

EXTRA! On to Kansas City!

VICTORY!

The WESTERN FRONT

Vol. 64 No. 35

Western Washington State College

Wednesday, March 8, 1972

The sign at the end of Carver Gym read simply "We do NOT lose at home," and Western's basketball team came through to keep the motto accurate by defeating Eastern Washington last night, 76-68, for the NAIA District I championship and a ticket to the NAIA nationals in Kansas City, Mo., beginning Monday.

The Vikings won the best of three series, 2-1, after losing the initial game in Cheney on Saturday, 71-60, and winning Monday night in Carver Gym, 78-75 in overtime. The trip to the nationals will be only the second in Western's history and the first since 1960.

Mike Franza, Western's 6-1 junior All-District guard, scored 28 points to lead the Big Blue to victory in front of about 4,000 screaming fans in Carver Gym. Franza shot 10 of 13 from the field and eight of nine from the free throw line. The Viks' other guard Tom Bradley was a perfect four for four from the field and five of five from the line for 13 points.

The game gave Western a season record of 24-3, two of those losses being to the Savages. Last night was also the final home game of the season for Western, and the final home appearances for seniors Roger Fuson, Chip Kohr, Mike Preston, Rudy Thomas and captain Gary White.

The Vikings averted a shooting disaster like Monday's when they went the first nine minutes without a field goal. Western took the first lead on a drive by Franza. Eastern tied it up behind All-District forward Randy Buss and the lead see-sawed back and forth for the first few minutes, before Mark Seil put the Savages ahead for a long period, at one point leading by as much as seven, at 27-20.

The Vikings again came back, as in Monday night's contest when they were down by 14. Western rallied behind White and Bradley to close the gap until a Franza jumper tied the score at 31-31, followed by a Franza three point play to tie it again at 34-34. A short jumper by White with 2:12 left in the half gave Western a lead it never surrendered as the Viks went ahead 36-34. Halftime score was 40-35, favoring Western.

The Viks started out the second half with a blitz of points following an exchange of buckets. Western hit for seven

unanswered points and at the end of the offensive attack held a commanding 53-39 advantage.

The Savages whittled away at the Vik lead using a half court zone press, which forced the Viks into some costly turnovers. Eastern finally closed within two at 62-60 on a short hook shot by Steve Hook.

Western then retaliated with nine consecutive points to put the game out of reach. The Big Blue's final ten points came from the charity stripe as Western used its steady control game to run the clock down and force Eastern to foul.

Western shot a torrid 52 per cent from the field, 26 for 50, while hitting 24 of 29 free throws for 82.8 per cent.

The Savages were led in scoring by Buss with 24 points. The 6-5 senior left the game dejectedly with less than a minute to go, after an outstanding career at the Cheney school.

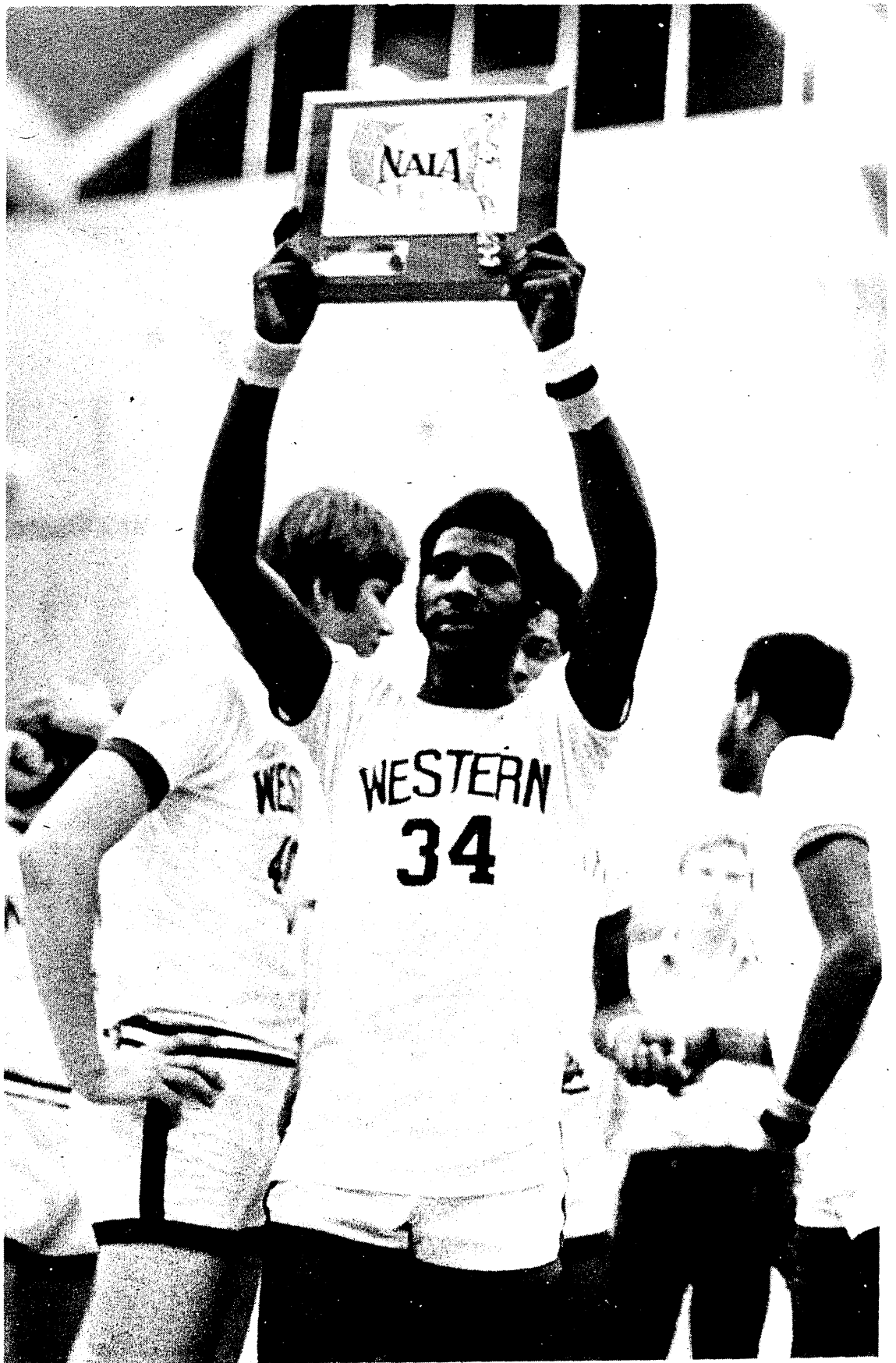
"It's just great," an ecstatic coach Chuck Randall said of the win. "They really pulled together when it was needed. I can't say enough about that crowd of ours, they were possibly the difference between us winning and losing. When things looked bad for us, they picked us right up. We couldn't have done it without them."

VIKINGS 76, SAVAGES 68

Western	fg	ft	reb	pf	tp
Bradley (g)	4-4	5-5	2	4	13
Buza	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Franza (g)	10-13	8-9	6	2	28
Fuson	3-6	3-3	2	3	9
Kohr	0-3	1-2	2	3	1
Mount	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Preston (f)	0-1	0-0	0	1	0
Thomas (c)	1-6	4-4	6	3	6
White (f)	6-14	2-3	9	3	14
Totals	26-50	24-29	31	23	76

Eastern	fg	ft	reb	pf	tp
Buss (f)	7-13	10-12	9	3	24
Harris (g)	1-6	3-4	1	2	5
Hayden (c)	5-15	3-6	9	3	13
Hook (f)	3-9	0-1	3	1	6
Hopley	3-6	3-3	4	1	9
Kautz	0-0	1-1	2	2	1
Meeks	1-1	0-1	2	2	2
Mulligan	1-3	2-2	0	4	4
Seil (g)	2-6	0-0	1	4	4
Totals	23-57	22-31	31	22	68

FG pct.: Western 52.0, Eastern 38.6. FT pct.: Western 82.8, Eastern 71.0. Halftime: Western 40, Eastern 35. Turnovers: Western 15, Eastern 14. Team Rebounds: Western 5, Eastern 1. Officials: Gulley and Rickert. Atten.: 4,000 (est).



Seniors in home finale



CHIP KOHR



ROGER FUSON



GARY WHITE



RUDY THOMAS



MIKE PRESTON

It took four years for Western's senior five to reach that ultimate basketball goal—the national tournament in Kansas City, Mo.—but with last night's victory they finally did it.

In an interview before the game, the big five were asked (1) what they thought was the reason for the team's success this year and (2) what Kansas City means to them as individuals.

Roger Fuson

1. "The team's success has got to be our ability to play together. The team is definitely balanced and everybody has done their part. In no other team I have played on, have the reserves worked so hard.

2. "Coach Randall has set

Kansas City as this year's goal. This is the first time we have had the opportunity to achieve it. Being a senior makes it that much better."

Rudy Thomas

1. "Western has a national championship team. That is my main goal and I think everybody feels the same way.

2. "I have never been to Kansas City and I want to see what this city I have heard so much about is really like. I want to leave an impression on them. I admire our coach—he has helped me."

Mike Preston

1. "Team's success has been mainly togetherness. We could have had same team and not done as well. Coach Randall can be attributed to the success.



COACH CHUCK RANDALL

"Another factor is balance. When we practice against each other, it is like playing against another team.

2. "The only equivalent that I have ever participated in is the state tournament in high school. In following this league's representation in past years and in high school, they have done pretty well."

Gary White

1. "It has been a team effort. We have come up with the end product which I think is the team's success. The coach can be credited for that; he has combined us as a team.

2. "Kansas City means that we will get a chance to play the best competition and see how good we are. Judging from Central's team in the past, our

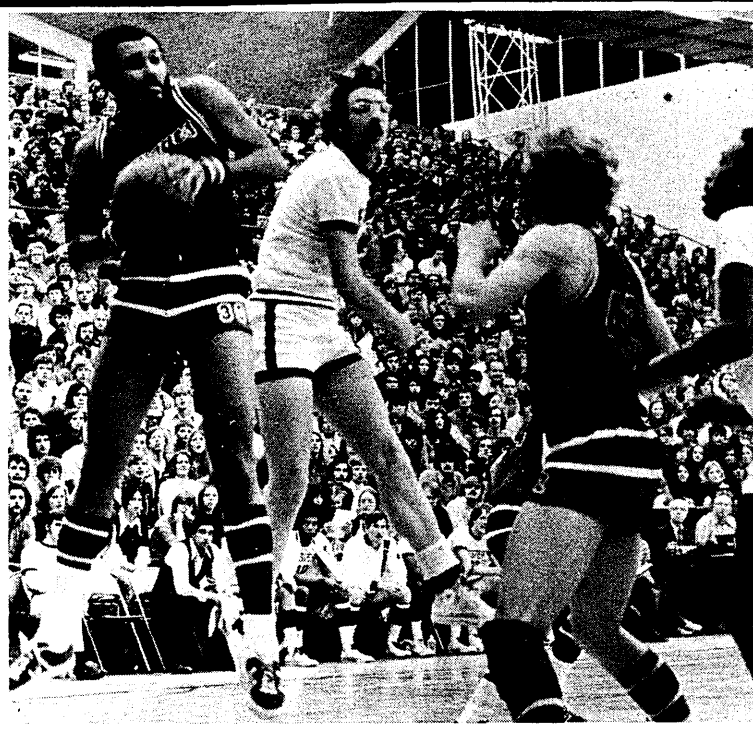
team is better. I think we will win in Kansas City.

"It also means a chance for me to go home as I live 235 miles away in East St. Louis, Ill."

Chip Kohr

1. "Six of us have been playing together since last year. We really work together well as a unit and usually have real balanced scoring.

2. "All I have heard since I have been here is about Western going to Kansas City. It will really be something to participate in something like that. Central is the only other team which has gone back and they have really done well. Using that as a measuring stick, Western should do really well."



Coach lauds team efforts in championship win

The victory sends the Vikings to Kansas City, Mo., for the NAIA national championships, March 13-18.

Randall credited last night's victory to his team's ability to play together when the going gets rough, and to its tight defense.

"They're really a great bunch of guys," he said. "You have to play great ball to beat Eastern."

Comparing the game—final in a best of three series, with Monday's overtime win, Randall said that both teams played better last night.

"Our goal isn't just to go to Kansas City; our goal is to win there," Coach Chuck Randall said last night after his Vikings beat Eastern Washington, 76-68, to win the NAIA District I championship.

Western especially played tougher defense last night, he said. "We checked harder in the second half.

"I felt that the kids earned it all the way this year," Randall said.

"The students were behind us in this win and they really deserved the victory. There is no way that they are not part of the team."

The coach said the "great crowd," with its "big spirit and heart," helped his team immensely.

"This is what Western needed to pull it together, he said, calling the display of crowd spirit: "the old halls of ivy job. It's the kind of thing I used to dream about when I was a kid."

"I may be kind of old fashioned, but that kind of old fashion stuff I love. The students really deserved it."



Vikings visit Kansas City second time in 12 years

It took only one game in 1960 to send the Vikings back to Bellingham from Kansas City, and it took them 12 years to get a second chance at the NAIA championship.

It could have been a longer wait. Eastern last went to the tournament in 1947 after having gone for five straight seasons.

Since 1937 when Central Missouri State beat Morningside (Iowa) 35-24 to win the first championship, the yearly Kansas City contest has become the largest collegiate championship tournament in the United States.

The tournament starts Monday at the 10,000-seat Municipal Auditorium. Over 500 colleges competed for 32 district championships. Until a team becomes one of the four semi-finalists, a single defeat in the six-day competition sends them home.

Western is in NAIA District I, which includes independent colleges in Washington; Alaska; Lewis and Clark College in Lewiston, Idaho; and Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C.

The Vikings are rated fifth in the latest NAIA poll and this high rating may assure them of easy competition in the opening games.

Western missed five chances to get a berth at Kansas City after their opening game loss in 1960 to Arkansas A & M.

In 1966, the Vikings won the Evco title but lost in the playoffs to Central. In 1963 and 1964, Western lost in the playoffs to Pacific Lutheran. In 1961 and 1962, they lost in the preliminary rounds in the playoffs to Pacific Lutheran and Central.

The district has been strong

District One stars named

Leading the way with two players, Western placed forward Gary White and guard Mike Franza on the 1971-72 NAIA District I All-Star basketball team. Viking coach Chuck Randall was also named the district's Coach-of-the-Year for the second consecutive year.

White, a 6-4 senior from East St. Louis, Ill., repeats from last year's All-District squad, as do two other members, Randy Buss of Eastern and Rich Hanson of Central. Rounding out the area's top cagers are Arvie Johnson of St. Martin's, Larry Clark of Simon Fraser and Bob Williams of Whitworth.

The district normally names six to the team, but a tie resulted between Clark and Williams.

Franza, a 6-1 junior from San Jose, Cal., made his first appearance on the team, after leading Western in scoring for the season.

The Vikings' 6-7 senior Rudy Thomas also received honorable mention for the second straight year.

For Randall, it was the third time in his career at Western that he was named the district's top coach. The Vik mentor received the honor in 1966 and last year.

District I consists of NAIA teams in Washington, British Columbia, Alaska and North Idaho.

FIRST TEAM: Randy Buss (Eastern Washington) 6-5 senior forward; Larry Clark (Simon Fraser) 6-7 senior center; Mike Franza (Western) 6-1 junior guard; Rich Hanson (Central) 6-5 junior forward; Arvie Johnson (St. Martin's) 6-7 senior center; Gary White (Western) 6-4 senior forward; Bob Williams (Whitworth) 6-4 senior forward.

in the tournaments. Central took second two years ago and Pacific Lutheran was runner-up in 1959.

Central was third in 1967 and 1969, and Pacific Lutheran has been at the tournament eight times since 1950. Whitworth went four times, Gonzaga and Western both once.

Western didn't set any tournament records when it made its sole trip, but Central, with seven consecutive trips, tied five other colleges for the most consecutive appearances.

In 1957 Pacific Lutheran and Stetson (Fla.) set the record for the most free throws, both teams with a total of 76.

Eastern's Irvin Leifer won

the most valuable player award in 1947 and three Northwest players have won the Charles Stevenson Hustle Award since it was set up in 1958.

The tournament is financed with gate receipts at the playoffs and at Kansas City.

The NAIA finances each district champion's trip to the tournament but cuts off further payment 24 hours after a defeat. If a team wants to remain for the rest of the tournament, it must finance the stay itself.

Each school can send a traveling squad of ten plus two other people, usually the coaches.

Vikettes give their all



One of Western's Vikettes cheers her team to victory.

Western's Vikings are going to Kansas City



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Fans add extra touch to urge team to win

It has been said that the home team has a several-point advantage over a visiting team because of familiarity with the basketball court.

But as witnessed in last night's victory over Eastern, the crowd's enthusiasm added enough of that extra touch to push Western to its utmost.

The bleachers came to life, and the fans urged their home team to give it everything they had.

As in every game, the loneliest men on the court were the referees who are subject to the tempers of the home crowd.

In the early part of the game, the fans were upset with some of the judging, which is normal in a close, important game.

In the first half of the game when Western was getting fouls called one after another, one irate fan yelled, "Why don't you call a few fouls on Eastern?"

Another fan screamed, "Hey referee, take the whistle out of your mouth and . . ." and a few other indiscernible words.

Another fan took the opportunity to add, "You're too fat referee; your whistle blows too quick."

Throughout the game you could hear the usual "Come on Western, two more points," and "We're number one."

As Coach Randall stated to the team several hours before the game, "One thing I have to say is that the campus is high."

In Monday's 78-75 squeaker over Eastern, "you got on cloud nine and you never came down till the second half," he told the team.

In last night's action, the crowd came on cloud nine and Western's 10 kept them there.

During halftime when Western was ahead 40-35, this reporter went around and asked people what they thought about the game so far, who they thought was going to win and whether they thought it was going to be a close score right down to the wire.



Applause and cheering prevail as fans exhibit enthusiasm in Carver Gym.

One student said that "the game is a lot better than last night."

"I think Western is going to win," another student added. "It is going to be close. Nobody's going to run away with it."

One Bellingham non-student was pulling for Eastern, but figured that Western would win. His Eastern support was because "I have been watching Coach Randall's team too long."

One Eastern student said she thought Eastern was going to win. "Last night's game (Monday) was awful. We had a 14 point lead."

A Western student described the Vikings as "a team which could come back from 15 points, if need be." He saw them as being emotionally down Monday from Eastern's previous 71-60 win over them, but seemed certain that they were

going to win this last big district game.

Western's final 76-68 score proved he was right.

Now the fans will have to watch from afar as Western's Big Blue takes off for Kansas City this Sunday to face the nation's 31 best small college teams.

But as Mike Franza said after the game, "two of the 32 best were on the court tonight."

Vikettes need funds to accompany team

Can I get one for the Vikettes? All right!

For those who don't know, this group of beautiful well-organized sisters have been performing for two years at the half-times. They are dedicated to the support of our team.

As you know, the Vikings are traveling to Kansas City for the NAIA tournament, assisted by the Vikettes.

Their group consists of the following: Michael Stewart (dance coordinator), Marsha Batie, Paula Booker, Mary Brown, Roberta Byrd, Donna Graham, Pat Jackson, Brenda

Nelson, Gayla Perrymore, Pat Ryan, Deborah Tate, Betty Walker and Beverly Washington.

Your financial support would be appreciated in assisting the Vikettes to Kansas City to follow up their support for the team when it really counts. I'm sure they will continue on with their excellent performance, plus being an extra boost to our team's spirit.

Contributions can be brought to the Black Student Union office in Viking Union 227 before next Thursday.

Mack Man
Black Student Union

Masthead

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Bob McLaughlan
Steve Garvey
Howard Scott
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Rich Collingwood
Jay Eckert
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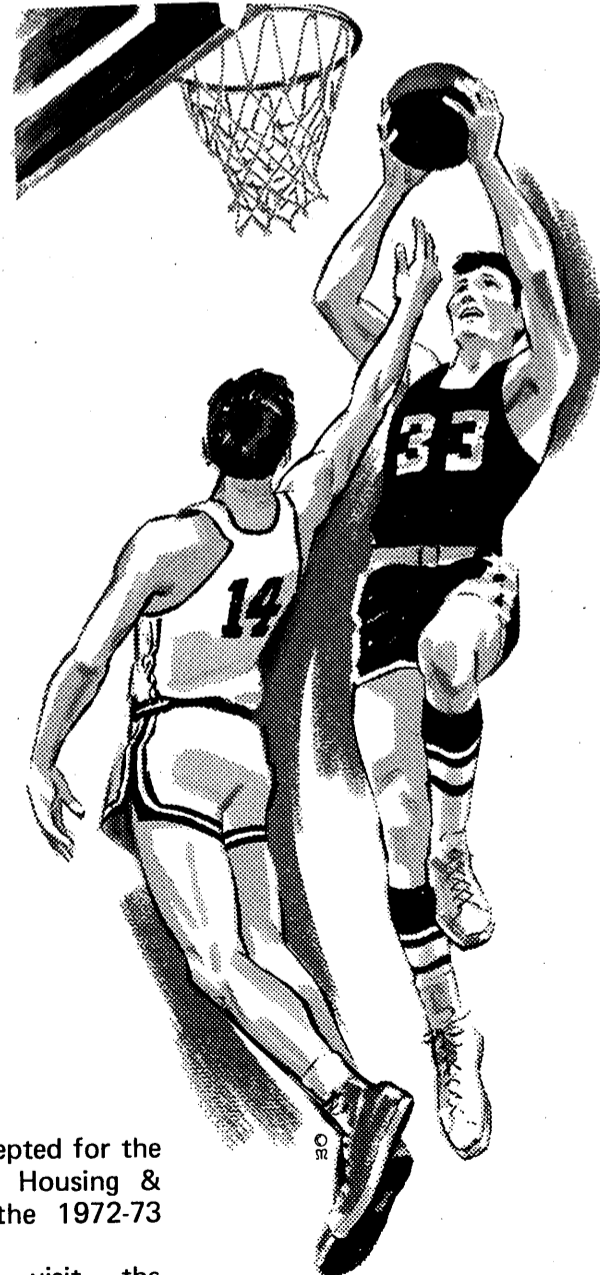
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say

Way to go Vikings!

Best of luck
in Kansas City



Also

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Associated Students Housing & Employment Commissioner for the 1972-73 Academic Year.

Interested students, please visit the Associated Students Housing & Employment Commission, Viking Union 214A, WWSC, for further information, or phone 676-3964.