

This is a printer-friendly version of an article from www.news-record.com
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Mar 8, 2006

N.C. A&T women beaten by box-and-1

By Dan Friedell

Special to the News & Record

RALEIGH -- A shoulder shrug said it all.

N.C. A&T coach Patricia Cage-Bibbs, a 21-year veteran Division I coach, had no answer for why her Aggies wilted in a 68-48 loss to Bethune-Cookman in the opening round of the MEAC tournament.

Her team looked out of sync from the start and allowed the Wildcats to take a 9-0 lead before the game was five minutes old.

That deficit required an intense defensive effort from A&T just to tie the game at 37 early in the second half.

From that point on, however, the Aggies couldn't find an offensive identity and were outscored 31-11.

"We should definitely have had a better showing," Cage-Bibbs said. "This was about the worst I've seen us play this year."

The sixth-seeded Aggies were the favorite after having decisively beaten the 11th-seeded Wildcats twice during the regular season -- by an average of 21 points.

But Tuesday was different.

The Wildcats withstood A&T's pressure in the second half and employed a box-and-one defense in an effort to stifle A&T's Shareka Glover, who had scored 14 and 25 points in the previous match-ups.

The strategy worked.

"(Glover's) the best player in the MEAC," Bethune-Cookman coach Francis Simmons said. "And we wanted to try and disrupt some things that she does."

Glover missed 10 of her 15 shots and often settled for outside looks when the Wildcats blocked off her path to the lane.

And after sharing the floor for 80 minutes in the regular season, the Aggies knew who would be getting the shots for Bethune-Cookman.

Freshman Keturah Newkirk had attempted 313 3-point shots during the regular season, making 94. She went 6-for-14 from behind the arc Tuesday, and she killed the Aggies with three straight 3-pointers after they had cut the lead to 45-43 with 10:45 to play.

"You know, that wasn't supposed to happen," Cage-Bibbs said, her furrowed brow expressing her frustration. "It was just a tough day for my ladies."

It was the final collegiate game for A&T's Glover, Kira Tillman and Bianca Johnson.

"I really wasn't expecting it to be tonight," Tillman said. "I was looking forward to moving on to Thursday."

BETHUNE-COOKMAN -- Boykin 2-3 5-6 9, McCray 4-10 6-7 14, Clark 5-15 0-0 11, Newkirk 6-16 0-0 018, Simpson 4-5 0-0 8, Calcagno 2-4 4-5 8. Totals 23-53 15-18 68.

N.C. A&T -- Glover 5-15 0-0 11, Tillman 6-12 2-2 15, L. Williams 2-6 1-2 6, Johnson 1-11 2-5 4, A. Williams 5-10 1-1 11, Christopher 0-1 0-1 0, King 0-2 0-0 0, Gibson 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 19-57 7-13 48.

Halftime -- Bethune-Cookman 33-26. 3-point goals -- Bethune-Cookman 7-21 (Newkirk 6-14, Clark 1-6, McCray 0-1), N.C. A&T 3-11 (L. Williams, Glover 1-2, Tillman 1-3, Christopher 0-1, King 0-1, A. Williams 0-3). Rebounds -- Bethune-Cookman 41 (Newkirk 10); N.C. A&T 33 (Johnson 8). Assists -- Bethune-Cookman 17 (Boykin 6), N.C. A&T 10 (Glover 4). Fouled out -- None. Total fouls -- Bethune-Cookman 16, N.C. A&T 16. A -- N/A.

Copyright © 2006
The News & Record
and Landmark Communications, Inc.