

CIAA WOMEN

Lady Spartans Should Do It Again

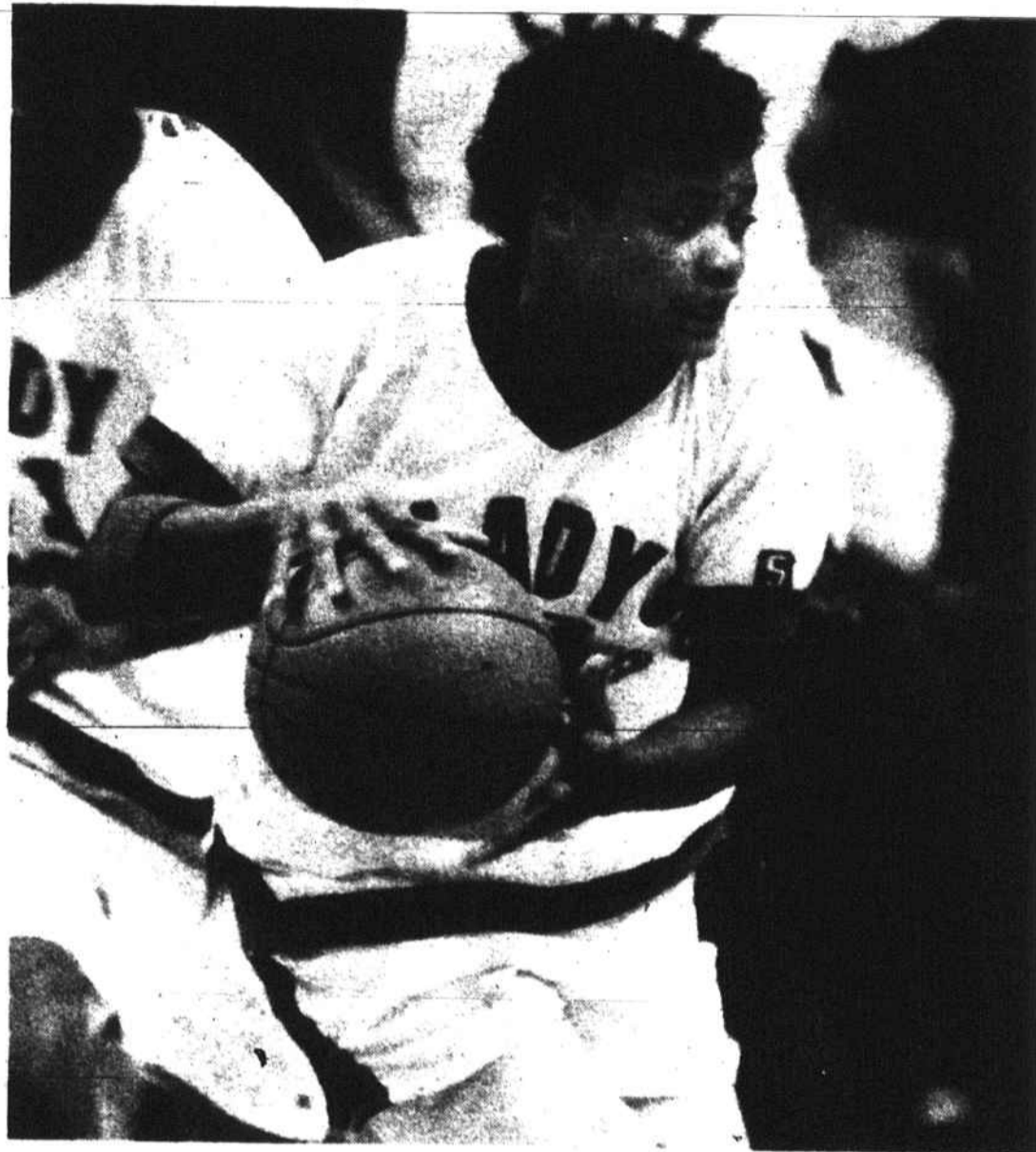
The CIAA Women's Basketball Tournament, Feb. 22-27 in Richmond looks like its going to be same old, same ole.

Norfolk State looks like it will rule. The Spartans, coached by James Sweat, have won the past two women's titles, and look more than ready to make a run for their third.

Consider that Norfolk (18-1) as on

son C. Smith. St. Augustine's has Carolyn Brown, the leading scorer in the CIAA and one of the nation's top scorers. Union has a balanced attack and has given everybody a tough game this season. Hampton has lost only three times to conference competition.

But, the heavy, heavy favorite is Norfolk State. The Spartans have got the talent, the experience and likely



J.C. Smith's Carolyn Brown is leading the way in CIAA play.

J.C. Smith has the leading scorer in Carolyn Brown, but will find it most difficult to beat Norfolk.

Feb 7, hasn't lost to a CIAA opponent this season - no other conference team can claim such a feat - and the Spartans are ranked No. 10 in the country. And on top of that, Sweat genuinely believes that six of his players should make the all-conference team and could start for anybody in Division II. Anybody. But even Sweat admits that there is more parity this year in the women's race, just as it is in the men's.

"I think the tournament is really anybody's to win, he said. "I think we have a good chance along with John-

the best coach in the league in Sweat, who became one of only 10 Division II women's coaches to win 300 games earlier this season.

"We've been fortunate to not lose a conference game," Sweat said. "But there's more parity in the league this year. I mean, a lot of people have played us tough. Who's going to win this thing will depend on who's healthy and who's ready to play mentally. But we've been there before and our girls are ready."

Don't bet against them.

Women Players To Watch

Shani Baraka, J.C. Smith, G, 5-1, Jr. - She makes the Bulls go. Baraka has three triple-doubles - double figures in three statistical categories - this season and is averaging about 19 points and 10-assists in games played in 1993. She also gets 3.3 steals per game and shoots nearly 40% from three-point range. A definite player of the year candidate.

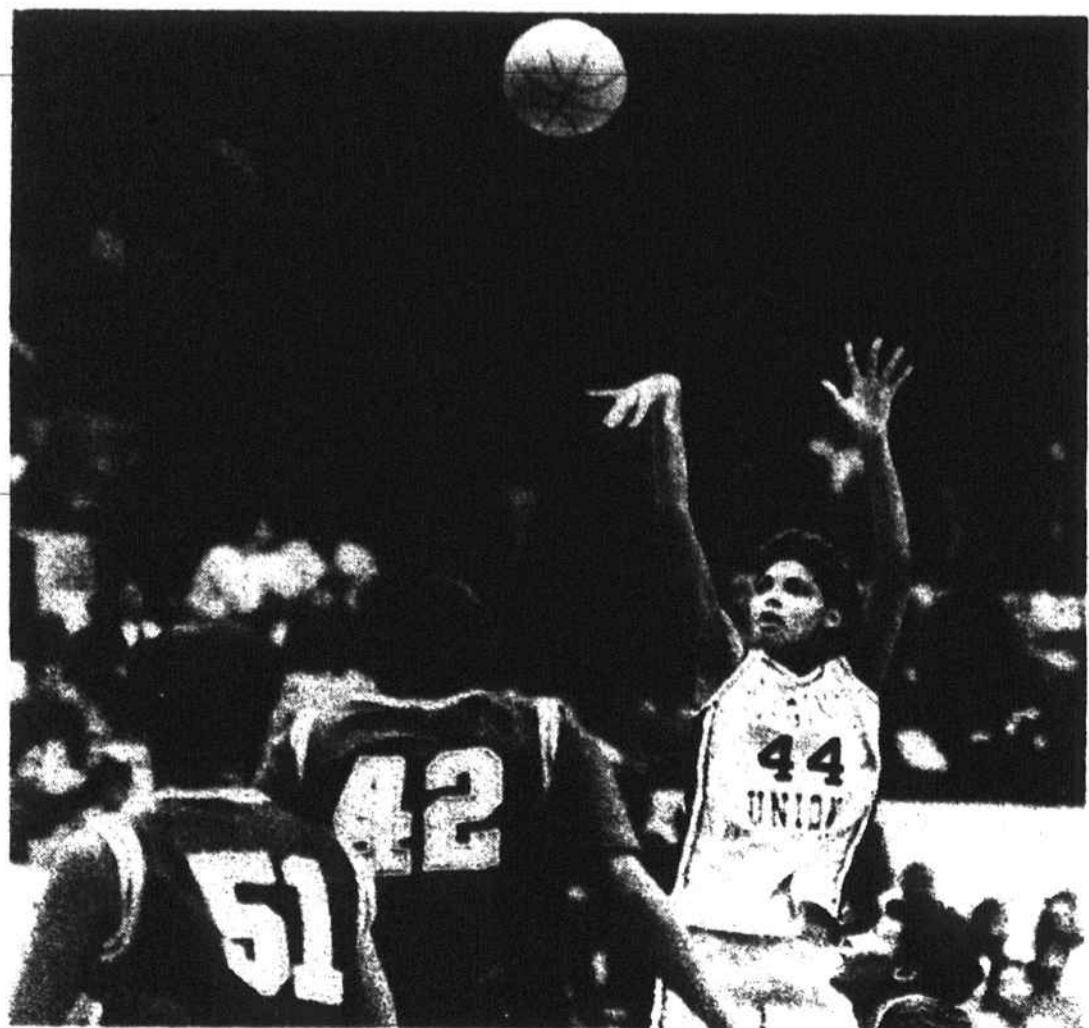
Carolyn Brown, St. Augustine's, G-F, 5-8, Sr - Without question, Brown is the premier player in the league. Some other ladies are call candidates for player of the year, but that's about as far as they should go. Brown can handle the basketball, pass

it, shoot it, everything. She has no weakness, and her 29 points and 7 steals per game average attests.

Hycynthia Spells, Norfolk State, C, 6-1 Jr. - Likely the premier big player in the league, Spells gets 18 points and 10 rebounds per game. She also blocks 2.1 shots per game. If Brown weren't around, you could make a very, very serious case for Spells as the CIAA player of the year.

Jennine Tanks, Norfolk averages 16 points and 5 assists per game and 4.8 steals. She's having a banner year, and her team is so talented that a few more Spartans could be listed here. But two's enough.

— *Langston Wertz, Jr.*



Tamika Barber, 6'1" Soph., center, should improve Va. Union's chances of winning it all.

Next Year's CIAA Tournament-
Lawrence Joel Coliseum
Winston-Salem, N.C.
1994-1996