

CIAA Basketball Roundup

Elizabeth City, St. Paul's

Battle For Final Berth

Richmond, Va. - Seven teams have clinched berths for the 31st Annual Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Basketball Tournament which will be staged at the Hampton Coliseum, Hampton, Virginia.

The three day tourney will run from Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 26-28, 1976 and indications point to banner crowds witnessing the four sessions.

Four teams from the Southern Division of the league have clinched berths and these include Winston Salem State University, Johnson C. Smith University, Shaw University and Saint Augustine's College.

Three teams have virtually clinched berths from the Northern Division and this charmed threesome is Virginia State College, Virginia Union University and Norfolk State College.



Jerry Fitch
...Young JCSU coach

Saint Paul's College and Elizabeth City State University are waging a merry battle for the final berth.

Saint Paul's has two foes remaining on their schedule and they include Fayetteville State and Norfolk State College. Meanwhile, Elizabeth

City State also has games remaining with Virginia Union University and Va. State College. The berth will not be decided until Saturday evening, February 21.

Norfolk State College is the defending champion in the CIAA Tourney and the Spartans have been making a valiant effort to be at their prime for the three day CIAA tourney slugfest.

Sideline observers rate the favorite a toss-up. Their reasons are many. Perhaps the most significant one is the fact, that five teams in the league have been ranked among the nation's top twenty teams in numerous polls during the season.

Winston Salem State is presently in the top ten published by the NCAA College Division, ranked by the National Black News Service Mutual Black Sports and Jet Magazine. Virginia State is ranked in the top ten by the Associated Press, National Black News Service, Mutual Black Sports and Jet Magazine. Virginia Union, Norfolk State and Saint Paul's have been ranked anywhere between the top fifteen and as high as eighth in the country by the Associated Press, National Black News Service, Mutual Black Sports and Jet Magazine.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the league has been the showing of Saint Paul's College. The Tigers have created some excitement never before exemplified by Tiger supporters. One observer noted that they are an exciting club and have the talent to make it tough for other teams in the league. In addition, Shaw University has come on strong in the closing weeks and must be considered a serious threat.

Eastern Shore, 99-83. Howard stands 5-5 in conference play and 8-14 overall.

In addition to losing its only league outing last week, Delaware State divided a pair of games against non-conference teams. The Hornets nipped Lincoln Wednesday night, 88-87 after losing to Coppin State last Monday by the score of 78-62. The Hornets are 3-8 in conference play and 5-16 overall.

N. C. Central suffered three conference losses last week. The Eagles lost to A&T Tuesday, Howard Friday night and Morgan State Saturday night. The Eagles are 2-10 in MEAC play and 5-18 overall.

Maryland-Eastern Shore dropped a pair of league games last week losing to Howard last Tuesday and S. C. State Saturday night. The Hawks fell to 1-9 in league play and 2-18 against all opponents.

Five family games will highlight an 11-game card in the final week of the regular season in the MEAC. Morgan State will be involved in three family tests while Maryland-Eastern Shore, S. C. State and Howard will play in two.

N.C. A&T Aggies Jump

Back Into MEAC Lead

Durham - North Carolina A&T won three conference games last week including a victory over previously league-leading Morgan State to jump back into first place in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) basketball standings.

The Aggies defeated North Carolina Central last Tuesday, 82-70, held on for a 77-74 win over Morgan State Friday night and outlasted Howard, 75-70 Saturday night. The three wins give the Aggies an 11-1 conference slate and a 17-3 overall mark.

Coach Warren Reynolds' cagers are at least assured of a tie for the regular season honors in the MEAC. Morgan State now has an 8-1 league mark with three games to play in conference play this week. Overall the Bears are 17-4.

The team finishing first in the final regular season standings will receive a first round bye in the 5th annual MEAC Basketball Tournament which will be played February 26-28 at the spacious Greensboro Coliseum. In case of tie for first place between Morgan and A&T, a flip of the coin will be necessary to determine who receives top seeding in the tournament.

After dropping the close decision to A&T Friday night, Morgan State romped to a 113-78 win over N. C. Central Saturday night.

South Carolina State strengthened its position in third place with a pair of league wins over the weekend. The Bulldogs defeated Delaware State, 66-58 Friday night and nipped Maryland-Eastern Shore, 81-79 Saturday night. S. C. State now stands 7-3 in conference play and 15-6 overall.

Howard defeated N. C. Central Friday night, 74-68 before dropping its decision to A&T Saturday. Earlier in the week the Bison defeated Maryland-

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This Weekend

Greensboro To Host NAIA

Track, Field Championships

The NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championships, to be held in Greensboro Coliseum, February 20-21, 1976 features many of the major track and field performers in the United States.

Considered among such contenders must be young Ron Ray of North Carolina Central in Durham, North Carolina.

ECSU's Blue Dominates CIAA

Cage Statistics

Richmond, Va. - Elizabeth City State University's Thomas Blue, defying the sophomore jinx, continues to dominate the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association basketball statistics, according to information released today by the CIAA Service Bureau.

Blue is the league's best rebounder with a sensational 16.4 game average and the leader in individual field goal shooting with a .693 average. The 6-8 Wilson native shares the league scoring leadership with Johnson C. Smith University's Robert Lewis. Blue has tallied 462-points in 18 games and Lewis is conference's most prolific scorer with 512 points in 20 games. Both sport a 25.6 average.

Mainly because of Blue's efforts, Elizabeth City is the conference best field goal shooting team. The Vikings have connected on 689 out of 1274 attempts for a smooth .540 percentage. The Vikings are struggling for a CIAA tourney berth and Coach Robert Vaughan says that much of the Viking's hopes lay on Blue's shoulders.

Ron, who has had a rocky road at North Carolina Central, has an eye on the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. Furthermore, interestingly note that Ron's coach is Dr. Leroy Walker, who has recently been selected as the United States Track and Field Coach for the '76 Olympic Games.

Ron won the NAIA Outdoor 440 title in Arkadelphia, Arkansas with a 45.88 clocking. But he nose-dived as he ranked last in his semi-final standings in the NCAA meet and bypassed the AAU competition. Young Ray showed tremendous ability as he zipped to a high school record of 45.8 in 1972 and felt he was on his way to becoming a true World Class performer. Showing the mark of a champion, he kept training after his failure at the NCAA meet and got a big break when a spot came open on the US mile relay team for the meet against West Germany and Africa. He responded with a 46.6 leadoff on the 3:02.4 World Record performance. He then cut his best mark to 45.42 in the Pan America Trials. He bettered that goal by zipping to a 44.45 the fourth quickest automatic time ever for the Gold Medal. He then finished off a stellar comeback by anchoring the United States 1600 meter relay team to victory.

There is no question that 1976 will be a big year for the six foot, 165 pound speedster's track career. The NAIA meet in Greensboro will give him a chance to establish a stronger hold on the top spot in the US 400 meter listing. However, facing Ray, will be Robert Taylor, the Texan Southern flash who is currently listed as number seven on the United States listing with a 45.26 clocking.

Two additional challengers in the Greensboro event will undoubtedly be Charles Oliver, a veteran from Troy State University in Alabama clocked at 46.57, and the youngster Max Tolen, another Texas Southern performer who is clocked at 46.71. There is no question that the 440 yard dash in the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championship in the Greensboro Coliseum, February 20-21 will be one of the main highlights of the two-day event. Last year was the first time the NAIA meet had been held outside of Kansas City, Missouri and the Greensboro track fans viewed some of the stars that will be in serious contention for the Olympic games this summer.

As preliminary events, the Second Annual Coliseum High School Indoor Track Meet will be held on Thursday, February 19.

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Important People And Dates In Black History

February

19. 1913, Henry T. Eubanks, three time member of Ohio State Legislature, died in Cleveland at the age of 55.
20. 1952, J. Finley Wilson, supreme exalted ruler of the Elks for 30 years died in Washington, d.c.
21. 1876, Joseph J. Roberts, Virginia born 1st president of Republic of Liberia died in Monrovia at age 67.
22. 1882, W.S. Hornsby, Sr. born, founder Pilgrim Health & Life Insurance Co. Died 1956.
23. 1873, W. Paul Quinn, a bishop in the AME Church and founder of many of the denominational churches died in Richmond, Indiana.
24. 1811, bishop of the AME Church, D.A. Payne was born.

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