## *Central vs. A&T*

# Brawl leaves ugly scar

The widely publicized fight at the North Carolina A&T-North Carolina Central basketball game on Jan. 18 has left the followers of both schools with a very bitter taste in their mouths.

**Media zeroes in**

The 15-minute fracas received a lot of national media attention at the prime-time level -- CNN Headline News, ESPN, ABC and NBC showed footage of the fight the night of the game and the day after. The consensus among many black college sports followers indicates that the national media made it their business to focus on the negative aspects of black colleges. In the case of positive contributions made by black colleges, they assert that the national media ignores those accomplishments.

The Aggies, for example, have built one of the more successful Division I basketball programs under head coach Don Corbett. With Corbett at the helm, A&T ruled the MEAC with an iron fist for seven seasons. Each time, the Aggies made an appearance in the NCAA playoffs.

Coach Corbett feels that the negative publicity has undone most of the positive things that A&T has achieved during his tenure. He goes as far as saying that many of the predominantly white schools that he has been trying to schedule for a home-and-home series will use the fight as an excuse to keep from playing his team in Greensboro.

**Bad scene**

The footage shown to the nation zeroed in on players and fans swarming the floor, swinging fists, chairs and musical instruments wildly in an attempt to do serious bodily harm. Approximately 200 people were involved in the brawl. Several had to be taken to Greensboro hospitals to be treated for injuries.

The battle erupted in the second half of the game, with A&T holding a 39-38 edge. NCCU forward Derrick Leak was fouled hard by the Aggies' Jimmy Humphries. Leak took exception and shoved Humphries. From that point, it's reported that an unidentified person dressed in street clothes came on the floor swinging a chair at A&T players. That person is said to have been sitting on the Central bench.

From that point, the crowd got into it, with people swarming the floor and dueling in gang-fight fashion. Reacting to what transpired on the floor, members of the A&T pep band used their instruments to wage battle.

**Spectator fight**

Police were late in getting on the floor to settle matters because they had been busy breaking up a fight that was taking place in the upper rafters of the Corbett Center.

By the time that security officers had the situation under control, A&T athletic director Orby Moss ruled that the game was suspended because fans refused to clear the court and return to their seats. The game won't be resumed or replayed for this season.

The two schools have announced that the players who were involved in the on-the-court fight are being placed on probation. Under NCAA rules, probation is the first-incident penalty for being involved in a fight.

**Probation is first warning**

In essence, probation is a first warning to players. If players already on probation are involved in another fight during that same season, they are suspended for one game. If they are party to a third fight within the same season, they are suspended for that season.

At one point, speculation had it that the two schools would not continue their athletic series. But after a meeting between the chancellors of the respective universities (Edward Fort of A& T and Tyronza Richmond of Central), it was decided to move future men's basketball and football games to larger, off-campus facilities.

As *BCSR* went to press, the two schools hadn't decided on where they will play future games.

**-Zack Monday**

# Commentary

*From Page 3*

was done right. It's an insult to everyone involved -- players, coaches, sponsors and fans -- to put on a second-rate show. The only thing that Day did was create more skepticism about the game's future and reinforce the idea that athletics involving predominantly black schools aren't first class.

Speaking of first class, let's go to the circumstances involving UDC.

The Firebirds' athletic program has been plagued with academic and eligibility irregularities in recent years. Now there's more.

An internal audit revealed that 14 athletes -- including six football players -- were ineligible. Three played sports and weren't even enrolled in school at that time.

Furthermore, it has been determined that only 32 athletes have graduated from UDC in the last five years. The high was nine in 1987. Four graduated last year.

Additionally, an assistant football coach reportedly ran off with two athletes' tuition money for summer school.

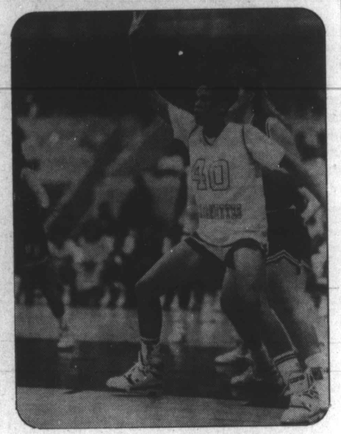
Those revelations aren't shocking when you consider that UDC officials aren't sure how many athletes are enrolled in school. Conflicting statistics show that between 275 and 300 athletes are enrolled.

The most shocking element about the UDC affair is that the Firebirds have been serious in their efforts to lobby the MEAC for membership, while making overtures in terms of moving up from Division II to Division I.

It would seem that UDC would have made sure that its house was in order before even considering such a move. As things now stand, UDC doesn't have a snowball's chance in Hawaii of ever moving up.

It probably wouldn't be a bad idea for UDC to just shut down its program for a year or until the school can get things right and spare itself a lot of embarrassment.

# Black College Women's Basketball Standings



**Norfolk State's Stephanie Palmer has blossomed for the Spartanettes. The 6-1 center/forward has declared that the lane area is her private property. At presstime,\ she was the nation's No. 2 rebounder, grabbing 14.9 boards a game. She's also adept offensively, scoring at a rate of 17.7 ppg. Her play is one reason why NSU (20-2) rates as one of the favorites to win the CIAA Tournament title.**

Photo by Eugene Saunders

| | Conference | Overall |
|---|---|---|
| **SWAC** | | |
| *As of Feb. 6th* | | |
| Grambling | 7-0 | 13-5 |
| Alcorn State | 5-2 | 8-10 |
| Jackson State | 4-3 | 8-9 |
| Alabama State | 4-3 | 8-11 |
| Texas Southern | 3-4 | 8-11 |
| Mississippi Valley State | 3-4 | 7-11 |
| Southern University | 1-6 | 3-14 |
| Prairie View A&M | 1-6 | 4-12 |
| **MEAC** | | |
| *As of Feb. 4th* | | |
| North Carolina A&T | 8-0 | 11-6 |
| Howard University | 6-3 | 10-11 |
| Morgan State | 5-3 | 9-9 |
| Delaware State | 4-4 | 10-9 |
| Maryland-Eastern Shore | 4-4 | 8-12 |
| South Carolina State | 3-5 | 7-13 |
| Coppin State | 2-6 | 5-12 |
| Bethune-Cookman | 1-8 | 3-13 |
| **SIAC** | | |
| *As of Feb. 5th* | | |
| Eastern Region | | |
| Albany State | 6-0 | 12-5 |
| Paine College | 5-2 | 12-5 |
| Fort Valley State | 2-3 | 9-9 |
| Clark/Atlanta University | 1-4 | 5-9 |
| Morris Brown College** | 0-0 | 3-12 |
| Savannah State* | 0-0 | 9-7 |
| Western Region | | |
| Tuskegee University | 4-1 | 14-4 |
| LeMoyne Owen College | 4-3 | 10-9 |
| Alabama A&M | 2-3 | 7-11 |
| Knoxville College** | 0-0 | 2-12 |
| Miles College* | 0-0 | 8-9 |

** Indicates team is 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.*

| | Division | Conference | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|
| **CIAA** | | | |
| *As of Feb. 4th* | | | |
| Northern Division | | | |
| Virginia State | 6-1 | 13-1 | 17-2 |
| Norfolk State | 6-1 | 12-2 | 20-2 |
| Elizabeth City State | 5-2 | 10-3 | 10-4 |
| Virginia Union | 4-5 | 8-8 | 8-11 |
| Bowie State | 2-4 | 5-9 | 7-13 |
| St. Paul's | 2-6 | 4-11 | 4-13 |
| Hampton University | 1-7 | 5-10 | 7-14 |
| Southern Division | | | |
| St. Augustine's | 10-0 | 15-1 | 16-4 |
| Johnson C. Smith | 7-2 | 9-6 | 14-9 |
| North Carolina Central | 5-3 | 9-6 | 10-8 |
| Winston-Salem State | 4-4 | 5-10 | 7-13 |
| Shaw University | 4-5 | 8-8 | 13-9 |
| Fayetteville State | 2-8 | 3-14 | 6-15 |
| Livingstone College | 0-10 | 0-17 | 0-19 |

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