

CIAA

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sophomore forward, has come on like gangbusters, averaging 18.5 points and 12.2 rebounds per game. And JCSU has gotten excellent play from point guard James Shockley and shooting guard Reggie Moses.

By the same token, Fayetteville State, which was picked to finish third in the Southern Division, hasn't played up to pre-season forecasts. The Broncos, 2-4, have been unable to get stable inside play.

First-year Coach David Corley inherited a squad at Livingstone that ended last season with 14 freshmen and sophomores. Though the Bears took their lumps a year ago, they're finally beginning to make headway.

Livingstone entered into the break sporting a 3-4 record and having come within eight points of bouncing Union from the ranks of the unbeaten in its most recent game.

Antonio Davis has been the Bears' bread and butter thus far, scoring 17.5 points per game.

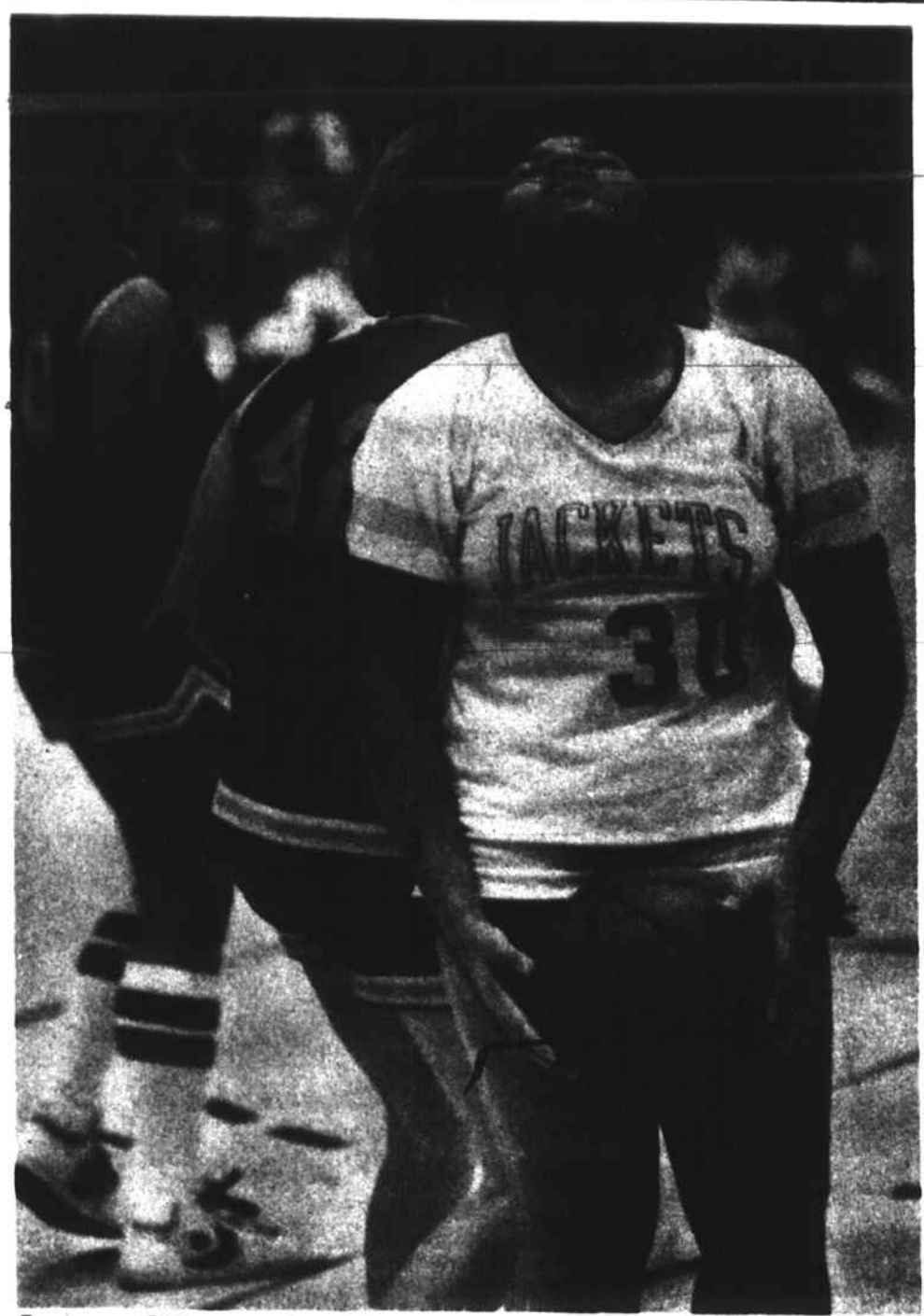
Winston-Salem State, the co-champion in the South last year, has found wins hard to come by this year, especially in close games. Gaines and the freshman-dominated Rams will be put to the test by conference foes this year. Yet, WSSU was only one game below .500 and playing well at the start of the holiday break.

Point guard Haywood Workman is beginning to show that he's one of the top freshmen in the conference while veterans Eugene Penick, Kevin "Cadillac" Vaughan and Linwood Gorham have all played well in spots but need to become more consistent for Gaines' team.

Southern Division doormat North Carolina Central is probably anxious-just to get through the rest of the season so it can begin preparations for next year. Pre-season all-CIAA pick Willie Jennette averaged 24.3 points for the Eagles through their first three games, but injuries will sideline him for the remainder of the season. The Eagles, with a 2-7 record, are in for a long year.

Little has changed in the Northern Division pecking order. Union is as strong as ever and should be more than up to the task of holding off Norfolk State, Hampton Institute and upstart Virginia State.

Three-time all-CIAA center Charles Oakley has continued his



Aw, Shucks!!

Latessa Peebles of Carver shows her frustration after committing yet another foul in the Yellow Jackets' 54-53 win. Peebles scored 4 points before fouling out (photo by James Parker).

Charles Atlas imitation in the middle for the Panthers, scoring 20.3 points and hauling in 15.7 rebounds through the Panthers' first eight games. Teammate Jamie Waller isn't doing badly, either, scoring 17.5 points a game.

With David Pope no longer around to pour in the points for Norfolk State, 6-1 super-sophomore Ralph Tally, a hot-shooting guard, has taken the lead, ranking third in conference scoring with 21.1 points per game. The Charles Christian-coached Spartans lack height this year, but compensate with good team quickness.

Six-eleven center Cedric "Air Traffic Controller" Miller has led Hampton Institute to a 6-2 start. Miller leads the conference in scoring with a 24.6 average. Miller is also second in the conference in rebounding as well, pulling down 16.4 boards a game, and has blocked a conference-high 4.4 shots per game.

Virginia State is hot on the trail of Virginia Union, Hampton and Norfolk State. The Trojans, behind Dave Blackwell's 18.1 points per contest, have ambushed

several Southern Division opponents, including Winston-Salem State in the Rams' backyard.

Though it has scored plenty of points off of its run-and-gun offense, Elizabeth City is only 3-4. The Vikings are led by Keith Hilton, who tops the conference in steals with 4.4 per contest, and Jamie Turner, the conference's top field goal shooter.

Outmanned St. Paul's has sneaked away with three wins in its seven outings, but the Tigers' opponents in non-conference games have been suspect, to say the least. Guard Cliff Johnson assumes most of the outside scoring chores, while pesky playmaker Tyrone Golatt provides floor leadership for the Tigers.

Twelve veteran players gave Bowie State an air of optimism after a disappointing 3-23 campaign last year, but so far the Bulldogs yet to win this season.

Pre-season all-CIAA forward John White can't do it all for the Bulldogs and, with only two players taller than 6-5, Bowie may not win one game.

Black College Briefs

More problems at Kentucky State

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

At tiny Kentucky State University, rebuilding programs are to be completed in one year, coaches have the job security of day laborers and chaos and controversy normally are the order of the day.

K-State, once a powerhouse among black colleges, is looking for a new football coach, but that is nothing new. The next coach will become Kentucky State's sixth in the last four years -- something of an unofficial record. The latest casualty, Willie Williamson, apparently sealed his fate when he complained about the difficulty of Kentucky State's schedule. The Thoroughbreds finished 2-9....

LITTLE BIRD DEPT: When Joe Gilliam Sr. left coaching and returned to the classroom, he said his days of stalking the sideline were over. Maybe. Gilliam, who was acting head coach at Tennessee State last year, apparently is eager to return to the game. This column has learned that Gilliam has applied for the vacant head coaching job at the University of Central Florida, a predominantly white school in Orlando, Fla.

Gilliam, involved in coaching for more than 30 years, would seem to be a top candidate, but insiders say Central Florida is not progressive enough to consider a black....

PERHAPS IT WASN'T such a good idea after all. When Hollywood movie producers purchased rights to the late Bear Bryant's life story, they saw it as a can't-miss project.

It has been anything but that. Controversy has surrounded the film from the start, from Bryant's family criticizing the cast and dialogue to other critics who pegged the film as unrealistic. Now comes word that the movie, "The Bear," is being taken off the market for some major rehabilitation and will be re-released.

"We're going to redo it," producer Larry

Spangler said. "We're going to put back some of the 14 scenes that were cut out of the original version. It is going to be much more in-depth about the man."

The late move is seen by many as one of desperation by Spangler and financial backer James Hern. Whatever the case, "The Bear" turned out to be one of the few sad chapters in Bryant's legacy....

LITTLE BIRD DEPT., Part II: No official talks have taken place, but some whispered conversations could result in Norfolk State considering joining the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. It would be the biggest coup for the MEAC since it signed Florida A&M and Bethune-Cookman several years ago.

Norfolk State currently competes in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, one of the finest Division II leagues in the country. The MEAC is a Division I-AA conference....

Bethune-Cookman Coach Cy McClairen on why he signed only two basketball players during the off-season: "Everybody that wanted to come here was 6-2 to 6-4 in size. I already had a team of ballplayers that size. I didn't need any more."

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