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## Bulldogs back in spotlight as Hampton, ESPNU arrive

Thursday, February 23, 2006

Special to The T&D

Roberta Williams, a three-time All-American at South Carolina State and a former Burke High graduate, will be honored tonight during halftime of the Bulldog/Hampton basketball contest which will be televised live by ESPNU, beginning at 9:05 p.m. The game will be preceded by a women's contest at 6 p.m.

Williams, the all-time leading scorer at SCSU, will have her jersey unveiled and hoisted to the rafters at Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center, the arena where she scored over half of the more than 2000 points she amassed during an outstanding career (1977-80) for the Lady Bulldogs.

The number "11" jersey she wore during her career was retired in 1981, however, it had never been displayed at the arena or anywhere else on the campus. She is the only female athlete and the only basketball player ever to have a number retired at SCSU.

In addition to earning All-America honors three times and scoring over 2000 points, Williams was Black College Player of the Year twice and led the SCSU women to the AIAW Division II national championship in 1978-79. She was named most valuable player for the championship.

Williams, who still lives in Charleston, later player professionally for the San Francisco Pioneers of the Women's Basketball League.

The 2006 Lay Bulldogs will be trying to rebound after a 60-47 loss to Coppin State on Monday. The loss was the Lady Bulldogs' second straight and the third in the last four games to give them a 10-13 overall record, 7-7 in the MEAC.

Latoya Dent was the only SCSU player in double figures with 19 points in the loss as the team was plagued by turnovers and poor shooting.

"We were soundly outplayed," said Lady Bulldogs coach Tonya Mackey after the game. "We committed far too many turnovers, gave up a lot of second shots and didn't finish in the post when we had easy opportunities."

The Lady Pirates are coming off of a 65-58 comeback win over Delaware State. It was the second straight win for Hampton (6-18, 6-9 MEAC) as Rachel Butler scored 20 points and Monica Rogers came off the bench to add 18.

The SCSU men will be looking to keep their winning momentum going against a Hampton team that suffered an upset earlier this week.

The Bulldogs defeated Coppin 63-61 Monday while the Pirates fell to Longwood, 69-66. It was the second win in a row for SCSU and their fifth in six outings to climb to 10-14 overall and 8-6 in the MEAC.

Sophomore guard Derrick Davis had 14 points and seven assists to lead SCSU. Chris Miller-Williams came off the bench for 12 points and it was his basket off a feed from Davis with 1:09 to play that provided the winning margin.

Bulldog head coach Ben Betts called the win a very pivotal one for his team, which has gained momentum the last two weeks with three of four wins on the road.

"I'm very proud of my team which played hard right until the last possession," Betts said. "Chris Miller-Williams had a strong game off the bench and we also got a great floor game from Derrick Davis and strong board play by both Thurman (Zimmerman) and Chris (seven boards). It was a great effort."

A sluggish start by Hampton cost them as they lost their fourth consecutive game to fall to 11-13 on the season.



South Carolina State's Brian Mason goes up for a shot against Delaware State while Thurman Zimmerman looks on. The Bulldogs face Hampton tonight at home. T&D PHOTO

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SCSU will celebrate "Church & Greek Night" during tonight's game. Adults presenting a church bulletin can purchase general admission seats for \$4 and all youths will be admitted for just \$2 for the Mid-Eastern Athletic doubleheader.

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