and Virginia Union's Leslie Slayton.

On the men's side, Kindred was a unanimous vote for the CIAA Men's Basketball Rookie of the Year after scoring 13.2 points per game and notching double figure outings in fifteen of the Falcons' games.

The Men's Team also includes: Fayetteville State University's Tyrell Tate; Saint Augustine's James Theus; Bowie State University's Rasheem King; and Saint Augustine's Chris Johnson.



Wells



Sanders



Benson