

## Howard's Mentor *From page 9*

this season.

George Hamilton, a 6-2 guard from Suitland, Md., has provided the outside shooting and Mike Jones, another freshman who is the son of former Grambling and Washington Bullet great Jimmy Jones, has also matured and made solid contributions from the guard position.

In addition, Robert McIlwaine, a 6-8 freshman center from Winston-Salem, N.C., has come along nicely in the middle. Meanwhile, the Bison senior forwards, Kevin Scott and David Wynn, have provided stability and leadership.

For recruiting quality players and developing them rapidly, Williamson refuses to take all the credit. He says his assistant coach, Cy Alexander, whom many regard as the finest assistant in the conference, should receive the accolades.

"There's no question about it, Cy is a great asset to the program," says Williamson. "We work well together as a team and that's very important to the success of the program here."

But Williamson says recruiting is becoming more and more difficult, particularly when he has to compete with the University of Maryland,

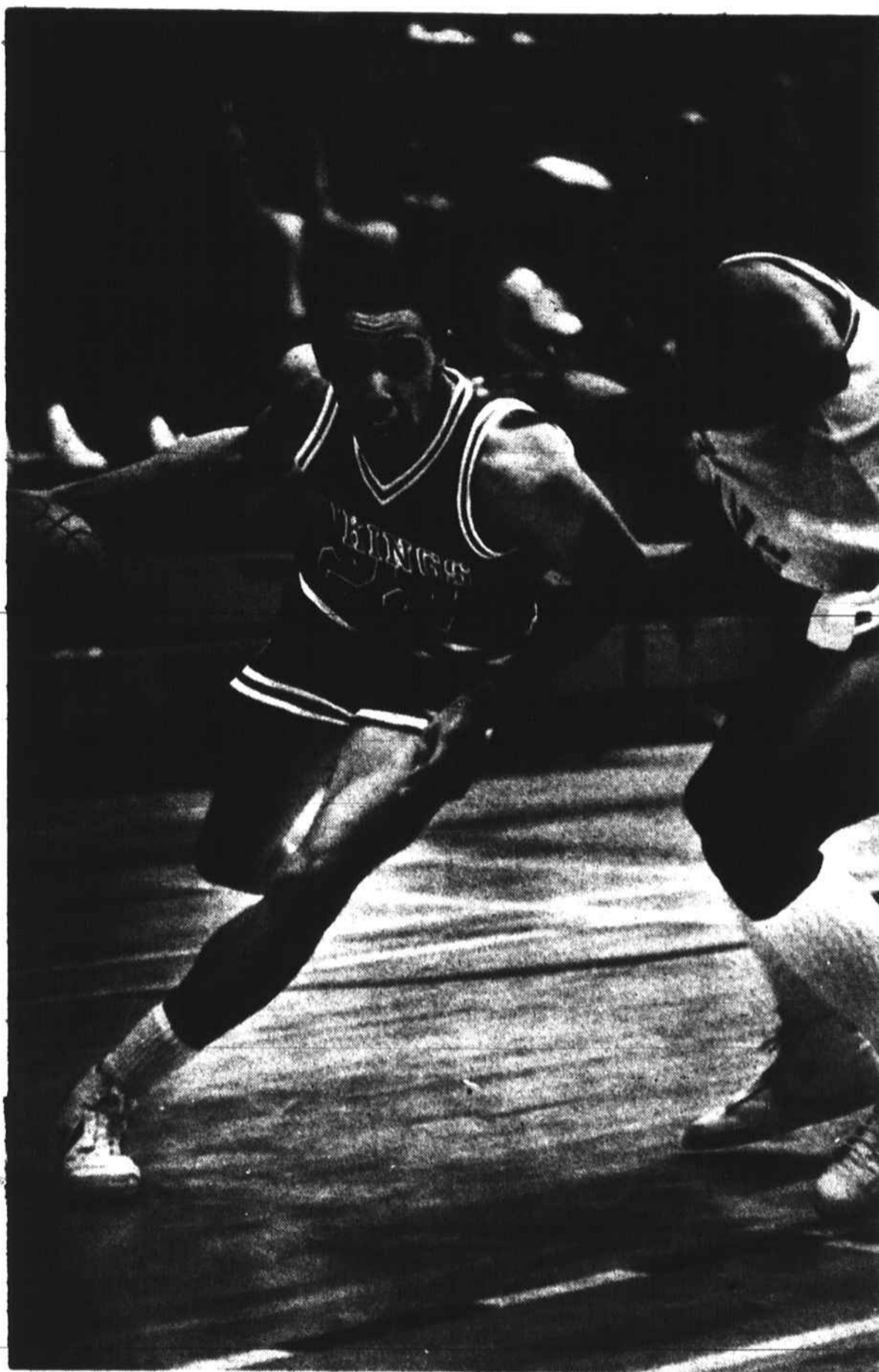
Georgetown, George Washington, George Mason, American University and the University of the District of Columbia for blue-chip players.

"It's becoming so very hard to recruit," he says. "It's like a full-time job in itself. You may identify a player who you feel can help your program. But he may not project academically. So you may have to go after another player who may be able to do the work academically, but who may not be able to make a significant contribution to your program right away."

Despite the uncertainties and sometimes frustrations that come with college coaching, Williamson says he enjoys the challenge.

There is, however, one burning desire he has. "I want to be the first coach at a predominantly black institution to be successful in the NCAA tournament," he says. "You have to go there and be in one in order to realize what it's like. It's an unbelievable experience and you can easily be awed by it all if you're not careful."

"But I really feel that if I get the opportunity to get there again, I can be successful."



Elizabeth City guard James Martin, a dangerous shooter, turns the corner against Bluefield State College (photo by James Parker).

## Hot Line To A Title

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was finding opponents. The Pantherettes' schedule includes just 20 regular-season games, seven below the NCAA max.

"I made a lot of calls, trying to get games outside the CIAA," he says. "Most weren't interested, and the ones that were said we had to come and play

them at their place.

"I said 'We're national champs. You come here.'"

As a result, the Pantherettes will no doubt try to make up for a lack of regular-season games with plenty of post-season action.

## Trojans' Little Big Man *From page 18*

Md., where he attended Dunbar High School. The Poets won three straight championships during his career at Dunbar and, in Wood's senior campaign, he was named 1980's Player of the Year. He later enrolled at VSU and has contributed significantly to the basketball team's fortunes.

In late November against Livingstone, Virginia State's first CIAA opponent of the year, Wood pumped in 21 points despite sprain-

ing his ankle in the first half. Playing in pain, Wood still scored 10 points in the second half as Virginia State won 86-73 and improved its record to 3-0.

"We were satisfied with the win; however, we realized that we let up and did not play up to our potential. We are not taking anyone else lightly," assures Wood.

Thus far, Dwayne's size has been no major disadvantage, as Saint Paul's Tigers can no doubt attest.

In the Trojans' first home ap-

pearance of the season, Wood hustled relentlessly up and down the court, forced several turnovers and even came up with a few rebounds as the Trojans beat the Tigers. To put the icing on the cake, Dwayne finished the game with 20 points.

"A lot was at stake in the game," he says. "St. Paul's beat us twice last year and the losses really did hurt the team. We are one game up on them this year, though."

Dwayne chooses models well. "I

like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Nate Archibald," he says.

And, although he may never lead the league in rebounding, he's well on his way to leading the CIAA in assists and steals. After 17 games, Wood totaled 104 assists and 68 steals.

"I want to go out a winner," notes Wood of his last season as a Trojan. "I graduated from high school as a winner and I would like to leave Virginia State the same way."

## Applicants Plentiful For Post

More than 150 men have applied for the head basketball coaching job at Florida A&M. The Rattlers, who hope to name a coach by the end of this month, are seeking a permanent replacement for Josh Giles, who resigned before the season to become an assistant at the University of New Orleans. Tony Fields, an assistant to

Giles last year, has served as interim coach this season. Fields is among the candidates for the permanent position, but his chances are not considered good. FAMU, headed for its fourth losing season in five years, is 4-14 at press time, including a dismal 1-5 in the MEAC.

## Tops In The Nation

Norfolk State University continues to lead all Division II teams in basketball attendance. The Spartans average just over 5,000 fans per game, and consistently outdraw Norfolk's other university, predominantly white Old Dominion.