SPECIAL REPORT

Clark fined $1,000, placed on probation

Clark College suffered an earthshaking blow in late February when the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic conference place the men's basketball program on a two-year probation and fined the school $1,000.

The reason for the action involves Clark's use of an ineligible player for the past two seasons.

Tracy Murray, a 6-7 sophomore forward from New York City, is the player ruled ineligible. Murray originally enrolled at Murray State in Sept. '86 to play basketball at the Division I school in Kentucky. However, he didn't finish the semester there, transferred to Clark in December of the same year, and played in 22 games during the 86-87 season. This past season, he played in 16 games.

NCAA rules state that an athlete who transfers from one NCAA school to another, must sit out one calendar year before being eligible to play a varsity sport. Murray wouldn't have been eligible at Clark until January of this year.

Clark's probation means that they won't be able to compete in post-season play until the 89-90 season. They also had to forfeit all SIAC games that Murray participated in. The conference also mandated that Clark inform its non-conference opponents of the SIAC ruling, which would have the same effect in terms of games being forfeited where Murray played.

The SIAC's a investigation was still under way, according to conference commissioner Howard Davis. The probe's findings were not expected to be made public before BCSR's deadline.

Robert Pritchett, Clark's head basketball coach and athletic director, feels the penalties levied are a bit steep, but acknowledges the SIAC's position.

"I thought the commissioner acted correctly based on the information he had," Pritchett says. "He did what the had to do and acted promptly."

The revelations about Murray turned what had been a glory year into a dismal one for the Panthers, who were 21-4 before probation. By the end of the regular season, Clark's record had changed to 7-20 due to the forfeitures of games Clark had in and out of conference that Murry played in.

This past season was one of the best in Clark's basketball history. CC had been ranked in the Division II Top 20 all season, climbing as high as number five. At the time of the probation, the Panthers were ranked 20th.

Even though Clark lost twice to SIAC regular season champion Alabama A & M, they stood a very solid chance of getting an at-large bid for the Division II post-season tournament.

There are some interesting facts surrounding the Clark situation. For one, Murray had been verified as being enrolled at Murray State by the school's registrar's office. However, he wasn't awarded an athletic scholars hip because he didn't meet any of the requirements for freshmen athletes as outlined by NCAA Bylaw 5-1-j (Proposition 48).

In order for freshmen athletes to be on scholarship, according to the bylaw, they must have a high school diploma, a 2.0 GPA in core curriculum courses, and a specified minimum score on one of the college board entrance exams (700 on the SAT, 15 on the ACT).

Murray had none of the above. What he did have was a General Education Diploma (GED) and was admitted to Clark as a special case, according to informed sources.

The sophomore forward was a vital contributor for the Panthers this past season, averaging 12 points a game, as CC won 15 of its first 16 games. However, Murray was removed from the squad by Pritchett at that juncture, for disciplinary reasons.

Black College Sports Review will file a full report of the SIAC's findings once their investigation is finished and the findings made public.

– Craig T. Greenlee

Grambling's Lady Tigers are finally queens of SWAC

After three tries, Grambling's Lady Tigers finally won the SWAC Tournament, downing defending champ Mississippi Valley State 73-64.

The victory signalled the first ever tournament championship for GSU. They lost to the Lady Devils 69-60 last year in the finals. Alcorn State made them bridesmaids in '86, winning 84-77.

In the beginning, it looked like deja vu for Grambling. With only nine players on the roster, starting guard Betty Vaughn came down with a knee injury after the game was three minutes old.

Grambling shot horribly from the field, while Valley State's Patricia Hoskins scored 14 of Valley State's first 17 points.

In the final analysis, Crambling played its game, converting key baskets when they had to and forcing Valley State into numerous turnovers at critical portions of the second half.

However, Vaughn gutted the game out and returned to the lineup. Then LeChandra LeDay, the seemingly everywhere all the time point guard, took control. LeDay, who was voted tournament MVP, finished with 29 points (11 of 25 from the field, 7 of 11 at the free throw line). In the semis agiainst Alcorn State, she turned her offense on for 40 points. Elsie Dillard provided ample support for LeDay in the finals, adding 18.

In the first half, the teams played evenly, with Grambling holding a 28-27 lead at intermission. That was no surprise. The two teams split victories during the regular season, each winning on its home floor.

With the score knotted at 46-all in the second half, the Lady Tigers blanked Valley State 9-0 and the defending champs never made a serious run after that.

Hoskins was her usual superb self, scoring 35 points as she had done in a semifinals win over Alabama State, 84-78. The lady Tigers knew that Hoskins would get her points. They felt they needed to stop Stephanie Brown and Birdie Green in order to win.

Coach Barbara Bibbs' team answered the call, holding Brown to three points on one for eight shooting from the field. In the semis, Brown scored 25. Green, who is Valley's second leading scorer had 11 points, but she was never a factor.

In the final analysis, Crambling played its game, converting key baskets when they had to and forcing Valley State into numerous turnovers at critical portions of the second half.

Grambling got themselves back into the game in the first half after the Lady Devils took an 11-4 lead. With Vaughn and LeDay on the floor, GSU outscored Valley 15-8 to lead 23-21 with about five minutes left in the first half. During that run, LeDay scoreed seven points.

– Craig T. Greenlee

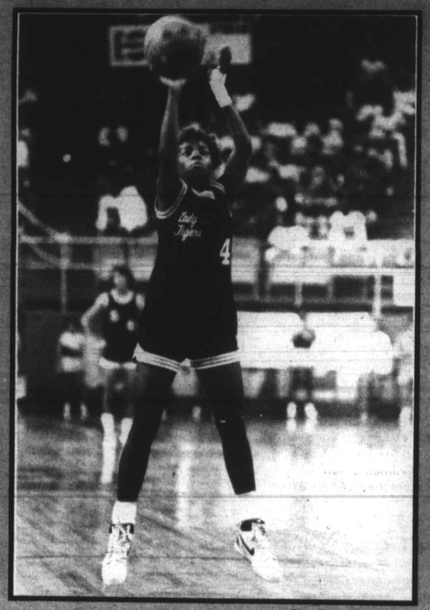

Photo by Craig Greenlee

LeChandra LeDay captured MVP honors in SWAC women's tournament. The senior guard scored 40 in the semis and 29 in the finals.

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS REVIEW READERS' SURVEY

We want to continue to deliver the best coverage on black college sports in the nation, and we need your help! Tell us about yourself: what are your interests? what do you buy? what would you like to see us cover?

Please fill out the survey below and return it to us by April 30th. The first 200 people to return completed surveys will receive a canvas athletic bag. Send your survey to *Black College Sports Review:* P.O. Box 51216, Durham, NC 27717.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

1. Which of the following items do you plan to purchase in the upcoming year? *(circle all that apply)*
1. computer 1
2. computer accessories 2
3. VCR 3
4. stereo equipment 4
5. 35mm camera 5
6. video camrecorder 6
7. car 7

2. On which of the following items have you spent $50 or more in the past year? *(circle all that apply)*
1. albums 8
2. CD's 9
3. books 10
4. film 11
5. video tapes 12
6. sneakers 13
7. cologne 14
8. sport equipment 15
9. hair products 16
10. skin products 17

3. How often do you eat at a sit-down restaurant in an average month?
1. once a month
2. twice a month
3. 3-4 times a month
4. more than 4 times a month 18

4. Do you drink:
1. beer? yes no 19
2. wine? yes no 20
3. liquor? yes no 21
4. liqueurs? yes no 22

5. Do you plan to travel out of state on vacation in the next 12 months?
1. yes
2. no 23

6. Which of the following credit cards do you use the most?
1. VISA
2. MasterCard
3. American Express
4. Diner's Club
5. Other
6. None 24

7. Do you own a home or condominium?
1. yes
2. no
3. no, but I plan to purchase one in the next year 25

8. Each of the following media provides sports coverage. Which do you think provides the best coverage of black college sports?
1. *Black College Sports Review*
2. Black newspapers
3. ESPN
4. BET
5. *Sports Illustrated*
6. *The Sporting News*
7. *Sport*
8. Other _____ 26

9. How interested are you in reading about black college sports?
1. extremely interested
2. very interested
3. interested
4. not very interested 27

10. In the last twelve months, how often have you read *Black College Sports Review*?
1. always (12 issues)
2. most of the time (9-12 issues)
3. frequently (6-9 issues)
4. occasionally (3-6 issues)
5. seldom (1-3 issues)
6. never 28

11. How many other people usually read your copy of *Black College Sports Review*?
1. one
2. two
3. three
4. four or more 29

12. Where did you get your last copy of *Black College Sports Review*?
1. in black newspaper
2. on campus
3. from a friend
4. other 30

13. If we offered home-delivery, would you be interested in getting a subscription?
1. yes
2. no 31

14. Would you like to see more, less or no change in the following types of stories in *Black College Sports Review*?
1. Coach profiles
more less same 32
2. Player profiles
more less same 33
3. Obstacles unique to black college athletes
more less same 34
4. Special tournaments
more less same 35
5. Commentaries
more less same 36
6. Blacks in sports management
more less same 37
7. Black college alums in professional sports
more less same 38

15. Is there anything else you would like to read more about in *Black College Sports Review*?
1. no
2. yes _____ 39

16. What other magazines do you read
1. *Sports Illustrated* 40
2. *Sport* 41
3. *The Sporting News* 42
4. *Ebony* 43
5. *Jet* 44
6. *Black Enterprise* 45
7. *Essence* 46
8. *Ebony Man* 47
9. *Modern Black Man* 48

17. In what sports or activities do you participate? *(circle all that apply)*
1. football 49
2. basketball 50
3. swimming 51
4. tennis 52
5. weightlifting 53
6. aerobics 54
7. running/jogging 55
8. golf 56
9. skiing 57
10. none of the above 58

18. How many black college sporting events have you attended in the past twelve months?
1. more than 10
2. 6-10
3. 3-6
4. 1-3
5. none 59

19. Which is your favorite conference?
1. SIAC
2. MEAC
3. CIAA
4. SWAC
5. no opinion 60

20. What was the last year of education you completed?
1. some high school
2. high school graduate
3. some college
4. college graduate
5. graduate degree 61

21. If you attended college, did you attend a historically black college?
1. yes
2. yes, I am currently enrolled
3. no 62

22. What is your gender?
1. male
2. female 63

23. In what range is your age?
1. 18-24
2. 25-34
3. 35-44
4. 45-54
5. 55 or older 64

24. How would you describe your occupation?
1. professional
2. white collar
3. blue collar
4. student
5. retired
6. unemployed 65

25. What is your annual *household* income?
1. less than $20,000
2. $20,000-$39,000
3. $40,000-$59,000
4. $60,000 + 66