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BY JULIE COZBY  Cory Powers

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“This is the first time the women’s Big South tournament will be played at home,” Head Coach Jeff Meyer said. “We are excited to have the road teams come to Lynchburg.”

The tournament will conclude with the men’s and women’s championship games on Saturday, March 1. The winners of the men’s games will advance to the NCAA tournament, while the women’s will play for the Big South Conference title.

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AS Assisted Sports Editor

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BY LAUREL MILLER  Special to The Liberty Atlantis

UCNG women grab No. 1 spot

UCNG remained unrivaled in the Big South by defeating UNCW on Monday. The Flames battered the #1 seed 82-60, and the defending champion will now look to the upcoming NEC tournament.

The victory was the second in a row for UNCW, which is now 5-2 in the league and 12-8 overall. The Flames have five games left in the regular season and are 15-5 overall.

By rich macleave

The Big South tourneys slam into Furnace

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LIBERTY'S Michelle Wyms puts up a free throw in a conference game versus Coastal Carolina.

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Every point counts — LU’s Michelle Wyms puts up a free throw in a conference game versus Coastal Carolina.

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE RECORDS

Liberty, Jan. 22, 1997

By rick macleave

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**BUCCANEERS**

**Seed:** No. 4  
**Record:** 14-12  
**Conference:** 7-7

** Probable Starters**  
Center: Mark Boyd  
Forward: Winston Gordon  
Forward: Jeff Daniels  
Guard: Brett Larrick  
Guard: Roland Yountsmuir

**Top Reserves:** G-Martin Parker, F-Andrea Adams

**WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN:** The Bucs seemed primed to make a run at its second conference championship in three years until point guard Errol McPherson went down with a severe knee injury. Off-guard Brett Larrick is one of the brightest young players in the Big South. He picked up the game towards the end of the season and made a run at the Big South player of the year award. Against Liberty on Feb. 17, Larrick scored 12 of his 20 points in the final minute of the game, all on three-pointers. In order for the Bucs to take the title and a trip to the NCAA field of 32, every player will have to step up in big-time. Roland Yountsmuir could be that player.

**FLAMES**

**Seed:** No. 2  
**Record:** 21-8  
**Conference:** 11-3

** Probable Starters**  
Center: Peter Aluma  
Forward: Erik Simms  
Forward: Marcus White  
Guard: Larry Lofton

**Top Reserves:** G-Walter Graham, G-Gabe Caldwell, C-Adam Hopkins

**DOUGING BULLETS:** The Flames have created a season which saw them as the marked team in the Big South Conference. LU, led by senior center Peter Aluma, was picked as the No. 2 seed in the Big South polls and fought through adversity to win 20 games for the second time as a Division I competitor. LU made it through the season near the top by playing the toughest defense in the league, holding the Big South opponents to a minuscule 41.7% field goal average. The Flames have the honor to win the second ever title, but Aluma still has to take his game to a higher level. LU's backcourt of Marcus White and Larry Lofton may be the most talented in the conference. The big question mark for the Flames will be whether or not Walter "Dee" Graham, who was injured in a game two weeks ago, will be able to provide depth at the power forward slot.

**RETRIEVERS**

**Seed:** No. 5  
**Record:** 11-15  
**Conference:** 7-8

** Probable Starters**  
Center: Marcus Ingram  
Forward: Ben Avery  
Forward: Andrew Hurst  
Guard: Greg Scott  
Guard: Jade Adams

**Top Reserves:** G-Jee Grant, F-Jason Haynes, F-Donald Paynter

**ON THE RISE:** The Retrievers have risen back to respectability after a season in which the Chanticleers were only 11-15 conference games. CCSU bounded back to win six Big South conference contests during this season. Although, the team did lose three of its last four games, it is still playing its best ball in years. Coastal is led by the double double efforts of Ben Avery and Maurice Ingram. Avery is a big man who runs over 13 (6 pg). Ingram is a top-notch rebounder, who averaged eight boards per game and had a season-high 16 rebounds against UMBC in January. The Chant could surprise some, especially if it is able to get past in-state rival Charleston Southern in the first round.

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**Larrick tops 1997 Champion All-Big South team**

By RICH MACLOVE  
*Sports Editor*

Big South opponents have been battling and banging all season long. The players have finished the year, and the time has come for us to recognize the players who have proven themselves to be the best players in the Big South. Several of these players are members of the second annual All-Big South Champion Team.  

**Men's Team**

Let's start with the most important member of our team, the player of the year. This season, the player that rose above the rest is a big guard with a dangerous outside shot — Brett Larrick of CSU. Larrick averaged 21 points per game in Big South games and won the top in steals, assists, field goal percentage, three point percentage and free throw percentage. Larrick made a name for himself during the 1995 Big South tourney when he was named all tournament. The next member of our team is the man in the middle. Peter Aluma of Liberty. The Lagos, Nigeria native averaged 15.9 points per contest while facing double and triple-team coverage all season. Aluma also led the conference in blocked shots and field goal percentage.

Larrick's teammate Errol McPherson is the point guard on the team. McPherson averaged more than 17 points per game before going down to injury in February. The 1997 Champion team features a three-guard lineup. Marcus White of Liberty had a stellar year for the Flames, leading the Big South in steals and finishing in the top 10 in assists and three point percentage.

The final member of our men's team is the man who led UNC Asheville to the top spot in the Big South — Jack Pittman. Pittman was named in the league in scoring, fourth in steals, seventh in three-point percentage and eighth in steals. The Big South had a slow season so far as the youngins went. Isaac Green of UNC Asheville is our top reserve. Green was third in the conference in rebounding and averaged nearly nine points per game. The other members of the team are Radford's Ryan Brent, UNCAs' Jason Womble, Winthrop's Rob Wallace and CCUs' Gerald Bigg.  

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Aluma ready for tourney
Continued from Page 1

wishes that he had done while in Lynchburg was further his spiritual life. "God brought me a long way," Aluma said. "He put a lot of people in my life that have believed in me."

The person who has perhaps believed in him most has never seen him play. Aluma has never played a game in front of his mother. "I hope she will be able to come," he said. "One bad apple spoils the whole bunch, and there are good people all over the world."

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TAKING THE HIGH ROAD: Radford is primed to be the dark horse in this season's tournament. The Highlanders are the team that no one wants to play. Eric Bowens and Anthony Walker lead this team, which has never won a conference title championship. That could change if Walker (14.4 ppg) and Bowens (16.3 ppg) play their best ball. These two players are very capable of leading the Highs into the NCAA via the Big South championship. Forward Corey Reed is a deadly three-point threat (46.7 percent), and Kevin Robinson will help out on the glass.

MEN OF STEELE: Winthrop has the stigma of being the Big South Conference bad boys. Winthrop is a very physical team that likes to bang. Chad Steele leads the assault, averaging more than eight rebounds per game and 10 points per contest. Tyson Waterman is the offensive stalwart of the Eagles. Waterman averaged 16 points per game and 4.6 assists. Defense is the Eagles' biggest problem. The team allows the second most points per game in the Big South (71.5 ppg). Winthrop has the impossible task of taking on Liberty in the first round at the Vines Center in front of what has the potential to be a huge crowd.
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LADY BUCCANEERS

Seed: No. 4
Record: 12-13
Conference: 8-6

Probable Starters
Center: Kate Sanford
Forward: Beth Weng
Guard: Wendy Dietz
Guard: Joy Taylor
Top Reserves: F-Stewart, F-Kristin Blondal

SHOWING UP THE EXPERTS: Charleston Southern was picked by the Big South Sports Information directors and coaches to finish in the very bottom of the standings. The Buccaneers staved off the experts and controlled for the No. 2 seed into the final weeks of play. CSU is led by Joy Taylor (10.4 ppg) and Kate Sanford (11.4 ppg).

Liberty University
LADY FLAMES

Seed: No. 2
Record: 19-7
Conference: 9-5

Probable Starters
Forward: Elea Johnson
Forward: Eleni Mistress
Guard: Shauna Williams
Guard: Sarah Wilkerson
Top Reserves: G-Deana Motta, F-Lindsay Blossom, Meridith Luebbers

Hollywood could not have written a finer script for the Lady Flames in women's college basketball history. Much of this success is due to the play of LU's fabulous freshmen: Sarah Wilkerson (11.4 ppg), Beth Weng (11.4 ppg) and Kate Sanford (11.4 ppg).

Coastal Carolina
LADY CHANTICLEERS

Seed: No. 7
Record: 7-19
Conference: 3-11

Probable Starters
Center: Kelly Sanford
Forward: Monica Logan
Forward: Heather Slocum
Guard: Lori Grant
Guard: Jamie Davis
Top Reserves: G-Deana Motta, F-Lindsay Blossom

STATUS quo: Coastal Carolina's favorite part of its game-plan proved to be its Achilles heel against the best teams in the Big South. The Lady Chants like to push the ball up-court, but couldn't run and gun against teams like Liberty and UNC Greensboro. CCU allowed the most points per game in the conference (75.4 ppg) and put up too many ill-advised shots. These shots cost them.

UM-Baltimore County
RETRIEVERS

Seed: No. 8
Record: 4-22
Conference: 1-13

Probable Starters
Center: Monica Logan
Forward: Renuda Danquah
Forward: Amanda Brown
Guard: Ryan Boyd
Guard: Maggie McDuff
Top Reserves: Kathy Doyle, Nicole Johnson

The Retrievers were picked to finish last in the Big South, but it has not been able to do a thing against the rest of the conference this season. Monica Logan is the top player for the Retrievers and the team's No. 1 option. The team did not pick up a win until the final day of conference play against Coastal Carolina. The Retrievers were picked to finish fourth by the coaches and SID's after a third-place finish last season, but it has not been able to do a thing against the rest of the conference this season.

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• April 24 - Spring Open Dorms

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## North Carolina-Asheville Bulldogs

**Seed:** No. 3  
**Record:** 14-12  
**Conference:** 8-6

**Probable Starters**
- Center: Marcia Na
- Forward: Cary Gay  
- Forward: Vicki Griffin  
- Guard: Emily Bell  
- Guard: Lee Christensen

**Top Reserves:**
- G-Mandy Edwards  
- F-Amanda Brewer

### COMING ON STRONG:
The Bulldogs have been on the rise, and their conference Record looks better than last season's 6-10. However, the Bulldogs were killed on the glass, being out-rebounded by 12 per game.

## North Carolina-Greensboro Spartans

**Seed:** No. 1  
**Record:** 18-8  
**Conference:** 13-1

**Probable Starters**
- Center: Biz Breeden  
- Forward: Jennifer Lewis  
- Forward: Melinda McDapty  
- Guard: Sadie Ochs  
- Guard: Jai Cole

**Top Reserves:**
- F-Becca Vitters  
- G-Sam Ferguson

### ON A MISSION:
The Spartans have had one of the best in-conference seasons of any women's Big South team ever. The team is strong Inside (Melinda Goodson) and outside (Sadie Ochs and Jai Cole). UNCG comes into the tournament as the heavy favorite to win its first-ever women's title.

## Radford University Highlanders

**Seed:** No. 5  
**Record:** 11-15  
**Conference:** 7-7

**Probable Starters**
- Center: Nakia Holgers  
- Forward: Rebecca McNeill  
- Forward: Kim Ervine  
- Guard: Jen Grant  
- Guard: Kelly Tull

**Top Reserves:**
- F-Dana Schnelle  
- F/C-Jen Grant  
- F-Jenni Trevisan  
- G-Sam Ferguson

### HOW THE NIGHT HAVES FALLEN:
Radford, winners of seven consecutive Big South tournaments, fell from grace this season. A major factor in the Highlanders' demise has been its lack of experience. Eleven of RU's 15 players are either freshmen or sophomores. Still, Radford could be dangerous if it gets out of the first round. The Highs have been on the mountain top so long that the team won't be easy to knock off.

## Winthrop University Lady Eagles

**Seed:** No. 6  
**Record:** 10-16  
**Conference:** 7-7

**Probable Starters**
- Center: Jennifer Churchett  
- Forward: Krystine Ritchin  
- Forward: Anna Cox  
- Guard: Jennifer Castle  
- Guard: Misty McNealy

**Top Reserves:**
- F-Mandy Britt  
- G-Leigh-Anne Pursifull

### IF ONLY THEY WERE ALL PLAYED IN ROCK HILL:
The Eagles were very proficient at home (5-2) in conference games but had trouble on the road (0-5). Winthrop has won five of its last six games, including a 71-66 win over Liberty in which the team hit 68-percent of its shots from the floor. WU is the hottest team entering the tournament other than UNCA.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Lynchburg</td>
<td>Jeffrey Hand</td>
<td>Ministry in Rasaea - Practical Theology</td>
<td>Harrison</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>10:10</td>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>Randy Smith</td>
<td>Speaking from a holy Heart</td>
<td>Wilmington</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Wilmington</td>
<td>John Shimmel</td>
<td>Key Youth Ministry Issues of 1977</td>
<td>Milton</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Winston-Salem</td>
<td>Tom Randle</td>
<td>Key Things Faced First 2 yrs. of Ministry</td>
<td>Harston</td>
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<td>Spring, TX</td>
<td>Rick Countryman</td>
<td>Parenting Ministry Philosophy-Method</td>
<td>RandleU</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Modesto, CA</td>
<td>Mark Smith</td>
<td>Youth Cell Ministry via Uisdplestup</td>
<td>Harston</td>
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<td>Soddy-Daisy, TN</td>
<td>Gary Hunter</td>
<td>Ministering to Parents of Teens</td>
<td>Marston</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Fayetteville, NC</td>
<td>Pat Goss</td>
<td>Programming the Cell Ministry</td>
<td>Milton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Athens, GA</td>
<td>Steve Shettel</td>
<td>Strategies for Reaching a Campus</td>
<td>Harrington</td>
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<td>Randy Black</td>
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<td>Lexington, SC</td>
<td>Bill Smith</td>
<td>Promising Ministry Philosophy</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Lebanon, TN</td>
<td>Willy Kriese</td>
<td>Demonstrating the Love of Jesus</td>
<td>Wilkins</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Raleigh, NC</td>
<td>Charles Wash</td>
<td>Youths and Midst of Pastoral Transition</td>
<td>Harrington</td>
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- **Thursday:** Alumni Banquet, 6pm (David's Place)

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**Winthrop University Lady Eagles**

Leigh-Anne Pursifull

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**Winthrop University Lady Eagles**

Leigh-Anne Pursifull

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**Winthrop University Lady Eagles**

Leigh-Anne Pursifull
Champion honors women players

The year 1997 can be summed up as the year of theobile. Flames won 19 of all the Big SouU^pecial Liberty Champion, Page 9
year, finishing third in the conference in scoring and rebounding. Sharon Wllkenon

LU sports more than tournament

While LU's basketball teams in the Big South are striving to win, athletics across the rest of campus are also striving for winning too. The Flames open its season at 3 p.m. on March 22 at UNC-Greensboro. Several members qualified for the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America competition, which begins Feb. 15.

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The outdoor season begins in real beauty. Emily Goodson also averaged eight rebounds per game for the top frosh. She scored 10.5 points per game and first place in field goal percentage, averaging 84.4 percent. Melinda Qoodson

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Goodson also averaged eight rebounds per game for the top frosh. She scored 10.5 points per game and first place in field goal percentage, averaging 84.4 percent. Melinda Qoodson

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• bryan duncan
  "Blue Skies"

Also featuring new music from Petra, Michael Card, Guardian Grits, and Promise Keepers.

Liberty is proud to welcome Bob the Tomatoe and Larry the Cucumber from VEGGIE TALES.

Videos now available:
  "Rack, Shack, & Benny"
  "Dave and the Giant Pickle"
  "Where's God when I'm Scared"
NEW: "A Very Silly Singalong"

Coming Soon:
  Larryboy & The Fib from Outer Space
T-Shirts soon available only in the
LU BOOKSTORE

DRY CLEANING AVAILABLE
IN THE BOOKSTORE
* Drop-off and pick-up on Tuesdays & Thursdays *

BOOKSTORE HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:15am-9:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday/Thursday</td>
<td>9:00am-9:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday/Friday</td>
<td>11:15am-4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00am-4:00pm</td>
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