

# Sidelights Of 24th Annual CIAA Basketball Tournament

## Carolinian Scribe Covers Entire Meet

BY ALEXANDER BARNES  
GREENSBORO-It is about 15 minutes before the whistle will blow and begin the biggest sports attraction of Negro colleges, along the eastern seaboard. This is Thursday and the crowd is surging in the halls. The boys who run the show are trying to be as austere as possible. There is a jam at the gates. High school students are here by the hundreds. They are lost from their monitors and leaders. This means that they have not received their tickets yet.

Ellis Corbett, who has charge of the whole thing until Commissioner W. Trent Johns begins to throw his weight around, is all up in the air. He sent the newspaper questionnaires to be filled out as to when they would arrive, how many and by what mode of transportation. There are no tickets for the Press. I had to leave my Diner's card, my American Express bill and my pass book to the world's largest Building and Loan Association, the Perpetual, in Washington, before I could get through the gate to even see about the tickets.

When I get through the crowd, I go to Mr. Richard Moore, Mr. Corbett's "Man Friday." He tells me "Man you got seat at the press table." I am not interested in the seat number. I want the ticket or the badge so I can get my papers back. He directs me to Marse Hill and being an Old Timer, Marse knows what I have gone through. He out with the identification. I go back to the man on the gate and he is reluctant to give me my papers. By this time, I am about to forget that aside from being a newspaperman, I am director of Public Relations for the A. M. E. Zion Church. My temper is about exhausted and my vocabulary is about run out of pleasant words. Good Brother W. W. Johnson, from St. Augustine's and a member of the committee, comes to my rescue and saves both my temper and my vocabulary.

By this time the first game has started and Leroy Walker is describing it. It was not long before we knew that the Hawks from Maryland State were too fast for the Tigers of Lawrenceville.

The interest soon began to center on A&T. By this time, Corbett has his composure and begins to pine as to why the Aggies "had to meet their Rams." The bell sounds and I am between "Eligible" Gaines, coaching the Rams and Corbett pulling for the Aggies. I soon found out where all the tickets were. They were being held for the A&T fans for Friday. However, the Winston-Salem boys were not going to be caught short and they had siphoned a few off, too. Well, Gaines won it and Corbett conceded that there were some tickets that might be had, since the Aggies would not be in the semi-finals.

In the Thursday night first game, Norfolk State had little trouble with Tom Harris' Union Panthers. I don't know whether Tom is getting too old or his boys are too old. The record shows that Tom won in 1951, 1952, 1954 and 1955. It also shows that he has not placed but once since then. His team was runner-up in 1959.

The most exciting game of the first day was played by the supposed doormat of the Tournament, Shaw, against Elizabeth City. The Bears showed everything. Ira Mitchell had his boys up to that game and they were on the brink of pulling the greatest upset in Tournament history. There are those who say had the Baptist boys gotten a little better break from the officials, it might have happened. This column does not want to say

that it was not in the books for Shaw to win.

We come up to Friday. The Pepsi-Cola luncheon for the Press was up to "snuff." Johns tried to fill in for Sam Barnes, but fell far short. There is only one Sam Barnes and when it comes to taking over a meeting of sports people, he can't be beat. Johns finally admitted it and turned the things over to Ellis Corbett, who stole the show. He first told how the Chamber of Commerce had over 100 black members and 37 of them either were professors at A&T or worked there. The name was changed from the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce to A&T University Touting Association, Ernie Huntles and Dave Watson, from the New York office, along with the Lynelburg Nichols were on hand and greeted everybody. The members of the All-CIAA Team were presented.

Friday night had two thrillers. E. Fears had his Norfolk boys fired up. Gaines tried to outrun them and outshoot them, but they held on. The last seconds of the game brought the house to its feet. I happened to be sitting near the Norfolk bench. The score was tied. Fears sent his boys down the court and told them to play it safe, take no chances, get the rebound or take the ball, bring it back and watch the clock. This they did. They went down the floor, with the Rams in possession. The Rams lost the ball and Norfolk brought it back. At almost the last second, a try for the tie-breaking basket failed, but the Rams committed a foul. The foul carried two chances. The first was missed, but the second fell in and that was the game. There was another howl. Gaines contended that there were three seconds left, but the officials said the game was over and Norfolk had won all the marbles.

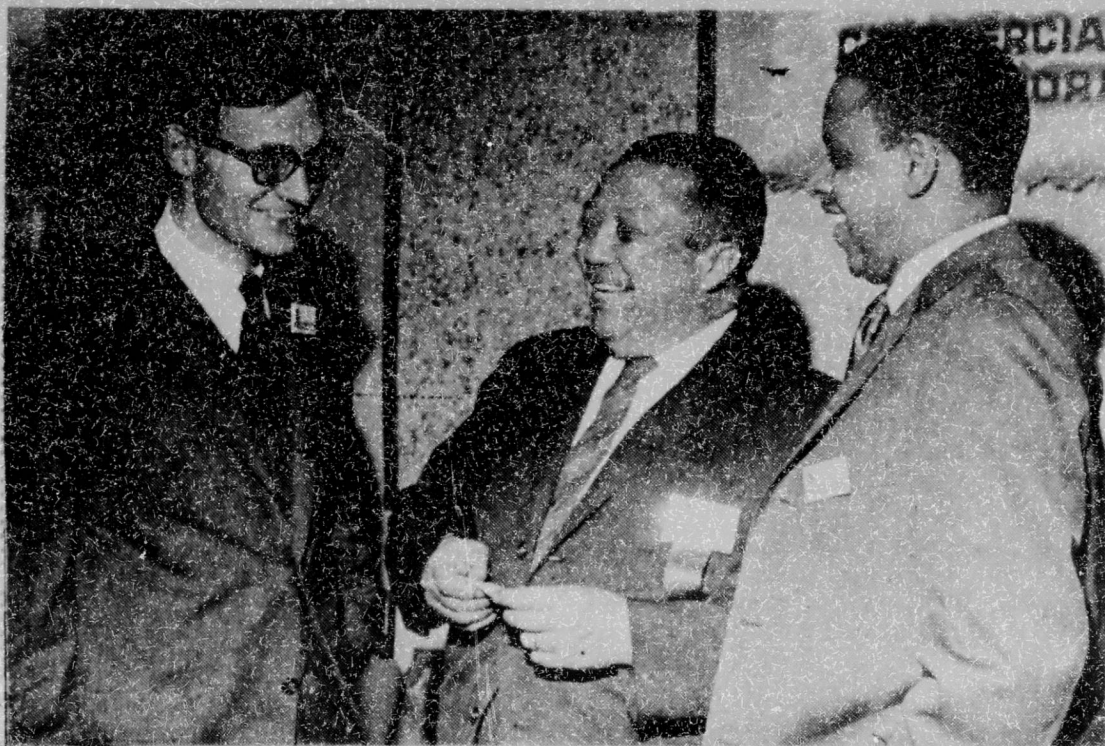
Elizabeth City had all it needed in Maryland State. They made scintillating shots, rebounded on an equal and no one knew whether Vaughan's boys would win or not. They finally pulled out in the last few minutes. It was really a joy for Bobby Vaughan, who had been voted the "Coach of the Year." He was also named the "Coach of the Tournament."

With the last game over, the crowd filed out of the Coliseum to be greeted by a mixture of rain and snow. It was a long before it stopped raining and snow was prevalent. When we awoke Saturday morning, there were those who felt that the finals would have to be postponed. It was decided to play it and the faithful stayed on to witness the outcome. Everybody knows that the Elizabeth City Vikings are the 1969 CIAA Champions.

President Marion Thorpe was on hand and did as much cheering as the other fans. He was presented at the luncheon and took care of himself well.

It is interesting to see how the white media has taken hold of the Tourney. When it started in Turner's Arena in 1946, the only white media represented was the Washington Post and it was represented by Ed Lawson. There were representatives from many of the white dailies and they did not send their Negro representatives. There were also the national news services, television and Western Union, on hand.

The Press Room, where Pepsi-Cola was host to the newsmen, coaches and VIPs, had a cop stationed at the door and if you did not have the mark, not on your forehead, but in your hand, you did not get in. Here again, Walter Johnson was the boss. He had what it took to get in and he guarded it with an inch of his life. There were some rhubarbs, but he held his ground.



INSIDE GREENSBORO COLISEUM - These four pictures were taken inside the Greensboro Coliseum last weekend during the 24th Annual CIAA Basketball Tournament. Top: Ellis F. Corbett, center, of the A&T University, seems to be "in his glory" as he speaks to two of the VIPs at the tourney. On the left is Dr. John Sawhill, vice president of Commercial Credit, and on the right is A. M. Muldrow, public relations man. Center left. These young ladies from Shaw University, who pulled so hard for their team, seem awe-stricken when time ran out and found the Bears of Shaw only one point behind the tourney champs, Elizabeth City Vikings. The young lady in the foreground is really brought to tears. Center right: Miss Juanita Lovelace, Elizabeth City cheerleader, is having a solitary moment as she ponders what the Vikings have to do to win the championship. The young Norfolk State cheerleaders in the bottom photo were caught by the photographer on the floor of the Coliseum. The Spartans were 1968 tourney champs. It is rather amusing that each has a different hair style. As this picture was taken, the Spartans were battling Virginia Union's Panthers.

## Barber-Scotia Defends EIAC Title

CONCORD - Barber - Scotia College successfully defended their Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament championship by knocking off South Carolina Area School 108-88 in the finals played here last week.

The Sabers used a stout defense to cut off the SCATS' scoring power in the first half holding them to 25 points while the Sabers were racking the ball for 50 markers.

Ivory Herbert led the victorious Sabers by pouring in 29 points. Louis Jefferies contributed 24 to aid the cause. Actually, the Sabers had four men in double figures.

South Carolina Area Trade School was led by Sam Kinlaw with 29 points.

The Sabers got an early lead and never relinquished it as they employed a tenacious defense to salt away the championship. These two clubs split during regular season play.

Kittrell defeated Durham Business College, 83-78 for consolation honors.

Kittrell College used a balanced scoring attack to edge

Durham Business College to win the Consolation Championship. Reggie Leggett was the big gun in the Kittrell arsenal with 23 points, John Smith rammed home 21 markers to aid the cause.

The Tigers led from the outset of the contest and never let up. In fact, they went to rest at halftime with a 45-33 margin. The play tightened in the final minutes, but Kittrell held its ground to gain the victory.

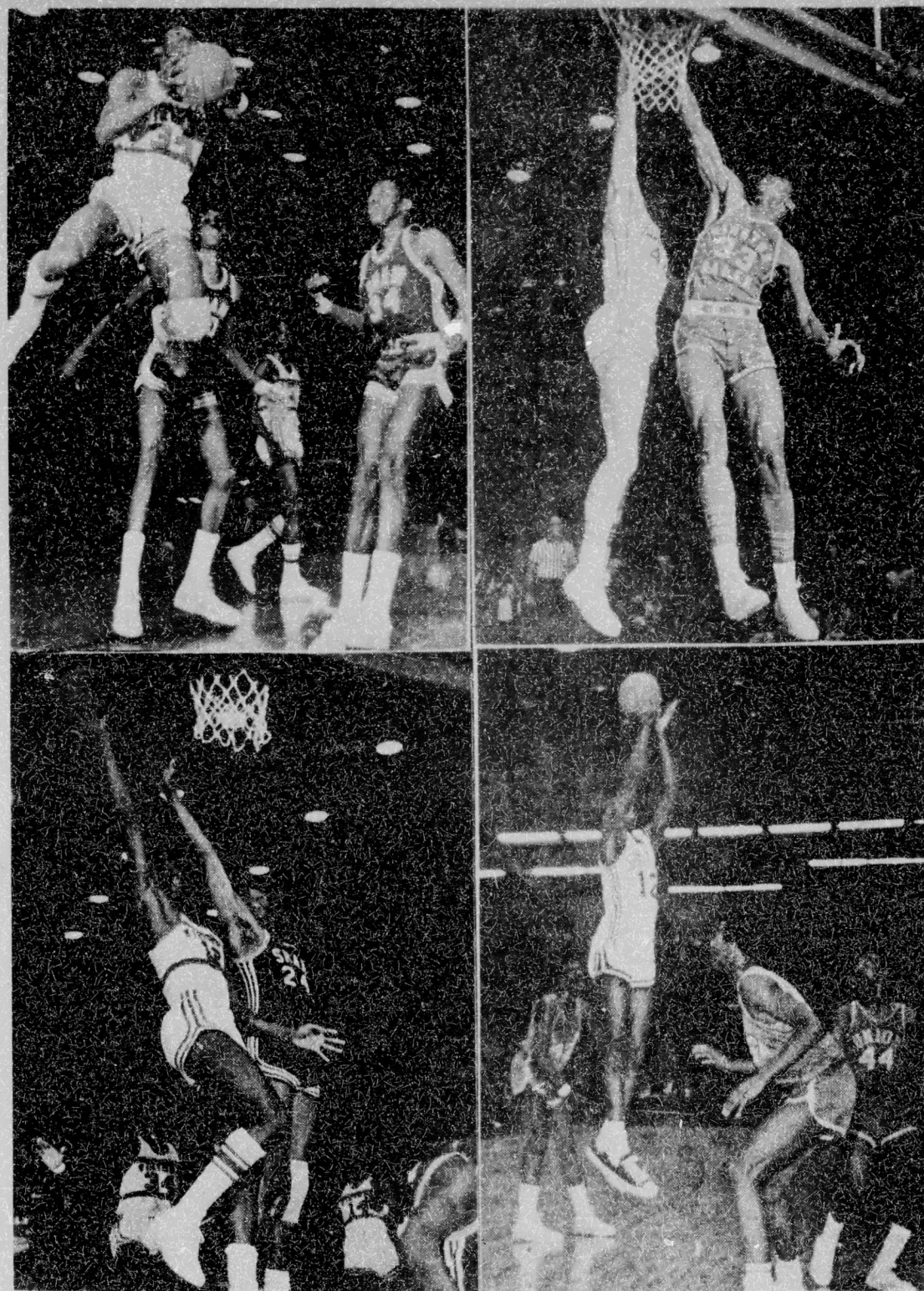
Durham Business College was led by Daniel McLaurin with 33 points. He was aided and abetted by William Harris with 29 points.

Named to the all-tourney team were Redning Leggett, Kittrell; William Harris, Durham Business College; Louis Jefferies, Barber - Scotia College.

Reggie Leggett of Kittrell College was named the Tourney's most valuable player. He set a tourney scoring mark on Friday evening by tallying 37 points. He totaled 60 points in the three day event for a 30-point per game average.



SHAW BASKETBALL TEAM-The 1968-69 Basketball Bears are left to right: back row: Jacob Newton, and Bobby Moore; second row: Greg Davis, Willie Nelson, Robert Campbell, Bobby Sanders, James' Valentine, Robert Johnson, and Greg Jenkins; (number 40) Bernice Wilkes; front row: Anthony Miles, Kelly Utley, Herman Jones, and Jackie Smith.



CIAA TOURNAMENT GAME HIGHLIGHTS - The above four scenes depict some of the "hot" action which took place during the 24th Annual Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Basketball Tournament, held at the Greensboro Coliseum last Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Top left photo shows Elizabeth City State's Roy Bellfield (34) flying through the air as he rises above two players from Shaw University in the first game. Top right: Lonnie Klutz tucks the ball in for A&T's Aggies as John Iatham, Winston-Salem star, tries hard to stop him. Bottom left: Elizabeth City's Michael Gale (12), evades a Shaw player as he makes an easy layup. Two other ECSC Vikings look on. Bottom right: Norfolk State's Robert Dandridge (12) cited by his hometown newspaper as an All-American, makes an "impossible" shot as three Virginia Union University Panthers look on in awe.

\*\*\* Licenses to use radiotopes in research and training are held by 93 of VA's 166 hospitals.

\*\*\* The Veterans Administration employs 800 psychiatrists, with 800 more needed.

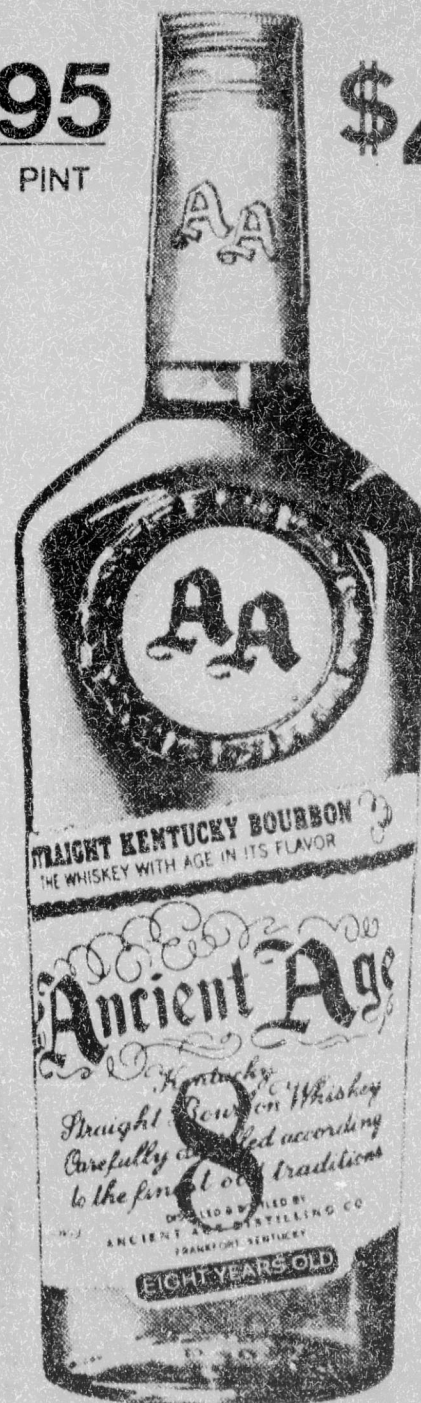
\*\*\* Servicemen are insured automatically for \$10,000 unless they refuse in writing.

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