

Shaw seeks fourth straight tourney title

By Bonitta Best
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

The Shaw Bears have a chance to make CIAA women's basketball history.

No team has ever won four consecutive tournament titles. Shaw is tied with Norfolk State and Bowie State with three straight championships.

A fourth would put them in a league of their own. And they want it.

"You have the opportunity to do it so why act like it's not important," Shaw coach Jacques Curtis said. "It's real important for the seniors because all the (previous) three teams have left as champions and that is what they want. They are not trying to let the championship be lost while they are seniors. It's important to them, important to me and everybody involved."

Shaw didn't look much like a three-time champ early on, much less

capable of winning a fourth.

The Bears uncharacteristically lost four of their first seven games, including three straight. Shaw hadn't lost four games since it went 15-13 during the 2001-02 season.

But the Bears have yet to lose to any conference opponent in over two years. They currently have a 66 conference game win streak and a 38 home game streak going. Those are numbers not even Norfolk State or Bowie State can match.

Norfolk State won titles from 1991-93 and Bowie State from '97-99.

Shaw is working on its third straight undefeated conference season, also a feat neither NSU nor BSU accomplished.

Bowie State came within an eyelash of winning a fourth straight title in 2000, but were upset in the final seconds by upstart Livingstone.

On the other hand, the Spartans are the only one of the three to advance to the Final Four ('91).



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