



TELLING IT LIKE IT REALLY IS!

It might surprise you to discover what your "good friends" say about you behind your back!

According to Eddie McGirt, tickets to the CIAA Basketball Tournament in the Norfolk Scope are going fast. The Johnson C. Smith athletic director said he's going to attend a meeting in Hampton, Virginia, this weekend and likely will bring back more books of tickets to the biggest event in black college sports.

The past president of the CIAA, who is currently serving on the tournament committee, believes all tickets to the popular dribble derby will be sold out long before the first basketball is bounced.

McGirt predicts that Charlotte will again have the largest group in attendance at the famed event, which begins Wednesday, February 22. Hampton is expected to win the banner for having the largest attendance, with Norfolk State second, JCSU third and Winston-Salem fourth.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST....

There is only one problem harder to solve than making money and that is keeping it once you have made a little of it!

Did you hear that Morgan State is making plans to rejoin the MEAC? The Bears will become the league's eighth team when the official paperwork is completed. The Baltimore school will be granted full Division I status within three years.

Add the names of Napoleon Johnson of Grambling and Earl Jones of District of Columbia to the list of black college basketball players who are high on the NBA prospects list. Joe Binion of A&T is the top BCB player on the roster.

Wonder why black media experts bypassed PGA golfer Calvin Peete in their selection of professional football player Eric Dickerson as the "Black Athlete of the Year"? True, Dickerson turned in an outstanding season with the Los Angeles Rams with great credentials, including rushing for 1,878 yards for a record for NFL rookies. But, during the same period, Calvin earned more than \$300,000 for the third straight year to become the first black golfer to earn more than \$1 million in the toughest sport there is.

Cheryl Miller, the high-scoring lady from Southern California University, is being acclaimed as the best woman basketball player in history. Maybe so, but our gal, Cassandra Howell of J.C. Smith University, is not far behind. Well, not that far! Cassandra Howell of J.C. Smith University, .661 field goal shooting percentage. That ought to be worth several votes. Or should it?

But you didn't know that J.C. Smith does not have a player among the top 10 CIAA individual scoring leaders? Roosevelt McGruder is pulling down a mere 8.7 rebounds and is ranked ninth among the league's rebounding leaders. Phil Smith is eighth among the field goal percentage shooters, with a respectable .524 accuracy mark.

Although it's being kept quietly, Calvin Peete and Coca-Cola USA have teamed up for special promotions during Peete's 1984 tournament and exhibition schedules.

It looks as if the problems of winning are going to worsen for the JCUS basketball team. The Golden Bulls will clash with Virginia Union and Charles Oakley here Saturday night prior to facing Virginia State here Monday night. That's a tough assignment.

Word from Greensboro is that Miller Brewing Company withdrew its financial support from the North Carolina A&T Basketball Tournament because the Aggies could not attract any big-named Division I teams.

It's not official yet, so don't hold me to this! Rumors have Willie Jeffries resigning from Wichita State to accept the head football coach position at Howard.

I would think coach Bob Moore was quoted incorrectly in the Observer Tuesday morning where he was listed as having said: "My players did not do what I told them to do." The statement gives the feeling that Bob is saddled with a serious disciplinary problem.

It's difficult to understand how some media experts can give high praise to the recent Freedom Bowl All-Star Football Game in Atlanta, which attracted a little more than 19,000 fans. First of all, 19,000 is not considered a great turnout and, secondly, the event did not have the good blessings of either the Atlanta University Center nor the SIAC.

How about ol' Ralph? Sampson is currently leading the Houston Rockets in individual scoring, rebounding and blocked shots. The big rookie is also doing very well in assists and steals. He's also proved that he is human, however. Sampson is shooting poorly at the free throw lines.

Against three worthy foes

Sagging Golden Bulls Hope To Regain Loss Confidence

By Phil Husher
Special To The Post

Johnson C. Smith basketball team will have less than three weeks to rediscover the confidence they've lost in reeling off three straight Southern Division losses. Only the mentally tough survive in the tough CIAA Tournament which will begin on Wednesday, February 22 at the Norfolk Scope. All others will be given early seats on the sidelines.

The women's program likewise went through a topsy-turvy week. The ladies were favorites against St. Augustine's and Winston-Salem State, but dropped both. Heavily favored Shaw came into town with first place in the Southern Division all but secure, only to be sent back to Raleigh with a 47-44 loss at the hands of Smith. Odellia Johns, suffering from a rare off-season for the junior All-CIAA guard, came through with 16 points to do most of the damage.

"It's been a strange year as far as the up and down consistency," admitted women's coach Steve Joyner. "Unless Shaw badly stumbles, we can just hope to be ready for the CIAA women's tournament to make amends."

Norfolk State's spacious



Roosevelt McGruder (34) finds Dante Johnson (42) open underneath with a "neat" pass and the spunky freshman responded with an easy layup against North Carolina Central here last week.

February 25, at the Scope. Meanwhile men's coach Bob Moore may have to call on the services of the counseling center on the Smith campus, or perhaps the psychology department.

"It's tough to explain," lamented Moore. "We've got some outstanding teams coming to Brayboy in the coming weeks in Virginia Union, St. Augustine's, Winston-Salem State and a road trip to Hampton Institute. We have the time and the opportunities to prove ourselves, but it will take some hard searching on the part of everyone to play their roles and pay the price. If I were the players, I'd be anxious to make amends."

That order will have to arrive in a hurry as nationally-ranked Virginia Union (15-2) led by All-CIAA forward Charles Oakley visits Brayboy Saturday. Oakley carries NBA prospect potential with 20 points, 13.5 rebounds and two blocked shots per game. The Virginia State Trojans, led by a pair of small guards in Kevin Bush and Wayne Wood, have been running conference teams ragged. VSU will visit Brayboy for a Monday night contest. Both games are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. following

the women's games. Virginia Union's Lady Panthers, national champions last year, are still undefeated and ranked number one in the country. Forwards are McWhirter and Marie Nicholson are worth the price of admission as far as seeing two of the best college women players in the country.

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