

**INSTANT REPLAYS**

**Playoffs Snub Black I-AA Teams**

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*Georgetown's Pat Ewing encounters heavy traffic in last year's NCAA tournament against Alcorn State's David Palmer (44) and Tommy Collier (photo by Jay Mather, copyright © 1983, The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Co. Reprinted with permission).*

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In a move that ranks right up there in illogic with the judging of pro boxing matches, no traditionally black schools were picked by the NCAA to compete in this year's Division I-AA football playoffs.

Even more incredibly, the SWAC, which easily is the strongest I-AA league in the nation, was among the conferences not invited to the NCAA's postseason party. That's like having a hall of fame for the best running backs in pro football and not inducting O.J. Simpson and Jim Brown.

True, part of the reason the SWAC didn't make the playoffs is that it lost its automatic berth, since Southern and Grambling play in the Bayou Classic after the NCAA deadline for regular-season games.

But there clearly were other strong SWAC teams that merited invitations, namely Jackson State and Mississippi Valley State.

As for the MEAC, which, thanks to Florida A&M's ineligibility, also lost its automatic berth, South Carolina State stayed home Thanksgiving weekend, too.

**Union Again**

They ought to create three divisions in the CIAA next year: A Northern Division, a Southern Division and a division for Virginia Union.

Though Union boasts the enrollment of a medium-sized high school and doesn't field a marching band, its football team can look awesome even when it's not clicking on all cylinders.

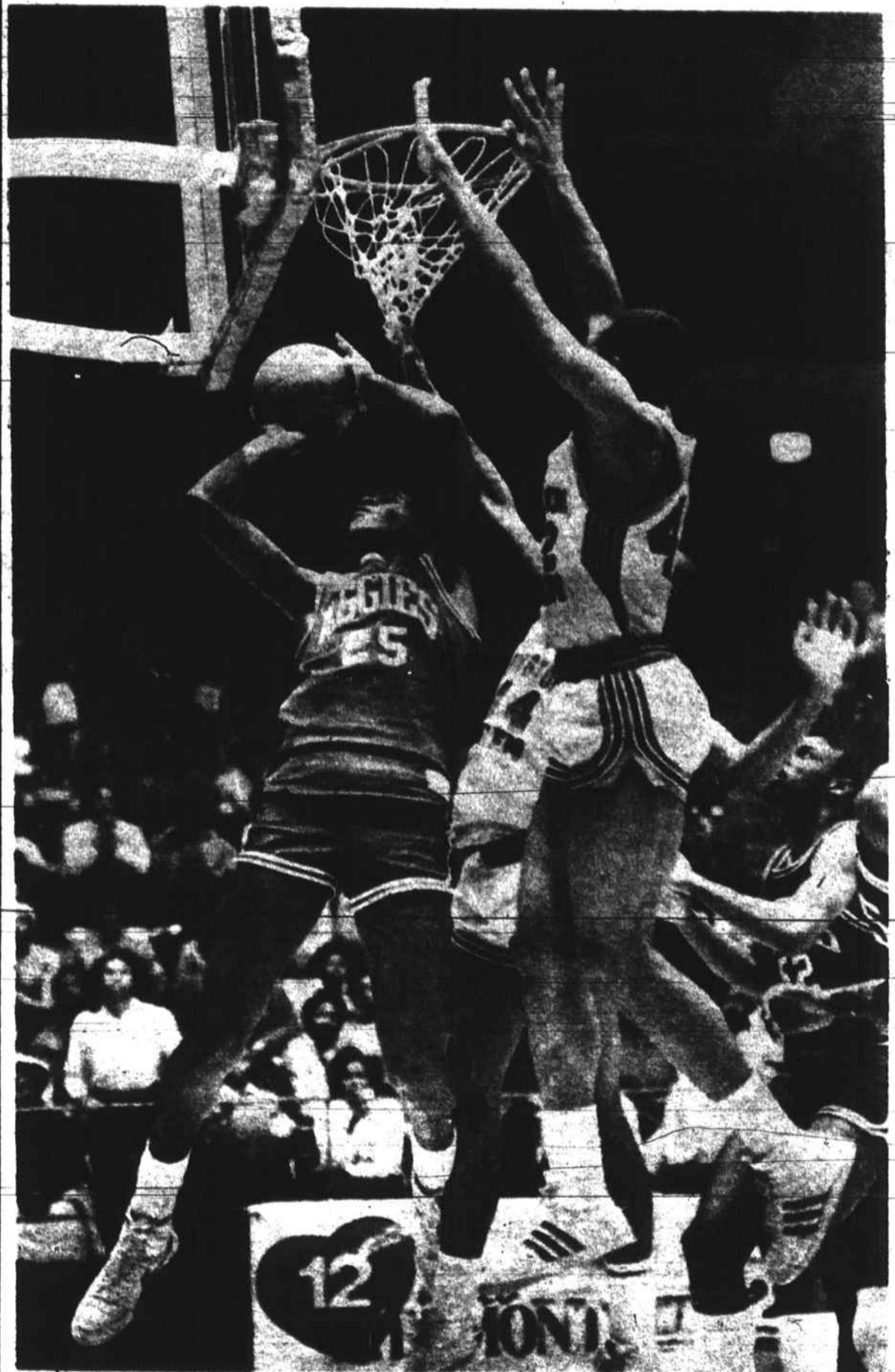
Ask Winston-Salem State, which lost to the Panthers this season by a combined score of 74-14.

The Rams' second lopsided defeat this year at the hands of Union came in the CIAA championship game at Winston.

Though Union's offense fizzled more than it sizzled, the defense generally manhandled WSSU's vaunted offensive line and running game.

The result was a 34-7 Panther victory and Union's third CIAA crown in a row, much to the chagrin of a WSSU home crowd that, like me, expected to see a close game.

Union's success bears testimony to a solid recruiting program that includes active alumni participation. And, lest anyone forget, the Panthers were 20-8 in men's basketball



**Yippee!**

**UDC and Alcorn State are going to play after all!**

last year and 27-2 in women's basketball, including a national championship.

Bring on the MEAC and the SWAC....

**The Union Problem**

Of course, on the other side of the coin is the money problem Virginia Union's success poses for the CIAA.

Though Union does quite well at drawing good athletes, it doesn't do

so well in drawing fans.

"People just don't follow Union in droves," says CIAA Commissioner Bob Moorman.

Thus, in Wake Forest University's cavernous Groves Stadium, which seats 31,500, only 7,625 fans bothered to show up on a warm, sunny Saturday afternoon that was, as the sportcasters like to say, perfect for college football.

Still, Moorman says the CIAA plans to stick to the present format of holding the championship game

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