COVER STORY *CONTINUED*

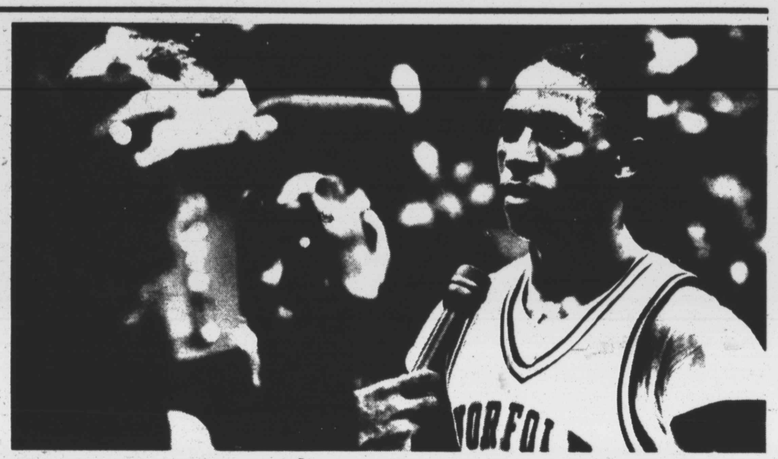
from the foul line.

"There came a time in the game when I had to put up or shut up," English said of the game-tying shot. "It was an absolute must situation. I knew the clock was running out."

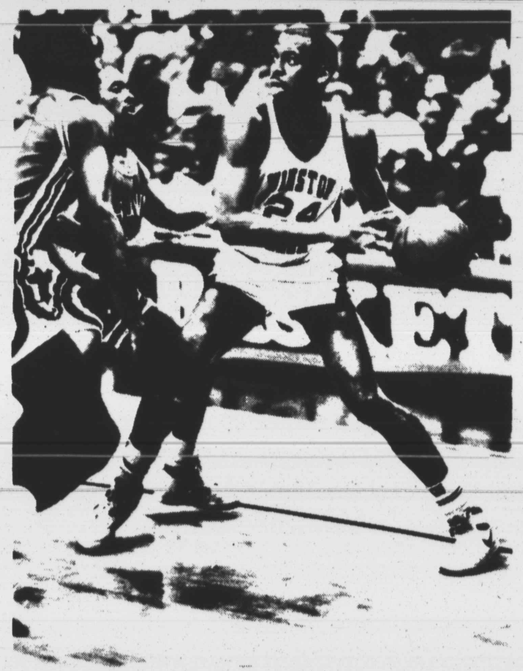
The nine-life Panthers never ran out of ways to win in the 42nd CIAA Tournament. They trailed 70-67 with one minute left on WSSU guard Charlie Spell's second overtime three-pointer. English answered with two free throws with 33 seconds left before Spell missed the front end of a one-and-one 14 seconds later.

(Then, stop the cameras and dim the lights for the wildest finish in CIAA history.)

After a timeout with 15 seconds left, Union inbounded to guard Doug Cromartie, who had started the game in Dallas' place. Cromartie drove just left of the lane and unleashed a 15-footer that fell short. The ball took a long bounce that Cromartie rebounded eight feet from the basket. As he attempted a fallaway jumper with the clock striking six, Cromartie's feet tangled and he eventually took *at least*



Above, Norfolk's Tally to the media: "I'm human." Below, WSSU's Hooper during his superb performance against Union (photos by James Parker).



four steps before casually throwing the ball toward the basket.

Everybody on the floor stopped, and the 6-foot-9 Davis caught the ball. Sensing Cromartie's violation, Davis cupped the ball in his left hand and began to hurl it toward the Norfolk State band, which was preparing for the second semifinal game between NSU and Johnson C. Smith.

The Coliseum grew quiet momentarily, as if someone had just been seriously injured. Before Davis could do harm to the basketball, Dallas stole the ball from his tall teammate and laid it on the rim, where it rolled ever so slowly on the iron and finally through the net as the buzzer sounded.

"Everyone froze," Hooper said after Cromartie's uncalled walk. "Even Ray Charles could have seen that."

That is, everybody froze but the fast-thinking Dallas, who rescued the Panthers in the nick of time.

The Rams insisted that someone blew a whistle following Cromartie's walk, but nobody wearing a striped shirt would admit it.

"Of all the ones that I've lost, this hurts the most," said WSSU Coach C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines, who's 768-354 in 41 seasons. "We lost because of a couple of gutless (expletive deleted). I don't like to complain about losing and I've been in this business a long time, but we got screwed."

Gaines said that the officials, veterans John Russell, Archie Harris and Larry Rose, were bloody well wrong and that they never gave him an explanation before leaving the floor.

"They ran away so fast I couldn't catch 'em," said the 63-year-old Gaines, who is third on college basketball's all-time wins list. "I've never seen such tomfoolery. The officials stopped, too. In view of that, I say they choked."

CIAA Commissioner Bob Moorman said there was nothing that he could do to rectify the obvious wrong, since there was no call.

"There can be no protest," Moorman maintained. "There's no remedy because it wasn't what the NCAA calls a correctable error."

Gaines wanted Moorman and Danny Doss, the CIAA's supervisor of officials, to look at the videotape of the play. Both said the tape could only be used in the case of a time discrepancy. But there was no time discrepancy, for Dallas' shot clearly beat the horn.

Doss, who did view BET's videotape of the game, said there was no explanation for the semi-stop in play at such a crucial time. He could not fathom why 10 players and three officials stopped momentarily with only three seconds left, only to watch one player seize the moment and the victory for VUU.

"There was an alleged whistle, but how do you prove it?" Doss said. "I played the videotape back in the truck 20 times and I couldn't determine that a whistle had been blown. I asked the referees collectively and individually,

Please See Page 15

Our good taste isn't just in our beer.

At the Adolph Coors Company, our concern for good taste doesn't end with our beer.

By getting together with organizations like the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, we're helping to bring a refreshing taste of Black American culture to an ever-larger audience. In fact, maybe you've already noticed the Coors name at top concerts, sporting events—even on a national radio show bringing news for and about the Black community.

So watch for the high-quality events and programs Coors has in store for you. And the next time someone mentions the great taste of Coors, you'll know they've really said a mouthful.

Coors

© 1987 Adolph Coors Company, Golden, Colorado 80401