

## CIAA SCOUTING REPORTS *continued*

precariously thin at only 200 pounds, and contributions from a recruiting class that includes North Carolina products Ken Flemming, (6-3, all-4-A, from Fayetteville Smith) and James McNeil (6-3, from Durham Hillside, a couple hundred feet down the street from conference rival North Carolina Central).

A third 6-3 guard, Clodious Hughes, who scored 16.5 points per game at West Philadelphia High, also is expected to contribute, as is 6-9 center Rowan Gomes of Antigua.

In other words, Hampton's potential is as abundant as its question marks.

They probably won't repeat last year's 23-7 record and conference championship, but the Pirates could make the North race a bit more interesting than Virginia Union fans expect it to be.

"This year's team will have to play smart basketball," says Ford. "We don't have the physical strength that we had before. We are going to have to scrap and claw and take advantage of our opponents' mistakes."

And, considering all the newcomers, minimize their own.

If Hampton falters, and that is a distinct possibility, Norfolk State will move into second place. The Spartans, who have the advantage of playing the CIAA tourney in their hometown, also have the advantage of suiting up all-American David Pope.

Pope is a three-year starter who averaged 20.9 points and 11.3 rebounds last season to lead Norfolk to a second-place finish in the tournament and a 20.9 record.

Other returning starters include 5-11 senior guard Billy Walker (12.9 points and 5.6 assists per game) and 6-1 guard Lawrence Hayes.

Bringing up the rear in the Northern Division will be Saint Paul's (which lost most of its inside power in 6-6 center Lawrence Carr and 6-7 forward Walt Buchanan), Virginia State (which lost its one-two punch of Julius Norman and Darrell Stith), Elizabeth City State (which should be better than last session's 8-20 record, but not that much better) and Bowie State (which should improve from terrible to bad).

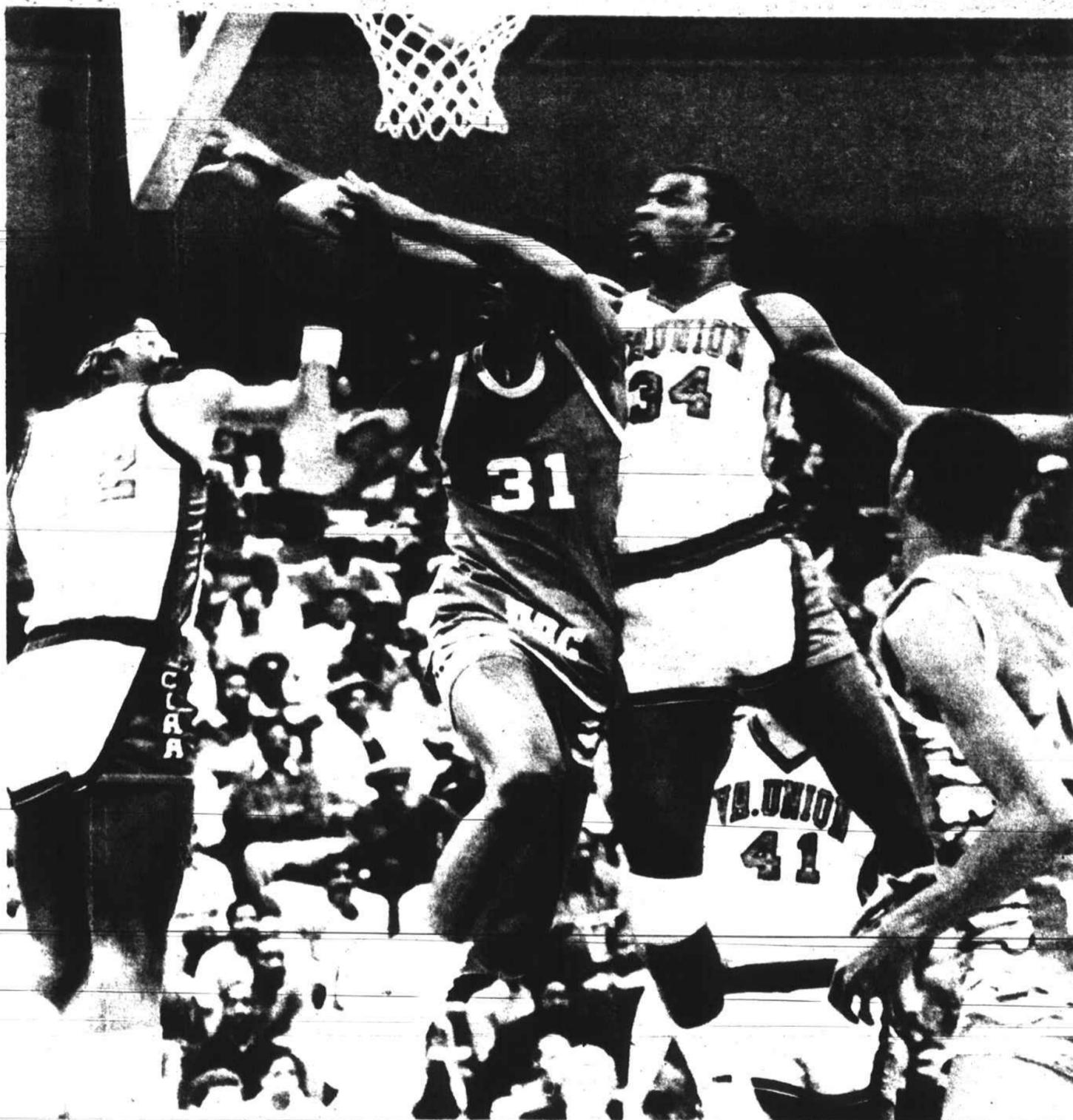
### Southern Division

Maybe the best way to determine the champion here is to put all the teams' names into a hat and draw blindfolded.

Though uncertainty is routine in CIAA ball, it becomes even more conspicuous in the CIAA South this year, where the balance of power is likely to shift to Lord knows where.

The coaches picked defending Southern champ St. Augustine's in a pre-season poll, but the Falcons, who were 22-6 last year and made the NCAA tournament, lost the heart of their attack in all-CIAA forwards Donald Carroll and Mark Davis.

North Carolina Central returns a



Union's Charles Oakley (34) gives UDC's Earl Jones a piece of his mind -- and body (photo by Joe Daniels).

strong cast, but lost top scorer David Binion, the all-league forward who averaged 16 rebounds a game to lead the nation.

Winston-Salem State looks solid, but remains a team of guards and forwards with no true big man.

Fayetteville State has started well this year....But enough beating around the bush; here are my picks:

Vastly improved North Carolina Central should rule the South -- with about as firm a hand as a South American dictator rules his country between coups.

Even with David Binion (the brother of North Carolina A&T's Joe Binion), the Eagles could only manage a disappointing 11-14 record last year.

But four starters return, and NCCU is uncharacteristically big for a CIAA team, with 6-8 senior center Charles Murphy (11.9 points, 7.9 rebounds) 6-8 junior reserve center Ronnie Winston and 6-8 freshman centers Rodney Davis and Rodney Berry.

Six-three senior guard Darnell Evans (16.1 points, 4.1 rebounds) and 5-11 senior point guard Mike Wright (12.8

points) provide firepower and leadership.

Up the road a piece in Raleigh, St. Augustine's lost two key starters from last year's team, which, in the opinion of many, was the most talented in the CIAA.

With forwards Donald Carroll and Mark Davis have gone nearly 40 points and 21 rebounds a game.

But forward Anthony Rogers (a pre-season all-CIAA pick) does return but point guard Emanuel Chapman, who averaged 9.3 assists in '82-83, is gone and that puts added pressure on 6-4 senior guard Randy Franks.

Coach Harvey Heartley must fit the rest of the puzzle together somehow, and, knowing him, he probably will.

Winston-Salem State calls its athletic facility the Gaines Complex, which sounds sufficiently impressive to honor WSSU's legendary coach, but a more succinct name might have been simply The Big House.

In any event, Bighouse has Bigplans for his not-so-Bigteam this year.

Six lettermen and three starters return from last year's 15-12 team that

had its share of ups and downs, but added considerable drama to the CIAA tournament by beating Bowie State and Virginia State before barely losing to eventual champion Hampton Institute in the semifinals, 66-63.

When they're on, the Rams can run and gun with the best of 'em, led by 6-3 junior guard Troy Russell (18.1-point average). But he who liveth by the jump shot dieth by the brick, which the Rams sometimes throw when the jumper deserts them.

The Rams still have neither the bulk or the height to mix it up in the middle when their perimeter shooting falters. But they'll still be tough.

Elsewhere in the South, they'll finish like this: Johnson C. Smith. ("I can be satisfied with a losing record if each player put out 100 percent effort," says Coach Robert Moore), Fayetteville State (among Coach Jake Ford's recruits are Darryl Banks, brother of Gene, and a 6-10, 280-pound center named Willie Robinson), Shaw (Coach Warren Reynolds returns three starters) and Livingstone (Coach Jerry Fitch is back, but so is last year's mediocrity).