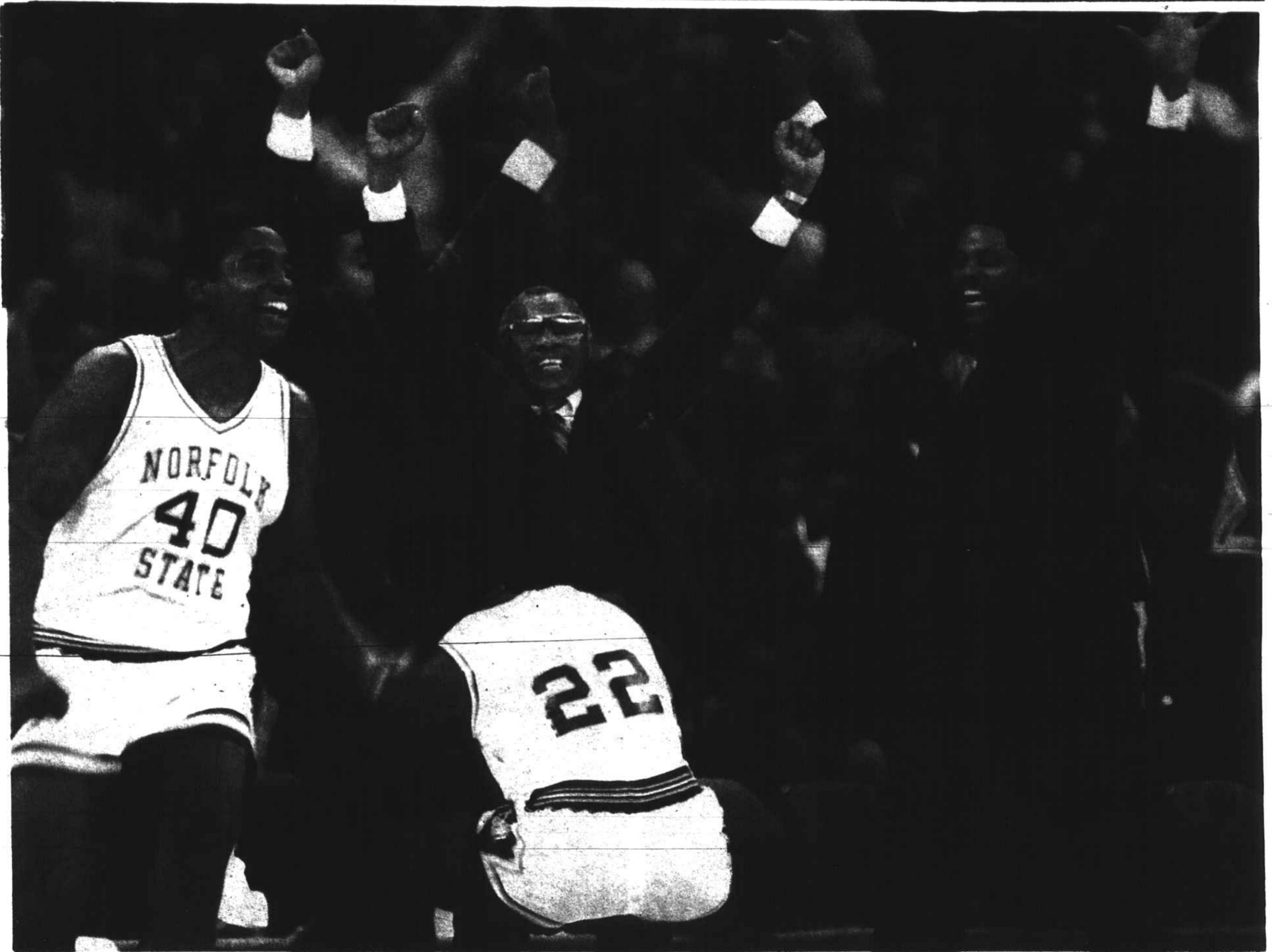


THE NCAA PLAYOFFS**Jubilation**

Norfolk State's Charles Christian, center, erupts on the sideline as the buzzer sounds, signalling a CIAA Tournament championship for the

Spartans. Top-ranked Norfolk didn't go far in the NCAAs, though (photo by Joe Daniels).

Instant Replays/Special Edition**Norfolk: Great Resume But No Job**

EDITED BY ALLEN H. JOHNSON

Pity poor Norfolk State. Though the Spartans had a banner year, closing out the regular season as the top-ranked Division II school in the nation, and winning the treacherous CIAA Tournament to boot, their early exit from the NCAA playoffs had to leave a sour taste.

Like 28-3 North Carolina in the Division I wars, 29-2 Norfolk had a helluva resume when NCAA Tournament time came, but still didn't get hired.

What might have made the circumstances even more vexing is the fact that the Spartans' only two losses of the year came courtesy of intrastate rival Virginia Union and its temperamental

manchild, Charles Oakley.

Still, Norfolk and Coach Charles Christian had a season to remember, turning what was supposed to be a rebuilding year into a championship campaign.

CIAA Player of the Year David Pope graduates to what ought to be a pro career this spring, but we imagine the toothpick-chomping Christian will have a few surprises up his sleeve next season.

He'll probably recruit some hotshot kid named Bishop so the headline writers can continue to have fun with religious puns.

Meanwhile, St. Augustine's made it all the way to the NCAA finals before succumbing to Central Missouri State, which won

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