Women's softball hopeful

By JENNY BEEMER

When spring fever hits the air, most students look forward to spending time outside. But for Coach John Brackett, spring is a time of action and adventure as he coaches Wesleyan's 1993 women's softball team.

"This will be an exciting year," he said, "because we're a better team and we've added some new talent."

There are several new freshmen recruits this year, with whom Coach Brackett is looking forward to working. Jennifer Littlejohn from Connecticut is an outfielder. Jennifer Jones from Virginia is an infielder at second base. Tammy Bowen, also from Virginia, will play first base and also pitch, and Diana Friedrich from Rocky Mount will be the catcher

So far, captains for the team have not been chosen, but there are several qualities which Brackett said he will look for: an upperclassman, a good leader, and a person who sets a good example for others.

"My assistant, Coach Davis, and I will be looking for these qualities in individuals throughout practices," he said.

Last year the team finished well as they took third place in the conference and went 19-11

"We're an older team this year even though there are some pieces we have to fill in," Brackett said. "As a team we're talented in all positions. We have players who are good in pitching and hitting. As a team we have good speed and defense.

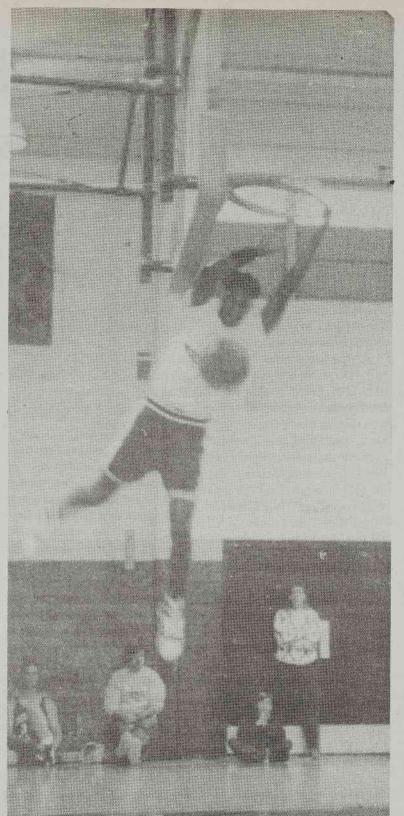
"This year," he said, "we'll be in the thick of the race."

The rivals to look out for will be Methodist College and Christopher Newport, teams that tied for second place in the conference last year. Ferrum and Averett will also be strong teams to beat.

Writers needed

The Decree needs writers and reporters.
The staff meets every Thursday at 4:15 p.m. in the Spruill Building, Stop by!

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SOARING HIGH — Randy Little slams home a dunk to finish second in the Slam Dunk Contest held last Saturday and Sunday at Edwards Junior High School as part of the YWCA's fundraising Hoop Fest. Little and his team placed second overall in the tournament. (Photo by Nicole Cox.)

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Men's team defeats Methodist College in tourney opener

The men's basketball team hosted Methodist College on Tuesday night in the opening round of the DIAC Tournament, coming away with a 71-54 win.

"Now it's playoff time," said Coach Bill Chambers as the Bishops travel to Christopher Newport University today to play Ferrum at 7:30 p.m.

"Ferrum is a difficult game for us, but if we really focus in, I think we can win it," he said. Chamber is very optimistic about the tournament.

"We have a chance to win the tournament," he said. "We have enough talent to win it."

The men's basketball team split its two games the previous week, defeating Averett College 90-63 on Feb. 17 and then losing to Greensboro College 100-78 on Saturday.

In Wednesday's impressive win, scoring was lead by sophomore Shawn Mobley with 22 points, and junior Rob Bland collected 12 rebounds.

"We had a good win against Averett here at home," said Chambers. "We really got after them defensively and I was proud of the way we bounced back after our loss to Ferrum. Everyone played and it was good to see five players hit double figures in scoring."

The Bishops then traveled to Greensboro College on Saturday to face the Hornets for the second time this season. In the previous meeting, Greensboro won 71-62 in Rocky Mount. The Bishops trailed at the half by only six points, 47-41, but could never catch up as they fell by 22.

Bland had the hot hand in scoring 18 points and also collected a team-high seven rebounds.

"Our Greensboro game was a key game and we really came out fired up," said Chambers. "We didn't play badly, but Greensboro was truly hot and played one of their best games of the year."

The team is now 11-11 overall and 4-5 in the Dixie Conference.

Intramural Update

Softball Registration — Men's Women's Co-Rec

Registration OpensFeb. 23
Registration ClosesMarch 4
Organizational MeetingMarch 15, 7 p.m., SAC

For more information, come by the IM-REC sports office or call Nelson "Coop" Cooper at Extension 5226.

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