CIAA REPORT

From Page 10

should bust a gut to prepare. Tonight, our mental preparation just wasn't there."

Gaines obviously was smarting from his team's uninspired second half, which saw the disoriented Rams outscored 46-32 by the Spartans. "Right now I don't know if we will take the NCAA berth," he said. "I don't like this team's attitude."

Hampton Coach Hank Ford, after seeing his team trounced 85-67 by Union, was, on the other hand, almost in a jovial mood.

"A few times tonight I thought about punting on third down," he quipped, "but if I did, Oakley would just put up a goal-line stand."

Ford had watched the Panthers' 6-9 senior score 33 points and grab 21 rebounds in the game, and had apparently been impressed.

Ford was also quick to respond when asked if the Panthers are the best team in Virginia.

"Yes, they're the best team in Virginia," he said. "They are also the best team in South America and Africa. You could send them to Russia and they might be the best team there but I'm not sure Russia would let them come back."

Despite the high praise heaped on Union, Norfolk Coach Charles Christian wasn't about to concede the title game.

Christian, whose team won the CIAA title in 1984 and entered the NCAA playoffs ranked No. 1 in the nation only to lose to the Panthers in the South Atlantic Regional title game, remembered that his team had come within three points of beating the Panthers during the regular season.

"Union is a super team," Christian said, "but we will come to play and we wouldn't show up if we didn't think we could beat them."

Norfolk did indeed come to play. The Spartans scored the game's first basket, and after falling behind 13-8 with 10:49 left in the half, put their fate in the hands of Tally.

The sophomore guard, who became the first freshman in league history to win tourney MVP honors last season, almost singlehandedly gave Norfolk a 32-29 halftime lead.

During the half's final 10 minutes, he scored 12 points, including the final four before intermission, on two spectacular drives that sent the partisan crowd into a frenzy.

Norfolk maintained control in the second half, until the Panthers went on a 12-2 spurt during a three-minute stretch that gave them a 59-52 lead with 3:40 remaining.

Norfolk fought back gamely, however, and tied the score on a rebound basket by Darnell Brown with 40 seconds remaining.

Then the man who had made Norfolk go fouled out. Tally was whistled for his fifth foul with 18 seconds left, sending Union's Eric Thompson to the line with a one-and-one. But Thompson missed and Norfolk's Billy Walker grabbed the ball and headed toward the other end.

Without Tally to pass to, Walker pulled up to shoot from 12 feet. But Thompson -- all 5 feet, 7 inches of him -- came from behind and knocked the shot away, where it was picked up by Union's Waller.

With time running out, Waller, who scored 23 points and added eight rebounds in the title game, dribbled toward the Union basket but was double-teamed at the free throw line, where he spotted Dallas on the wing. His perfect pass led to Dallas' layup and sealed the win as Norfolk's last-ditch effort to tie the game, a 50-footer by Barry Mullen, fell short.

Union Coach Dave "The White Shadow" Robbins, a winner of the CIAA tourney for the third time in his six seasons at the Panther helm, lauded the Spartan effort.

"I can't say enough about the way Norfolk played," Robbins said. "They were banged up but they really gave us a game."

Those sentiments were echoed by Christian. "As a coach I couldn't have asked for any more from this team," Christian said. "They played four excellent games in the tournament."

Spartan forwards Barry Mitchell and Alexander Gatling had both played with painful leg injuries and Walker had to be taken to the hospital prior to the second half of the semifinal win over WSSU after experiencing breathing problems.

After Oakley, the man *Sports Illustrated* and no less than a dozen NBA scouts had come to see, had shared MVP honors with Tally and the awards had been presented, Commissioner Bob Moorman had his say.

"It's a shame there had to be a loser in a game like this," Moorman said, smiling, and fully realizing there wasn't actually a loser.

Although Norfolk failed to retain the tournament title, the Spartans did receive an at-large bid to the Division II playoffs. The Panthers got their tourney title, kept their unbeaten string alive and got a story in *Sports Illustrated*.

Moorman got a sellout to bargain with when the CIAA Tournament contract with Richmond runs out.

Bighouse Gaines even got his team fired up for its shot at the NCAA title.

And the fans, all 10,850 of them, including the 300 who watched on the big screen, got more than their money's worth.

SWAC REPORT

From Page 16

while Byron Gabriel and John Staves tossed in 17 and 16, respectively.

While Whitney would not criticize the officials after the contest, he felt two crucial calls may have had a bearing on the game's outcome.

"There were a few calls I didn't agree with, like the TV timeout (the game was telecast by the Black Entertainment Network) call on the inbounds play and an apparent goaltending that wasn't called," said Whitney.

With Alcorn making a strong run with 8:13 left in second half and seemingly on the way to forcing a five-second call on a Southern inbound play, official Byron Johnson called a television timeout.

BET announcer Charlie Neal made it clear during the play-by-play that his network had nothing to do with the play.

"We need to pay our bills, but we weren't responsible for that, folks," Neal said.

"Those (calls) happened at crucial points in the ballgame and it helped to shift the momentum," Whitney said.

The goaltending call occurred midway through the second half when Whitney Jr. had a shot that would have brought the Braves to within three swatted away. The Braves felt the ball was on its downward flight and the TV replays showed that it was.

"You are never pleased with the officiating," said Whitney. "But I can't blame our loss on the officials. We were not as strong on the boards as we should have been and we didn't hit some shots when we needed them."

Southern held a slim 42-38 rebounding edge but never allowed Alcorn chances for second shots, using its bulk to keep the taller Braves away from the offensive boards.

Neither team had any luck in further postseason play, however. Southern drew top-seeded St. John's in the NCAA's West Regional and fell to the Redmen 83-59 after trailing 34-18 at the half.

St.John's Coach Lou Carnesecca praised his team's defense "as the best we've played in quite a while."

Meanwhile, Hoskins had a simple explanation for his team's loss: "They hurt us in so many ways. They pounded the boards and got second and third shots."

Alcorn's Aaron Brandon scrambles for the ball against Southern's James Lee, as Southern's Donevin Hoskins (55) looks on (photo by Mark Gail).

In the NIT, Alcorn, despite having a 23-6 record as opposed to Louisville's 16-16 slate, nevertheless had to play on the Cardinals' home floor in their first-round game.

The Braves closed to within a single point at 70-69 with 1:12 left on two Phelps free throws, but Louisville's Jeff Hall hit four straight from the line over the next 24 seconds to give the Cards a 74-69 lead with 48 seconds left.

Phelps led all scorers with 20 points while Brandon added 13 and Archie 12 for the Braves.

Barry Sumpter and Billy Thompson each had 18 points for Louisville.

INSIDE SPORTS

Small white schools are also singing the blues

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

Whenever a Chris Washburn signs with a North Carolina State or a Danny Manning enrolls at the University of Kansas, we can't help but fantasize about how it would be if just one superstar player a year turned his back on the bright lights and cast his lot with a predominantly black college.

Of course, that does not happen very often. It used to, back in the days when Earl Monroe was the richest pearl at Winston-Salem State and Willis Reed was the most hulking figure Grambling had ever seen on a basketball court.

However, those days have long ago passed and the memories are little more than coffee-break fodder for some of the old grads.

Reed and Monroe performed in a day when black pride was at its zenith. Blacks, shackled by the oppressive restraints of segregation, thought black, bought black and learned black. Thus, schools like Grambling and Winston-Salem were swelled with bright young black minds, and with graceful black athletes such as Reed and Monroe.

Now we have changed 180 degrees. Segregation has been abolished and blacks now are free to pursue their education at virtually any university in the land, be it predominantly black or mostly white.

Such equal opportunity is good. However, it is sad that virtually every top black basketball player refuses to even consider a black college upon graduation from high school. Small wonder nearly every team in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference finished the basketball season with a losing record. Small wonder that Grambling's once-proud program is now mired in mediocrity. Small wonder that Jackson State can no longer take to the court with confidence.

There are many reasons why black athletes are fleeing from their roots and into the clutches of large, predominantly white schools.

There are reports of car payments, free apartments, spending money and even emergency funds for such things as unexpected trips home.

In fact, one big-time college basketball coach, Notre Dame's Digger Phelps, feels that some players are realizing as much as $100,000 over a four-year college career. That includes money earned from lucrative summer jobs, as well as high-paying jobs for the players' parents and other relatives.

It is important to point out that not all schools bend the rules at will. A few are honest. Athletes cannot be given anything more than books, tuition and room and board, and there are actually a few big-time schools which observe the law.

Even so, the larger schools have built-in advantages that smaller schools cannot overcome. Grambling cannot promise a prospect that he'll be seen on national television. North Carolina A&T cannot boast of annual trips to Hawaii or Japan. Florida A&M cannot speak of roaring crowds of 15,000 at every home game.

The bottom line is that the smaller schools are resorting to fighting over leftovers when it comes time to recruit. And by the time the big boys finish, there are precious few crumbs left.

Black schools aren't by themselves in feeling this pinch. Small white schools also have been dealt a devastating blow. No longer can they find two or three top-notch black players to round out their rosters and make them competitive. These days, small, white schools usually have small, white basketball teams.

Prestigious Rollins College is a good example. Located in Winter Park, Fla., the school was a power in Division II before schools like Kentucky and Alabama swallowed their racial pride and allowed blacks to play on their basketball teams.

Those decisions created a giant ripple effect, and now Rollins finds itself with an all-white team that is not very good.

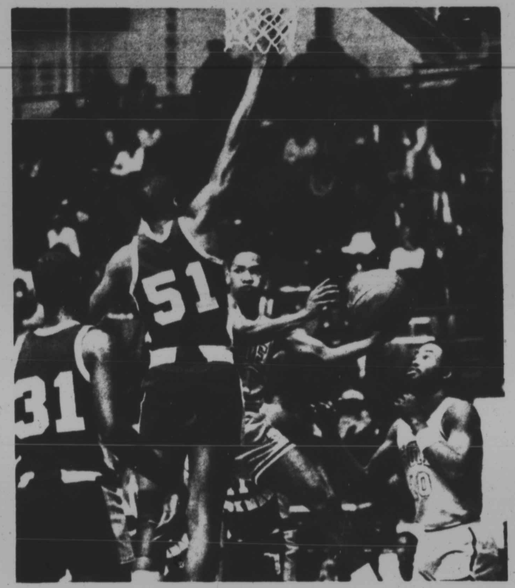
"The game now is quickness, quickness, quickness," says Rollins Coach Tom Klusman. "The game is played with a lot of speed and it is played above the rim. The players we have now can't do those things."

Other predominantly white schools, especially those with high admission standards, have been similarly hurt. Tiny Davidson College, located in Charlotte, N.C., used to a be a formidable foe, but no longer. Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Fla., once advanced to the NCAA Final Four.

So it is clear that schools like Grambling and Winston-Salem State are not alone in their inability to recruit top black players. While there are a lot of athletes available, there are still far too many schools that want them.

Says Rollins' Klusman: "There are times when we do find a black player who can meet our admission standards and is an outstanding basketball player. But every school in the country wants that kind of player."

It will be interesting to see if this trend continues. Will the big fish continue to swallow all the minnows? Perhaps. There are some signs, though, that the trend could be changing. Just a little.



Many times recruiting at black schools is a matter of pure luck. North Carolina A&T's Don Corbett discovered 5-7 guard Thomas Griffis (with the ball) in an intramural game (photo by Joe Daniels).

If you will turn on your television set any Saturday or Sunday, you will see what I mean. Turn to any college basketball game and you will see 15,000 white folks sitting in the audience and 10 black men on the court.

How long will it be before white backlash rears its ugly head? Will wealthy white alumni start to demand that their college teams become more integrated? You betcha. Already that is starting to happen.

In Auburn, Ala., there are whispers that attendance at Auburn University games has declined because the Tigers' team has become virtually all black. The same rumors are being passed around on other campuses, too.

What we could begin to see is a more concerted effort on the part of some coaches to recruit more white athletes. That presumably would allow some black players to slip through the cracks and trickle down to teams like Grambling and Winston-Salem State. And yes, even to teams like Rollins.

Such a scenario seems awkward, I'm sure. But at this point, the predominantly black schools are willing to go along with almost anything that will bring the boys home.

COMMENTARY

From Page 19

• Carl Blue, running back, 5-9, 200, Jackson State. The senior played in only six games, but gained 354 yards on 95 carries for a 3.7-yard average and scored four touchdowns in '84. He runs a 4.6 40-yard dash.

• Elston Piper, linebacker, 5-11, 228, Grambling. The senior made two quarterback sacks, made one fumble recovery and blocked one kick in '84.