SIAC ROUNDBALL

Morehouse is rolling; so are LMO and Albany

As the season heads into the stretch drive, it's starting to look like the year of the Maroon Tigers more and more.

Yes, Morehouse College has arrived and has to be considered the most serious of contenders to finally unseat Alabama A&M.

Coach Art McAfee's team has rode the crest of a 15-2 overall record based on a high scoring offense (No. 1 in the SIAC at 94.9 ppg) that features 6-5 sophomore forward Harold Ellis.

Make no mistake, Ellis is the hub of the Morehouse attack. He's pouring in 23.2 points a game (No. 6 in the nation) and pulling down 8.2 rebounds a night.

But Ellis isn't the whole story for the House. Guard James Walker is holding up his end in the backcourt as the floor leader, scoring 15.2 points while handing out 6.4 assists per contest. This pair has gotten much support from Roderick Stubbs who shoots 66.3 percent from the field and averages 7.8 boards a night.

Morehouse made a significant statement to the SIAC when they traveled to Alabama A&M and registered a 93-92 decision over the Bulldogs. Ellis scored 27 points in that contest.

Going into the final week of January, the Maroon Tigers were rolling over everyone who got in their way. They put together a 12-game winning streak and had been ranked as high as No. 5 in the Division II polls. But they fell back to earth in early February when Albany State pulled off a 104-92 upset.

League observers knew that Morehouse would be a force in the conference this season. But they didn't figure that coach Jerry Johnson's LeMoyne Owen Magicians would make such a strong run during the '89-'90 campaign.

As the regular season winds down, the Magicians were more than holding their own with a 16-5 overall mark and a six game winning streak

Johnson has put together a cast that can score with the best of them at the offensive end of the floor. Additionally, the Magicians are just as effective defensively. LMO is No. 2 in scoring offense with 94.3 ppg and No. 2 in scoring defense, allowing 72.7 ppg.

The Magicians are led by Rodney Stallings (21.5 ppg), Paul Wooten (19.3 ppg, 7.3 apg) Allen Perry (12.4 rebounds a game).

Wooten had been on fire recently. In one two game stretch, he scored 49 points, dished out 18 assists and had six steals. In addition, he shot 68.4 percent from the field and hit 5 of 8 three-point attempts.

Entering the final stages of the regular season, LMO looms as a serious threat to Morehouse, Alabama A&M, Albany State and Paine College in the upcoming league tournament.

Alabama A&M (10-7 overall, 3-2 in league play) hasn't been as consistent as they normally are. Aside from the loss to Morehouse, they fell to Clark/Atlanta University, 79-72 in one of those rare games that the Panthers have won over A&M in recent seasons.

Guard Ronnie Tucker remains as coach Vann Pettaway's primary offensive weapon, scoring at a rate of 19.3 points per game.

Albany State makes it a habit of playing according to the perceived level of competition. That was evident in their surprising win over Morehouse and their disappointing loss to Clark/Atlanta University (68-63).

But once the conference tournament begins, look for the Rams to turn their game up a notch or two like they always seem to do in the post-season tournament.

Point guard Charles McGill is the major force for the Rams. He scores 16.5 ppg and is the league leader in steals (72 in 19 games).

Paine's Lions (14-5 overall) were still in the hunt for the Eastern Division lead, trailing Albany by one game at presstime.

PC won't burn you alive offensively. Actually, they are next to last in scoring offense in the SIAC -- 72.7 ppg. But they more than compensate by keeping the score down. The Lions yield a stingy 67 ppg to top the conference in scoring defense.

PC manages to get the job done night in and night out. Patrick Williams is their top gunner at 19.2 ppg.

League notes

Knoxville College, Miles College, Morris Brown and Savannah State have been placed on indefinite suspension by the SIAC for failure to pay fines, dues and/or assessments. The schools won't be allowed to compete for any championships until their obligations are taken care of.

-Lawrence Curry

Tournament Update

Dates & Format: This year's conference tournament will be held March 8-10 at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Ala. The top four teams in the SIAC's Eastern Region and Western Region qualify to play for the tournament title. The tournament winner gets an automatic berth to the NCAA Division II playoffs.

Picks for Final Four: Morehouse College, LeMoyne Owen College, Albany State, Alabama A&M.

Favored Team To Win It All: Morehouse College.

Darkhorse Pick For Championship: LeMoyne Owen.

Ticket Information: Call SIAC headquarters at 404/659-3380.

Graves leads North to Freedom Bowl win

Winston-Salem State running back Broderick Graves made the 1990 Freedom Bowl All-Star Classic his own personal showcase in leading the North Stars to a 14-13 victory over the South Stars at the Astrodome in Houston.

The North team consisted of players from the MEAC and CIAA. The South squad was made up of SWAC and SIAC players.

Willie Jeffries, head coach at South Carolina State coached the North, and Grambling's Eddie Robinson was the head coach for the South.

But while Graves played the leading role, it was Tennessee State strong safety Tony Stargell who preserved the win with a game-saving tackle.

With three minutes left to play in the contest, the South had cut the North lead to one point. Alcorn State placekicker Kevin Coburn attempted to run for the two points conversion, but Stargell's hit stopped him short of the end zone.

Graves, who was named the North's MVP of the game, scored both of the North's touchdowns and rushed for 154 yards on 27 carries. The WSSU back scored the only TD of the first half on a scintillating 80-yard run from scrimmage. His second score came on a one-yard plunge early in the fourth quarter.

All night long, the South team had trouble getting their act together. They blew two scoring opportunities in the first half. On their first serious drive in the first quarter, they got as far as the North two-yard line before Alcorn running back Jarvis Jenkins fumbled. Florida A&M linebacker Daryl Davis recovered the bobble to end the threat.

In the second quarter, the South was at it again. But this time, an apparent 13-yard touchdown pass from Grambling's Clemente Gordon to Southern's Elliot Searcy was wiped out because of an illegal procedure penalty.

The South rallied for two TDs in the second half. In the final period, Gordon passed the North dizzy on one scoring drive that ended in a six-yard TD toss to Searcy. During that march, Gordon completed six consecutive passes.

-Lonnie Sheldon

Bighouse

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It's apparent to Gaines that the media hoopla concerning the milestone had a big impact on this year's team.

Last season, WSSU roundball had very little air in it. They finished with a 6-17 mark, the worse ever in Gaines' 45-year tenure. Many people believed that he would get No. 800 last season. But as things turned out, the celebration would have to wait.

"I believe that the team benefitted from all the things concerning 800," the coach pointed out. "It just helped to make them a better team. I always tell them that if people feel they are a good team, they should live up to those expectations. And there's nothing wrong with that because people's expectations shouldn't be any higher than your own."

At presstime, the Rams were 11-9 overall, 10-5 in the conference, and 6-2 in the CIAA's Southern Division. They were chasing division leader North Carolina Central and were hoping to even the score when the two teams met in the regular season finale on Feb. 17 in Durham, NC.

"Our main goal all along has been to win our division and then the conference," Gaines said. "That's what it's all about. That's the immediate objective. We have to take care of what's going on right now. Getting 875 wins or 900 wins is not the focus for us."

-Craig T. Greenlee

Black College Hoops Standings

SWAC

As of Feb. 6th

	Conference	Overall
Southern University	7-0	17-2
Texas Southern	5-2	11-9
Alcorn State	4-3	4-14
Alabama State	3-4	11-7
Grambling	3-4	7-13
Mississippi Valley State	3-4	5-13
Prairie View A&M	2-5	6-12
Jackson State	1-6	6-14

MEAC

As of Feb. 4th

Coppin State	9-0	16-5
Florida A&M	9-1	12-7
South Carolina State	5-5	9-11
Bethune-Cookman	5-5	7-12
Delaware State	4-5	8-10
Howard University	4-6	7-14
North Carolina A&T	3-7	6-12
Maryland-Eastern Shore	2-7	8-11
Morgan State	2-7	6-14

SIAC

As of Feb. 5th

Eastern Region		
Albany State	5-1	12-7
Paine College	5-2	14-5
Clark/Atlanta University	2-3	8-10
Fort Valley State	2-3	4-15
Morris Brown College**	0-0	6-12
Savannah State*	0-0	2-16
Western Region		
Morehouse College	5-0	15-2
LeMoyne Owen College	4-2	16-5
Alabama A&M	3-2	10-7
Tuskegee University	1-6	3-15
Knoxville College**	0-0	4-11
Miles College*	0-0	7-9

** Indicates team :s not eligible to compete for SIAC regional championships or SIAC/NCAA post-season competition.*
*** Knoxville College, Miles College, Morris Brown College, and Savannah State College were placed on indefinite probation by the conference for failure to pay fines, dues and/or assessments.*

CIAA

As of Feb. 4th

	Division	Conference	Overall
Northern Division			
Norfolk State	7-0	14-0	19-1
Virginia Union	9-1	15-1	22-1
Hampton University	5-3	10-5	13-8
St. Paul's	3-5	6-8	14-10
Virginia State	2-5	6-8	9-11
Elizabeth City State	1-6	2-12	3-18
Bowie State	0-7	0-14	1-19
Southern Division			
North Carolina Central	8-0	13-2	17-2
Winston-Salem State	6-2	10-5	11-9
Shaw University	6-3	9-7	15-7
Johnson C. Smith	5-3	8-6	13-8
St. Augustine's	4-6	7-9	7-12
Fayetteville State	2-7	4-12	6-16
Livingstone College	0-10	1-16	1-21

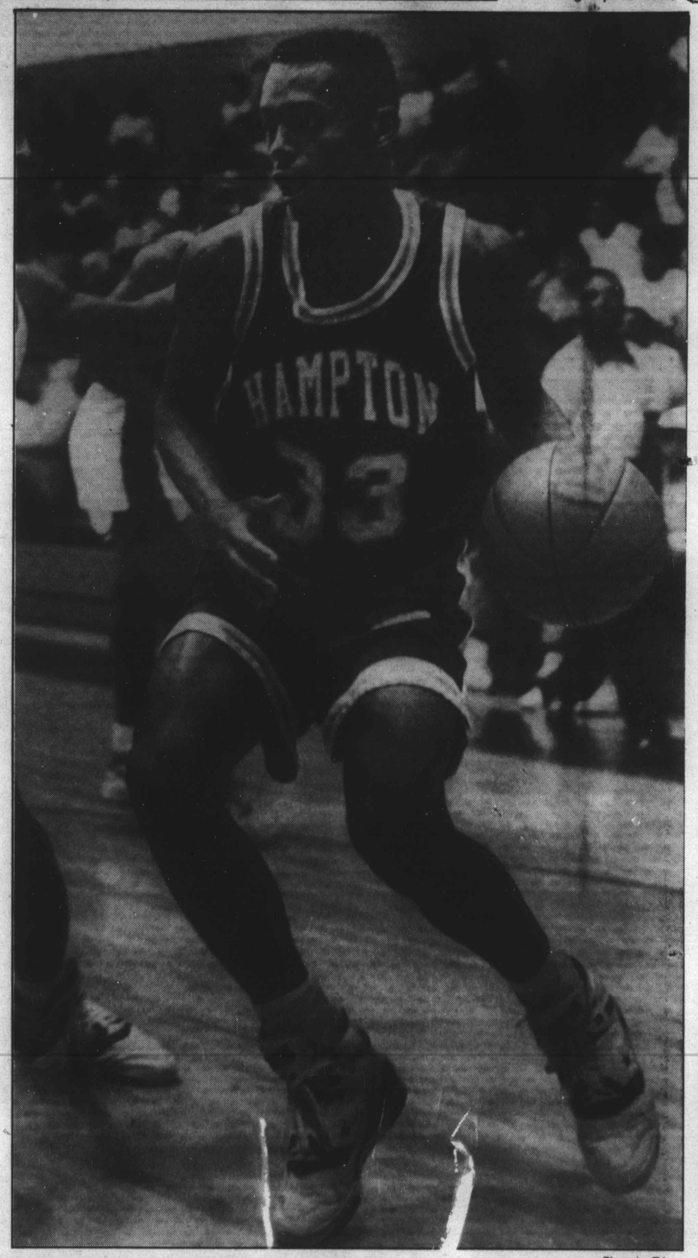

Photo by T-Lee

Hampton swingman Stacy Clark takes the baseline route.