

THE NCAA PLAYOFFS *From Page 7*

practice in Erie, the Falcons -- who have had more than their share of disheartening setbacks -- broke someone else's heart for a change, beating Mansfield 65-64 win on the strength of defense and rebounding.

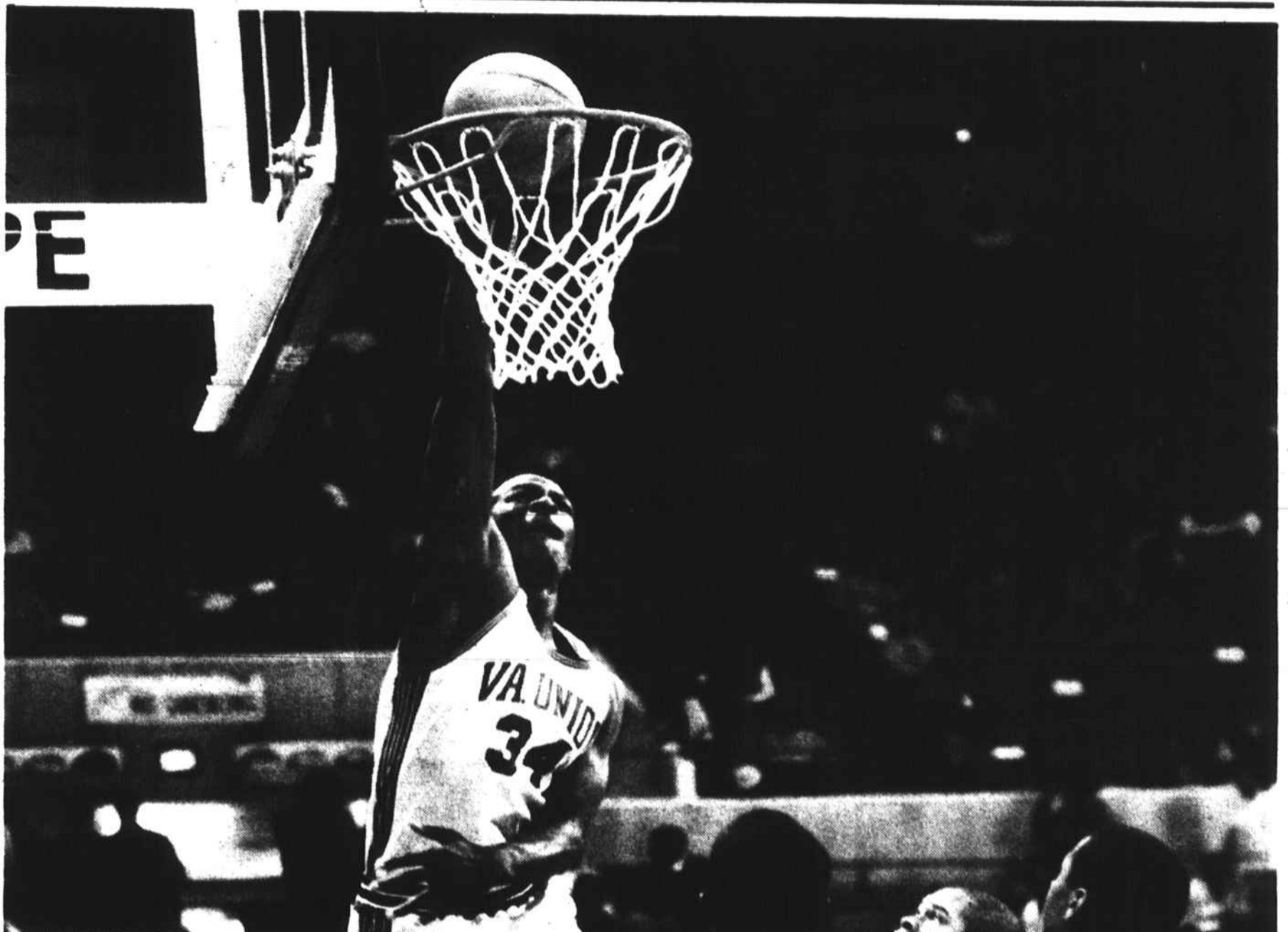
They came back the following night to hurt some more feelings when they beat C.W. Post, the eighth-ranked Division II team, 86-80, by getting their running game going in the second half.

In quarterfinal action, the Falcons traveled to Connecticut, where they wrote a convincing Dear John letter to Sacred Heart 107-92 by grabbing an early lead, running almost at will and dominating the boards.

Meanwhile, Virginia Union ran into what might be called "a little home cookin'" against Kentucky Wesleyan in their quarterfinal match on Wesleyan's homecourt. The Panthers led by six with three minutes left in the game and held a two-basket advantage with 1:40 left.

But the last of five second-half three-point plays by the home team with only seconds remaining left Union on the short end of a 72-71 final.

"I won't comment on the game except to say I felt we played well enough to win," said Union Coach Dave Robbins after being thwarted in his quest



Power And Poverty

Above, Charles Oakley and Virginia Union burst Norfolk's bubble in the NCAA Tournament, but, not much later, questionable officiating burst Union's bubble, too. Below, left, even David Pope's acrobatics couldn't keep the top-ranked Spartans alive (photos by Joe Daniels).

for his second national crown in the 80s.

"We fell short of our goal, which was to make the Final Four," Robbins said, "but I'm proud of our kids and I think we will be better next year." They just might, since his top eight players will return.

In the Final Four, St. Augustine's got revenge for Union and the rest of the CIAA by beating Wesleyan 89-80 as Anthony Rogers dropped in 27 points. The game was costly for the

Falcons, however, as all-CIAA guard Randy Franks twisted his ankle and was only at half-speed for the title game against Central Missouri State.

And, in the title contest, Heartley may have tasted a little home cookin' himself although Central Missouri was farther away from home than the Falcons.

"Central Missouri went to the line 44 times and made 35 and we went nine times and made five. We outrebounded

Please see page 10