

BASKETBALL ALL-STAR TEAM

Hornets' Jackson Our Player Of The Year

By ROBERT ELLER
Staff Writer

Alabama State's Lewis Jackson is the *Black College Sports Review's* first-ever Player of the Year as well as a member of its inaugural Black College All-America Team.

Jackson, a 6-6 senior forward who was also named Player of the Year this season in the Southwestern Athletic Conference, averaged 29 points per game this year to lead the SWAC and place second in the nation in scoring behind Akron's Joe Jacobick.

The Wetumpka, Ala., native also hit 58 percent of his shots from the field, despite constant double- and triple-teaming, and led Alabama State to a 22-6 record.

Jackson hit 86 percent of his free throws, best in the SWAC, while shooting a school-record 202 times from the line.

Jackson ended his career at Alabama State as the school's third-leading all-time scorer with 2,203 points. Says Coach James Oliver of the man who led his team to an NIT berth as a junior and made the tournament's all-star team to boot: "Lewis Jackson is probably the best and most complete basketball player I've had the opportunity to coach, and I've coached some pretty good ones, like Elmore Smith, Kevin Loder, Billy Ray Bates and Travis Grant (all present or former NBA players).

Jackson, a deadly outside shooter, will probably be shifted to guard in the NBA, where, according to scouts, he has a chance to be a first-round pick. Jackson has also been selected as one of 73 players from throughout the nation who will try out for the 1984 Olympic team.

Not far behind Jackson in the Player of the Year voting was Norfolk State's David Pope. The 6-7, 210-pound senior forward was named the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's Player of the Year in '84 while leading the Spartans to a 29-2 record, the number one ranking among Division II schools during the regular season and the CIAA Tournament title.

As the only senior on the Spartan roster, Pope, a native of Newport News, Va., led the league in scoring with a 24.5 point average and ranked third in rebounding, grabbing 12.7 misses per game.

A four-time all-CIAA pick, Pope was held under double figures in scoring only three times in his career and was named the NCAA Division II Player of the Year by *Basketball Weekly*. This season, he shot better than 57 percent from the field and was the only Division II player chosen to take part in the College All-Star Game in Seattle during the NCAA Division I Final Four.

Super-scout Marty Blake calls Pope the top pro prospect in Division II this



A Definite Pro Prospect

Alabama State: Lewis Jackson is a can't-miss pro, as far as his coach, James Oliver, is concerned (photo by Joe Daniels).

season.

Still another possible number one draft choice is the University of the District of Columbia's Earl Jones, a seven-footer who once was the most highly sought-after prepster in the nation but has been largely overlooked by the media since choosing to attend a

Division II black school.

In his four years at UDC, all Jones has done is lead the team to an NCAA Division II national title as a sophomore and the national finals last season. This season, he missed the team's first eight games with a hernia but came back to have an outstanding

year without a great deal of support from his teammates.

Says one Washington writer of Jones: "It may not look like Earl had a tremendous year, but he had all the weight on his shoulders. He was always triple-teamed and he even had to han-

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