



TELLING IT LIKE IT REALLY IS!.....

A thought to remember: He who lives at high tension usually blows a fuse!.....

This is the week when Black Americans, especially those who reside along the eastern seaboard, focus their attention on the city of Norfolk, Virginia.

That's because this is the week the famed Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association stages its annual Basketball Tournament in the Norfolk Scope, an impressive arena that comfortably seats about 11,000 fans. It's also the week when the merchants in Norfolk area sing merrily all the way to the banks, with an estimated \$5 million in revenues derived from this gala attraction.

Neither the city of Norfolk, its popular sports arena, nor the hotels and motels and restaurants in the area are equipped to accommodate the influx of the basketball-mad crowd that will converge on this seaport town this weekend.

Early estimations are that 20,000 spectators will trek to Norfolk, and little less than half of them will not be fully aware of the fact that basketball is being played in town during the week. Traditionally, the other half shows up annually just for the brag rights of having been on or near the scene of action. Consequently about 9,000 will spend their time in pursuit of arm-bending pleasantries.

It's the biggest show on earth for blacks. Some experts even compare it with the top five college-sponsored tournaments in the Americas.

The Hoopla began Wednesday when 12 of the conference's 14 schools opened battle for the championship Norfolk State won a year ago. It will continue through Saturday night, and into Sunday morning, long after the championship has been decided.

Virginia Union, a team that whipped everybody enroute to a 27-0 record, has been chosen by the experts as the team that will win it all. The Panthers, they predict, are in a class by themselves. In short, the 1984-85 CIAA basketball race turned out to be a chase between Virginia Union and the "others." No league team has offered stiff competition. Nor have non-league opponents provided the kind of opposition that hampered Dave Robbin's Team's run to its first unbeaten season in modern times.

They won the northern division title by a wide margin and they have knocked off each opponent with relative ease.

Led by Charles Oakley and Jamie Waller, Virginia Union leads the conference in team scoring, team scoring defense, team scoring margin, team rebounding and team rebounding margin. In addition, the Panthers hold the individual lead in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage.

Oakley is setting the pace in individual scoring, with a 24.3 scoring average. Waller is slightly behind, in third place among the league's top point producers, with a 20.9 scoring average. Oakley has hauled down 17.8 rebounds per game to lead in that vital department and Waller has hit the nets with 64.1 percent of his floor shots.

As a team, the Panthers have been shooting the lights out, having averaged 90.6 points per contest. They've outscored their opponents by the wide margin of 21.5 points a contest. Their rebounding margin is 15.3 per game.

The 40th CIAA tournament will have numerous road-blocks and upsets are expected to be as plentiful as spectators who do not attend the famed dribble session.

Norfolk State, Winston-Salem State and Elizabeth City State are the teams mostly likely to succeed in keeping the Panthers away from their seventh championship since this tourney began back in 1945.

Norfolk State, with the classy Ralph Tally setting the scoring pace, is the team the experts rate a strong second to powerful Virginia Union. The Spartans have posted a commendable 19-5 record and have mildly threatened the Panthers throughout the campaign. They're 9-3 in the northern division.

Another plus factor is the great coaching of head coach Charles Christian, who has won 83 percent of his tournament games, including the 1984 championship. Christian had won four tourney crowns prior to capturing the 1983-84 title.

Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, who has a lineup that's populated with "little men", is another threat. Bighouse's Winston-Salem State Rams won five of their last six contests to finish first in the southern division, with a 9-3 mark. Overall, they're 14-10. However, Gaines leads the CIAA both in tournament games and titles won. He owns eight crowns and has 50 victories in 29 tournament appearances.

The true "darkhorse" of the 40th CIAA Tournament could be the Shaw Bears, who made a serious run for the southern division title until the final game. Coach Warren Reynolds' crew is headed by such "good people" as David Lacy, Vincent Johnson, Andre Sheppard and Wayne Dubose. Lacy is the circuit's fifth best point maker with a 20.5 scoring average. He has found the nets with a respectable 59 percent of his shots from the floor. Johnson is the team's top rebounder and shot blocker.

In CIAA Tournament

Bob Moore Looks For Impressive Showing

By LaShun Lawson
Post Staff Reporter

Bob Moore went into the 40th CIAA Basketball Tournament at the Norfolk Scope Wednesday morning with high hopes of making an impressive showing.

His Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls which finished the year with a 7-5 Southern Division record, met Virginia State in the opening rounds, a team they whipped 117-113 during the regular season.

Moore perceives his chances of winning the coveted title as "very good."

"Past records do not matter and neither does the team's," Moore explained adding, "With better win-loss records all of those things are thrown out at tournament time."

The Johnson C. Smith coach is a veteran of tournament play. In 10 appearances he has posted a non-too-impressive record which includes only four victories and 10 defeats for a lowly .286 percentage. He won three tournament contests while coaching at Virginia Union and he has registered only one tournament triumph since coming to J.C. Smith in 1978.

The second Johnson C. Smith coach to win 100 or more games, Moore says his team will go in with a "killer attitude and play to win."

He pins his hope on sophomore Dante Johnson and senior Michael Singleton, the team's leading scorer and top guard, respectively. Moore indicated he will start Reggie Moses, Keith Green and James Sharkley, along with Johnson and Singleton.

Green is getting the call over Eddie Johnson, who has played with the regulars most of the campaign. David Marks will not be available. He sustained an injury in a recent auto accident.

Team spokesman Singleton believes the Bulls will defeat the Trojans. "Generally we have an



Bob Moore
...J.C. Smith coach

advantage because our opponents tend to underestimate us. We will go in with a winning attitude and give a 100 percent effort," he stated.

John Dennis agrees with Singleton

stating "We have the potential to win the title."

The tournament got underway Wednesday morning (February 27) with Bowie State facing Shaw Uni-

versity at 9 a.m.; Virginia State and J.C. Smith battled at 11 a.m.; Elizabeth City met Fayetteville State at 1 p.m.; N.C. Central and Norfolk State collided at 7 p.m.; and Hampton University and Livingston squared off at 9 p.m.

Virginia Union and Winston-Salem St. both will by-pass the first round because they were first in the divisions.

The action will resume Thursday at 1 p.m. with Winston-Salem State competing with the winner of game three followed by a battle between the winners of games two and four at 3 p.m. The winners of games one and six will compete at 7 p.m. Thursday at 9 p.m. Virginia Union will compete with the victors of game five.

Semifinals take place Friday at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. with the victors of Thursday games.

The women's champions game will take place Friday before the moment of truth. The men's championship game at 8 p.m. Saturday will determine the CIAA champs.

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