Norfolk misses the mark in NCAA Tournament

By DAVID BULLA
Review Staff Writer

SACRED HEART shot 81 percent in the second half and the Pioneers eliminated Norfolk State 84-74 in the NCAA Division II quarterfinals March 15.

Sacred Heart, which went on to win the national championship with a 32-4 record, led 35-34 at halftime, but the CIAA champion Spartans put together an 8-2 spurt to start the second half. The Pioneers countered with a back-breaking 26-3 run.

"Sacred Heart got the big run and the breaks, and we were beaten by an outstanding ballclub," Norfolk State Coach **Charles Christian** said.

Spartan guard **Ralph Tally**, the CIAA Player of the Year, made only nine of 31 field goal attempts and finished with 21 points. Forward **Barry Mitchell** added 19 before fouling out for Norfolk State, which posted a 26-5 record.

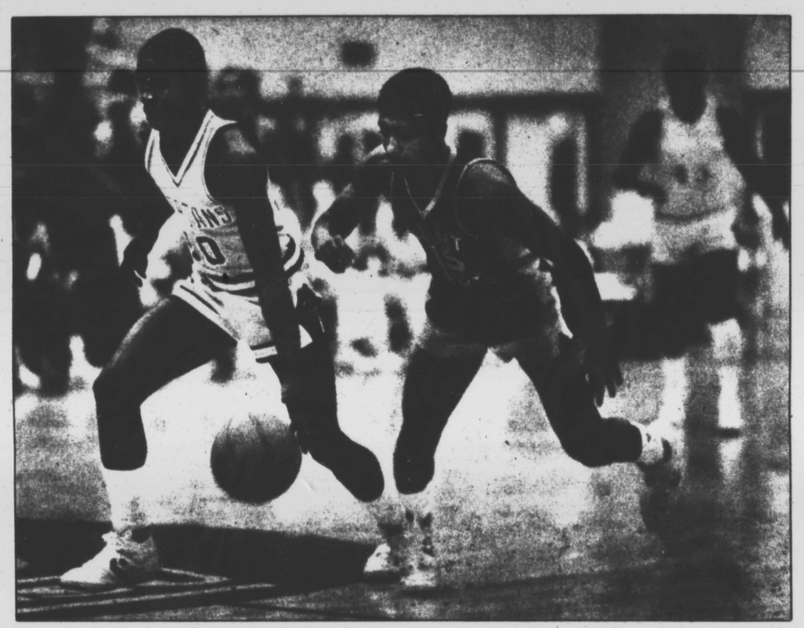
Mitchell picked up three fouls in the first half and had to sit on the bench for the last 11:34 of the half. Christian said that was pivotal to the Pioneers' win.

"I feel Barry being out of the game for so long in the first half really hurt us," Christian said. "He does so many things for us so well."

Sacred Heart Coach **Dave Bike** said he felt fortunate to get past the Spartans.

"We had a lot of respect for Norfolk State and the CIAA," Bike said. "I remember that St. Augustine's really gave us a whipping (in 1984) in the quarterfinals.

"We were fortunate Norfolk State was off on their outside shooting and that 26-3 run really surprised me."



Norfolk's Ralph Tally, left: Honored along with Union's Jamie Waller as a Division II all-America (photo by Bill Tiernan, The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot/Ledger-Star).

Tally, Waller Honored

Norfolk State's Tally and Virginia Union's **Jamie Waller** were named second-team all-Americas by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

Selected to the third team was Cheyney University's **Ronald Barnett**.

North Carolina Central's **Von Fulmore** was named to the women's team.

LeMoyne-Owen Loses

LeMoyne-Owen of the SIAC lost to Potsdam State (N.Y.) 76-73 in the NCAA Division II championship game.

Top-ranked Potsdam got seven points in the last 47 seconds to hold off LeMoyne-Owen, ranked fifth going into the tournament.

Potsdam finished 32-0, the first unbeaten champion in the 12-year history of the Division III tournament. LeMoyne-Owen had a 29-2 record.

MEAC Notes

• When North Carolina A&T won the MEAC basketball tournament last month, it marked the 12th time in the 15-year history of the conference that the Aggies made the finals. A&T has won 11 of 12 MEAC title games. Meanwhile, Howard University is 2-9 in MEAC finals. Morgan State and Maryland-Eastern Shore are the only other schools that have won MEAC Tournament titles ....

• **Larry Thomas** has joined the South Carolina State football staff. Thomas comes to S.C. State from Florida A&M, where he was offensive line coach the last two seasons. He is a native of Cincinnati and a graduate of Miami of Ohio. He has also coached at Bowling Green and Purdue.

Baseball Notes

• Southern University freshman **Adell Davenport** is off to a fast start for the Jaguar baseball team. Davenport, an infielder, was batting .476 with six homers, 12 doubles and 28 runs batted in Southern's first 24 games. Davenport had scored 22 runs.

By the way, teammate **Timothy Stargell** is the nephew of former Pittsburgh Pirate star **Willie Stargell**, now a coach with the Atlanta Braves ....

• Alcorn State's **Roy Hill** hurled a no-hitter in a 2-0 win over Jackson State March 22 ....

• Montreal's **Andre Dawson**, a Florida A&M alumnus, says he may consider going to Japan next year to get what he's worth. Dawson, who will become a free agent at the end of the season, has asked the Expos to extend his contract. But the Expos have moved at a snail's pace, telling the right fielder to bide his time.

"It's kind of discouraging, since I've been here a long time," the nine-year veteran said. "They talk about my age, but I'm only 31. They make it sound like I'm an old man."

Montreal's concern is that Dawson's injured right knee, which has slowed him the last two seasons, has made him a cut below the MVP-type player he was the first seven years of his career ....

• New York Met prospect **Stan Jefferson**, a Bethune-Cookman alumnus, may get the same kind of call to the majors that FAMU alumnus **Vince Coleman** got last year. Coleman came up from triple-A when the St. Louis Cardinals traded left fielder **Lonnie Smith** and went on to steal 110 bases, the third-best single-season total in major-league history. Jefferson, a center fielder, probably will start at Tidewater, the New York Mets' triple-A affiliate. But with New York center fielder **Mookie Wilson** out with a preseason eye injury and coming off surgery on his shoulder from last year, the Mets have told Jefferson to be ready for a call from the bigs ....

• Former Howard standout **Milt Thompson** has signed a one-year contract with the Philadelphia Phillies. Thompson, an outfielder, played the last two seasons in the Atlanta Braves' organization, hitting better than .300 at the major-league level. He was traded with reliever **Steve Bedrosian** to the Phillies for catcher **Ozzie Virgil** ....

Vince Coleman said his raise from $60,000 (the major-league minimum) to $160,000 was "almost like a slap in the face" from the Cardinals. Actually, it was more like an offering of shackles. Here's a man who stole 110 bases last season -- the third-best single-season total in history -- and was clearly missed in the playoffs and World Series. Former Cardinal great **Lou Brock** said Coleman was the Cardinals' catalyst. New York Met outfielder **George Foster** gets almost $2 million more a year than Coleman. All's fair in love, war and salary negotiations ....

• Winston-Salem State alumnus **Ray Chadwick** is listed in *Baseball America's* top 10 prospects in the California Angels' organization. The 6-2, 180-pound Chadwick, who didn't play college baseball but was a quarterback on the football team, has all the tools to make it to the big leagues and began the season on the Angels' 40-man roster ....

• Jackson State's **Earl Sanders** is emerging as one of the earliest picks in the June draft. The 6-4, 215-pound Sanders batted .402 with 13 homers and 62 runs batted in last season. As a pitcher, the right-hander posted an 8-1 record and 2.88 earned run average with his 90-mph fastball. As the new college baseball season opened, most scouts were saying they like him as a pitcher.

BLACK COLLEGE REPORT *CONTINUED*

Jackson State's Earl Sanders: A potential early-round pick (photo by Mark Gail).

Oakley's Night

Last season, the Chicago Bulls had the National Basketball Association Rookie of the Year in **Michael Jordan**.

But Jordan's sophomore pro season has been shortened because of a stress fracture in his left navicular tarsal bone. That indirectly may lead to the Bulls having another Rookie of the Year in **Charles Oakley**, who is familiar to black college sports fans.

Although March 15 was the night when Jordan returned to the Bulls' lineup from his foot injury, it will be remembered as the night Oakley fully emerged as an NBA force.

The former Virginia Union standout managed career highs in points (35) and rebounds (26), and he also led the Bulls in assists (seven) in a 125-116 loss to Milwaukee in overtime. Oakley's rebounding total, 18 of which came on the offensive boards -- the third-best offensive total in NBA history -- was the best single-game total in the league this season.

"It got me a little more hyped up when Michael came back," Oakley said. "Playing with him is like playing with a legend."

Despite protests by the Bulls, Jordan, who suffered the stress fracture last October, said he wanted to come back because he was inspired by Oakley's recent play. The 6-foot-9, 242-pound rookie, the NCAA Division II Player of the Year last season, led Chicago in rebounding in 14 straight games. He averaged 17.6 points and 13 rebounds while keeping the Bulls in the hunt for a playoff spot.

"I just want to help him (Oakley) out," said Jordan, the former Division I Player of the Year.

Oakley has a matter-of-fact attitude about his adjustment from small-college star to being one of the NBA's top rookies.

"The NBA is a lot more physical than college ball," he said. "The guys are quicker and you don't always get the calls, but you adjust."

Those who have seen Oakley this season are impressed. Teammate **George Gervin** calls Oakley "Oak Tree" and "the Truth" and predicts that Oakley will one day get 30 points and 30 rebounds in a single game. New Jersey Net Assistant Coach **Paul Silas** says Oakley "has the capability to be one of the best forwards in the league."

Track Notes

• The Alabama A&M women's 800-meter relay team set a Florida Relays record last month with a time of 1:34.2. That was just nine-tenths of a second off the NCAA record and 1.6 seconds off the American record. Team members include **Cherylann Bourne**, **Cefornia Pol**, **Jacinta Bartholomew** and **Dannette Young**, who is the defending NCAA Division II champion in the 100- and 200-meter dashes ....

• St. Augustine's hurdler **Patricia Davis** finished second in the 55-meter hurdles at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Davis ran the event in 7.54 seconds. The Falcon all-America was edged by Auburn's **Rosalind Pendergraft-Council**, clocked in a meet record 7.53 seconds.

St. Augustine's Davis qualified for the NCAA Outdoors in the 100 hurdles after winning the event in 13.28 seconds at the Atlantic Coast Relays at North Carolina State March 30 ....

• Delaware State Coach **Fred Sowerby** will be sprint coach for the East squad in the National Sports Festival this summer.

Littles Promoted

Former North Carolina A&T Coach **Gene Littles** was promoted recently to head coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Littles was named interim coach after the Cavaliers fired former North Carolina guard **George Karl**, whose team made the playoffs last season but slumped to a 25-42 record at the time of his firing. Littles, who had been Karl's assistant, will be the head coach for the remainder of the season, but there was no indication who the permanent successor would be.

Littles, who coached A&T for two seasons, also has three years of experience as an assistant with the NBA's Utah Jazz. He had a two-year record of 36-15 while with the Aggies and won two MEAC titles.

The High Point College alumnus played professionally for the American Basketball Association's Carolina Cougars.

George Felton, Littles' assistant while he was at A&T, was hired as head coach at the University of South Carolina. He succeeds **Bill Foster**.

Miscellany

• Central State signed a pair of *USA Today* all-Americas in **Elliott Ditto** of Meade County, Ky., and **Wayne Keys** of Bristol, Penn. Ditto ran for 2,100

Please See Page 16