

Norfolk Trims Shaw Bears In Finals Of CIAA Tournament

Shaw's Cinderella Quintet Bows In Title Game, 74-68

BY EARL MASON

GREENSBORO-The Shaw University Bears fought the tournament favorite Norfolk State Spartans down to the wire before falling, 84-78 in the finals of the 26th annual CIAA Tournament played in the Greensboro Coliseum before a record breaking crowd of 13,881 spectators.

The loss was a disappointing one for Coach Ira Mitchell's cagers from the Capitol City who were trying to complete their third straight giant killing in as many days. The Bears led for almost 30 minutes in the championship game before Norfolk was able to tie the game at 56-56 with 9:53 remaining in the titular contest.

It was the clutch free throw shooting by Norfolk's Morrell James that gave the Spartans their 24th win of the season against only three losses. James, who was voted the Most Valuable Player in the tournament, sank for charity tosses in the last 39 seconds to seal the victory for the cagers from the Tidewater area of Virginia.

Shaw, which finished the season with an 18-7 record, was the Cinderella team of the tournament gaining wins over Howard and Elizabeth City in the first two rounds. The Bears led by one, 34-33 at intermission and stayed close to Norfolk in the second half. The Spartans, with their run and shoot offense, were expected to "blow" Shaw off the floor, but the unheralded quintet from Raleigh refused to give way to the tournament favorite and Northern Division champions.

In the consolation game for third place, A&T hung on to an 81-78 win over Elizabeth City. Elmer Austin scored 26 points for the winners while William Harris and Don Blackmon each collected 16 for the Aggies.

Mike Gale was high for the Vikings with 26 points in a losing cause.

Norfolk State jumped off a quick 10-2 lead but Mitchell called time out and got his forces together. Before seven minutes had elapsed in the game, the Bears had cut the margin to two, 11-9. Shaw tied the game four times in the next four minutes and a jumper by Jackie Smith gave the Bears a 21-19 cushion.

After the Spartans rallied to tie the game at 21-21, Shaw exploded for six straight points to take a 27-21 advantage. Norfolk caught up again and went ahead at 29-27 on a basket by Leroy Jones but a field goal by Kelly Utley with nine seconds remaining gave the Bears a 34-33 lead at halftime.

Shaw was able to stay ahead for the first 10 minutes of the second half before Norfolk State tied the game with a little less than 10 minutes to go and went ahead on field goal by Rudolph Peele for good. Shaw stayed with in striking distance but the clutch free throw shooting by James going the stretch was the final difference in the championship encounter.

Five players scored in double figures for the Bears with Ray Haskins, Bobby Moore and Smith and Lester Mobley all getting 14 points while Utley added 11 points. Leading the scoring for Norfolk was James with 23 points, 19 in the second half, while Jones had 15 and Ronald Wilson 14 for the Spartans.



SECOND PLACE PLAQUE-L. B. Smith, acting commissioner for the CIAA, presents the runner-up trophy to Ira Mitchell and his Shaw University team for their second place finish in the 26th annual CIAA Tournament. The Bears lost to Norfolk State in the finals, 74-68.



WE'RE NUMBER ONE-Members of the Norfolk State basketball team hold up one finger indicating they were number one in the CIAA. The Spartans defeated Shaw University, 74-68 in the finals of the tournament to win the conference tournament championship.

EARL MASON'S

SPORTS VIDEO



CIAA Observations

BY ALEXANDER BARNES

As we gathered for the playing of the 26th CIAA Basketball Tournament, in Greensboro's rebuilt Coliseum last week, it was quite evident that the affair would not be the same, due to the fact that Ellis F. Corbett would not be there. It was reported that he was hospitalized in the L. Richardson Hospital. Many of us went to see him and found him, as usual, this time of the year, enthused over the game. He not only had all the newspaper reports, but had both the radio and television tuned to the stations that were talking about the tournament.

There was also the fact that there were only three of us present who covered the 1926 game: Art Carter, who represented The Afro-American then and now; Eric Roberts, who represented The Pittsburgh Courier then and the Public Information Office, Howard University now, and Alexander Barnes then publisher of the Washington Tribune and now a member of the staff of The CAROLINIAN. There was also a dearth of black newspaper representatives. There were many there, but they represented agencies that have sprung up since 1946.

In those days, The Amsterdam News, The Philadelphia Tribune, The Philadelphia Independent, The Chicago Defender, The Journal & Guide, The Washington Post, The Philadelphia Bulletin and The Washington Star had black representation.

We settled for the first game. There was no feeling that the spunky five from Shaw University would take the measure of Howard's cocky team. Its record showed, 12-5, while Howard sported 12-4. The Baptist boys went to work and when the last whistle blew, the boys from Howard were ready to make the trek back to the banks of the Potomac.

There was not much doubt about Bobby Vaughan's boys taking the measure of Virginia State, which had not shown any muscle since 1963, when it was defeated by Winston-Salem, in the finals.

It was pretty well felt that A&T's 12-4 record against the 10-6 record of Maryland's Eastern Shore, argued well for the Aggies, in the first night game. And it did.

The final game of the elimination was the thriller. No one had any idea that "Choke" Edmunds' Eagles, even though he had been chosen the "Coach of the Year", in his first year, would give the undefeated Norfolk State Spartans the dogged

First Round Action

GREENSBORO-Shaw University, Elizabeth City, A&T and Norfolk State won first games on Thursday but not before the record-breaking crowd of 10,169 saw some topflight basketball.

The first round saw no upsets as such but the crowd was thrilled with many excited moments in the first game of the opening round matching Shaw and Howard and the last game of the evening between North Carolina Central and tournament favorite Norfolk State.

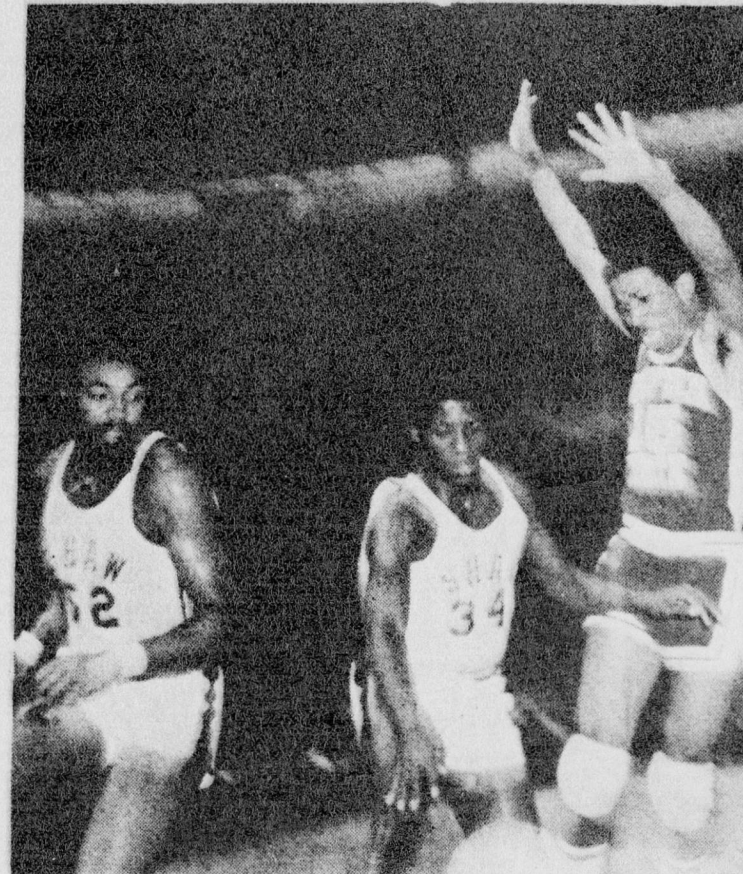
Shaw came on late in the game and held on for an 88-84 decision over Howard in the first game. Elizabeth City led

lesson of basketball play that it did. The Eagles played the Spartans as if they were from Athens and had the Trojan Horse. Five seconds toward victory, showed the Eagles ahead, but Robert Smith, with possession of the ball, called time. When play resumed, the Eagles were boxed in and at the last second, the greatest basket of the tourney was made and the Spartans won by one point.

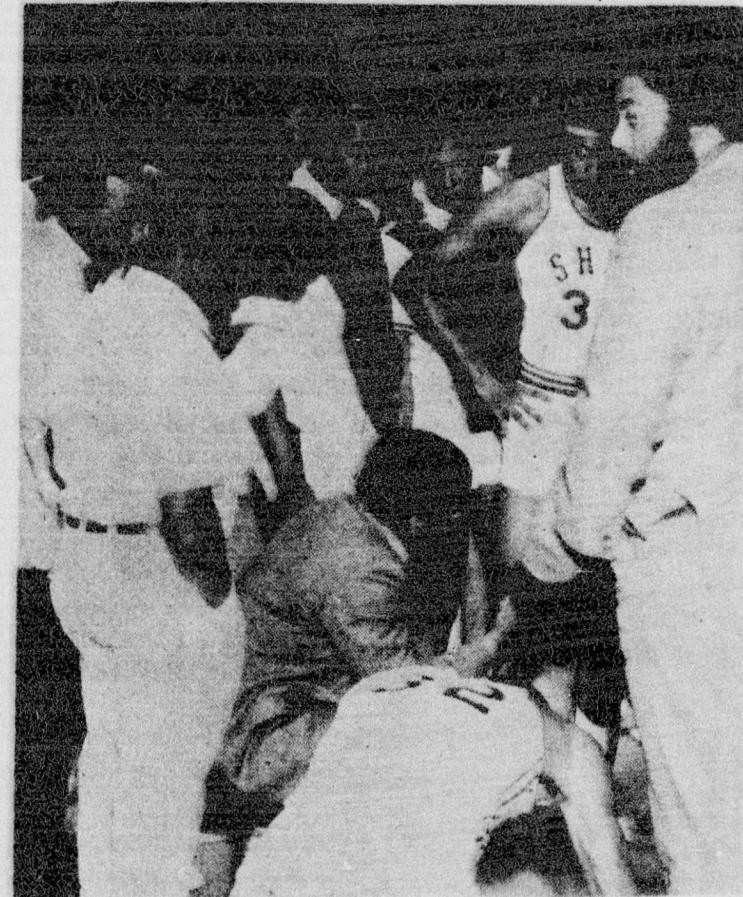
Shaw, with a motivation that had them keyed for Bobby Vaughan's Vikings, showed that they came after the marbles Friday night and took them in the opener. This left the two "bad boys," A&T and Norfolk State to battle for the right to meet the Bears in the final game. The Aggies huffed and puffed, but could not blow the "State House" down. As a result, the Norfolk boys won the right to play the Bears, in the final. From here, I will turn the play-by-play over to Earl Mason, who covered for The CAROLINIAN.

The most impressive feature of the tourney was the fact that the promoters of the Model City of High Point made it possible for 300 youths to attend the game. The "Furniture City's" Board of City Council, appropriated \$5,385 to send the youths of both races, to the tournament. The Community Service Unit of the city police department planned the three-day event, as part of its cadet training program.

There have been many changes in the CIAA since its beginning. We have seen Lincoln University, Bluefield State, West Virginia State and others pull out, pull back and even some de-emphasize one or more of the sports that the CIAA engages in. Comes now another innovation in the ranks, A&T, North Carolina Central, Morgan State, Delaware State, Howard, Maryland State and South Carolina State have formed a new combine, which will be known as the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference. No one knows what the future holds. It was made certain that the CIAA Basketball Tournament would still be held in Greensboro. This seems to be the only certainty about the greatest sports classic, promoted by black colleges, along the Atlantic Seaboard. We all are waiting to see what the future holds.



CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION-Ray Haskins of Shaw University goes after a loose ball in the championship game against Norfolk State last Saturday in Greensboro. Putting up his hands in defense for the Spartans is Gerald Smith (15). Also watching the action for the Bears is Jackie Smith (52). (PHOTO BY J. D. HINTON).



THIS IS IT, FELLOWS-Shaw's Coach Ira Mitchell huddles with his team after taking a timeout in the championship game against Norfolk State last Saturday. Norfolk jumped off to a 10-2 lead in the championship game before Mitchell called this time out to get his team together.



DECORUM TROPHY-Members of the Shaw University basketball team and the student body are shown holding the trophy for being named the team with the best sportsmanship demonstrated during the 26th annual CIAA Tournament held in Greensboro. Cleon F. Thompson, Provost of Shaw, makes the presentation.

Semifinal Results

Shaw broke Elizabeth City's basketball jinx in the semifinal round of the CIAA by edging past the Vikings, 80-84 in the first game, and favorite Norfolk State warmed up in the second half and went on defeat A&T, 100-84 in the second contest to gain the finals of the tournament.

Lester Mobley's tap in of a missed Kelly Utley field goal attempt with six seconds left was the difference in the nip and contest which was tied 16 times and the lead exchanged hands 15 times.

The tip by Mobley gave the Bears a one-point margin and Ray Haskins stole the ball from Elizabeth City's Herbert Moorer after he crossed mid-court and was fouled with only one second remaining. Haskins hit the second of the two shot attempt for the final or difference for Shaw.

Neither team was able to gain more than a five point lead in the game. Elizabeth City led 70-74 with 4:55 remaining but the Bears came charging back and scored six straight points to regain the lead at 80-76.

Bobby "Pap" Moore's free throw with 40 seconds left gave the Bears an 83-81 cushion but All-American candidate Mike Gale's three-point play 19 seconds later gave the Vikings the lead at 84-83.

Shaw came down the floor and a jumper by Haskins, bounded high in the game and Kelly Utley rebounded and tried again. His shot was off but Mobley went high into the air to tip the ball back in for Shaw's winning basket.

Haskins was the leading scorer for the Bears who won their eight straight game with 20 points. Paul Kelly collected 16, Moore 16, and Utley and Mobley 14 each. Gale was the top scorer for the Vikings with 27 points.

All-CIAA front court performer Rudolph Peele poured in 25 points in the second half to lead the Spartans from behind in the second game. Peele finished the evening with 32 points but it was his shooting in the second half that brought the Spartans from behind.

A&T led at halftime, 47-43 but Norfolk caught fire in the second half and went on to put the game out of reach. The Northern Division champions gained the lead at 55-53 and quickly increased their lead to as much as 15 points in the second half.

Elmer Austin was the top scorer for the Aggies with 24 points while William Harris scored 15 and Bobby Parks 14 for A&T. Besides Peele, Morrell James scored 20 points and Leroy Jones 18 for the Spartans.



SOCK IT TO THEM-Shaw University cheerleaders give the 13,881 spectators something to look at during a timeout of the championship game of the 26th annual CIAA Tournament held in Greensboro. All during the tournament, the Shaw cheerleaders received loud rounds of applause from the fans for their outstanding performances.