



Curtis Hunter Attributes Success To Close Family Ties

By B. Dawson and Milton Jordan

When it comes to choosing a college where he will undoubtedly showcase his awesome basketball skills for four superlative years, Curtis Hunter wants just three things:

★ A college where he will get a good education. He's interested in computers and early childhood education.

★ A coaching staff that will care about him as a person and a student, as well as an athlete.

★ A school that is close enough that he can stay at home with his mother.

As a matter of fact, that last consideration might be more important than the other two, not because Hunter, 18, is a "mamma's boy", but because the Hunter family is so close knit that they are unwilling to trade that closeness for anything. For the past ten years, it's been just the three of them: Hunter, his mother, Mrs. Dorethea Hunter, and his younger sister, Priscilla, 16. None of them is anxious to change that, though according to Mrs. Hunter, she accepts her son's decision, whatever it is.

So when Hunter, a stellar standout at Southern High School for the last three years and this year's high school player of the year, announces his college choice at an April 1 press conference, it almost assuredly will be a North Carolina college. And since Duke University is the closest of Hunter's

final three choices, among North Carolina colleges that recruited him this year, Duke seems to hold the inside track.

During a recent interview in the comfortable and tastefully decorated living room of the apartment they share near Wellon's Village, Hunter made it very clear that family closeness played a major role in his college decision.

"I can't leave her," he said emphatically, nodding toward his attractive 37-year-old mother who, for the past ten years, has headed the family alone. "We are all so close in this family that the idea of leaving never really crossed my mind."

The Hunter family closeness grew from the pain of a marriage that went sour more than ten years ago, and the struggle the family faced when Mrs. Hunter packed herself, her children and some meager belongings together and left her husband. The day was Friday, October 13, 1972, a day often associated with bad luck. Mrs. Hunter considers it the day their lives took a turn for the better.

"It took me a long time to get up enough courage to say that I could make it on my own," explained Mrs. Hunter, a slender, chocolate tan woman, with laughing brown eyes, and a quiet, but firm demeanor. "But once I made up my mind, that was the turning point, and once I left, I knew I could never go back. That would be

like failing."

Failure is not an acceptable Hunter family trait.

For years, Mrs. Hunter worked two jobs, and therefore was forced to trust her children to come home from school and fend for themselves, staying in the house until she came home from work.

"Curtis was never any problem," she said. "He always did what I asked him to do, including looking out for his younger sister. He always seemed to sense that if he did wrong, it would just make it that much harder on me, and he was always trying to help me out."

Vowing to never remarry as long as her children were at home, Mrs. Hunter devoted her life to her children. They reciprocated in kind. So those life-lasting traits such as self-discipline, trust, devotion and helping each other out were taught in the Hunter family not so much by instruction as by the daily reality of the family's struggle to survive.

The days began early, and after school Hunter was responsible for his sister's afternoon snack. He had to face homework alone.

The experiences taught him well.

Today, the payoffs help me out." (Continued on Page 6)

Black College Basketball Teams In Finals

By Larry Barber

Black college identity in national collegiate athletics has come a long way, and still has a long way to go, but opportunities in recent years have emerged, and black institutions are making the best of them. This season's basketball campaign certainly attests to the fact.

Last Saturday night in Springfield, Massachusetts, the University of the District of Columbia won the 1982 NCAA Division II Basketball Championship. The Firebirds defeated defending champion Florida Southern 73-63 for the title, and finished the season with a 23-5 record. UDC prevailed by constantly attacking on offense and surprised

the Moccasins when applying frustrating pressure on the defensive end.

UDC used the usual intimidating force of seven-foot center Earl Jones, and the equally talented Michael Britt, a 6-7 forward, to shatter Florida Southern. After a 36-35 halftime lead, the Firebirds heated up to an eight-point advantage four minutes into the second half. Florida Southern eased back within two, but Jones turned two quick baskets and a steal near the nine-minute mark to send UDC up 58-47. Britt, who had pumped in 40 points in the semi-final win over California-Bakersville, gunned down four straight baskets to take the bite out of the Moccasins.

Jones, an All-American, finished the championship contest with 24 points and five rebounds. Britt, also an All-American, concluded the night with 20 points and eight rebounds.

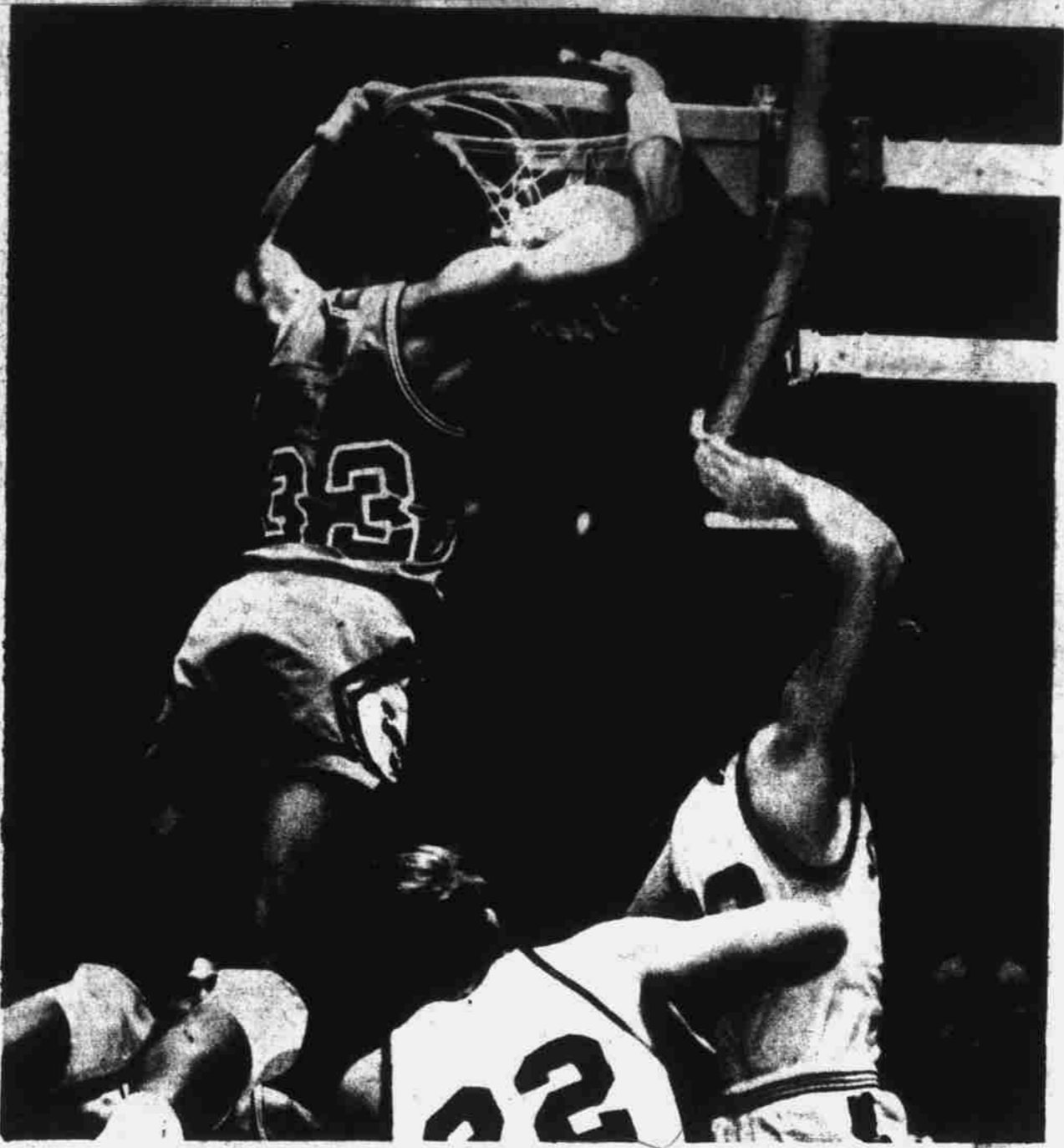
UDC head coach Wil Jones, looking very spiffy on the televised game, had a lot to smile about, and he has more to smile about for next season, as all his players return in 1982-83.

Tuskegee Institute's women were also in Springfield for a shot at the national title last weekend. The Tigerettes fought gamely before succumbing to a good California-Pomona team 93-74.

Another black college women's team made the final four in the NCAA Division I Championship scheduled for this weekend in Norfolk, Virginia. The Cheyney State Lady Wolves won the East Regional in Raleigh (NC) Saturday night, and will play the University of Maryland Friday, March 26. Cheyney won the East by beating Kansas State 93-71. All-American Yolanda Laney scored 26 points to lead the winners, and Val Walker, also an All-American, popped in 24 and had nine rebounds. The Lady Wolves are now 27-2.

Hampton Institute's men finished third in the NAIA national finals held two weeks ago in Kansas City by winning the consolation contest 98-94 over Kearney State. Hampton lost a semi-final match to eventual champion South Carolina-Spartanburg 68-54.

A little closer to home, the women of Louisburg Junior College of North Carolina (not considered a black school) had another fabulous year, and made it all the way to the junior college national finals in Overland (Continued on Page 6)



Hoyas "Darth Vader"

Georgetown's Pat Ewing (33) will lead the Hoyas into the final four Saturday against Louisville at the Superdome in New Orleans. It's Georgetown's first time making it into the semi-finals since 1943. Last season's runner-up, UNC-Chapel Hill, faces Houston in game two of Saturday's final four action.

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SPRING SALE

12 Players Sign Grants to NCCU

Henry C. Lattimore, head football coach and athletic at NCCU, has announced the signing of 12 prepsters to grants-in-aid to North Carolina Central University for the 1982 season. Ten of the signees are from North Carolina with the others coming from Georgia and Maryland.

Durhamite Mike Huey, an All-Big 6 selectee from Jordan, follows his father to the Maroon & Gray. Other area players going to Central are the Chapel Hill tandem of Jeffrey Purefoy and John Jacobs.

NCCU Signees			
Linemen			
Marvin Burris	6-3	260	Shelby, NC
Ben Daniels	6-4	280	Winterville, NC
Thomas Faust	6-2	235	Baltimore, MD
David Hands	6-1	250	Wilmington, NC
Michael Huey	6-3	249	Durham, NC
Charles Patton	6-3	250	Charlotte, NC
William Peace	6-6	249	Atlanta, GA
Backs			
Lemar Foster	6-3	190	Charlotte, NC
Robert Green	6-2	185	Charlotte, NC
John Jacobs	5-11	190	Chapel Hill, NC
Tim Newman	5-11	195	Charlotte, NC
Jeffrey Purefoy	5-8	165	Chapel Hill, NC

Hazel Plummer Bowling Scores

The Hazel B. Plummer Bowling League scores for March 22:

Ladies high game:	213-Flo Roberson, 211-Roz Leslie, 191-Bernice Snipes.
Ladies high series:	581-Flo Roberson, 560-Roz Leslie, 521-Priscilla Malloy.
Men's high game:	213-A.C. Caviness, 212-Eric Roberson, 203-Robert Curtis.
Men's high series:	559-James Parker, 547-Jim Dyer, 547-Linwood Taylor.
Others:	190-Priscilla Malloy, 513-Bernice Snipes, 190, 503-Nancy Rowland, 193-James Parker, 542-A.C. Caviness, 202, 528-Ken Snipes, 508-Booth Smith, 513-Bill Little, 201-Linwood Taylor, 507-Robert Curtis, 507-Bill Adderly, 533-Ron Miller, 515-Howard Fitts, 507 Willie Finch, 523-George Thorne.
High Team Game:	885-Jive Five
High Team Series:	2436-Lots of Luck



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