

## CIAA

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## NORTHERN DIVISION

After surrendering the nation's number one ranking to Virginia Union last season, the Spartans of NORFOLK STATE feel they have a legitimate shot at snatching it back.

Back to lead the way is all-America guard Tally. The aptly named 6-1 junior tallied 20.9 points and 3.7 assists per game last year and nearly led the Spartans to an upset of unbeaten Union in the league title game.

*Street & Smith's Basketball Yearbook* has picked him as one of the top five small-college players in the nation for 1985-86.

But Tally isn't the only star among the returnees. Barry Mitchell, a junior forward, has grown to 6-5 and is expected to better last year's totals of 14 points and eight rebounds per game. Burly 6-6 senior Darnell Brown also returns at center, where he chipped in nine points and 5.6 rebounds an outing last season.

Five other lettermen return as well and 10th-year mentor Charles Christian, who already has five CIAA titles to his credit, has added some fine newcomers.

Heading the list is 6-9 Mat Henson, who averaged 19.9 points, 17.1 rebounds and 5.9 blocked shots a game while earning JUCO all-America honors at Mary Holmes Junior College.

Joining Henson (and, interestingly enough, last year's coach at Mary Holmes, Tom Snowden, who's now an assistant to Christian) are 6-6 forward Primus Cherry and 7-0 African Alexander Soyebo.

Freshmen expected to make an immediate impact are 6-3 guard Martin Snipes and 6-5 forward Mike Morris, who averaged 19.5 points and 15.5 rebounds at the same Atlantic City, N.J., high school that produced Tally.

While Sports Information Director Ken Snelling predicts a possible national championship for the Spartans, Christian prefers to play it close to the vest.

At the league's pre-season banquet for players, coaches and the media, he asked Tally to "stand up and tell these people who you are."

As if they don't already know.

As for the conference kingpins, for the first time in four years VIRGINIA UNION Coach Dave Robbins will begin the season without the best big man in the CIAA. Charles Oakley has taken his 24 points and 18 rebounds per game to the NBA as the Chicago Bulls'

first-round draft choice.

But shed no tears for the Panthers, whose only loss last year — a shocker to fellow CIAA member Winston-Salem State in the NCAA regionals — ended their season-long reign as the nation's number one Division II squad.

Eight lettermen return from that unit that produced 30 wins, led by 6-4 junior Jamie Waller. A second-team all-America pick last season, the "human highlight film" expects to do even better this year, but it

points, respectively, last year.

Sophomore Tony Dallas heads the long list of returning guards. Last season, he netted 9.1 points per game and shot better than 50 percent from the field.

Among Union's freshman thoroughbreds is 6-9 Terry Davis, who brings high school totals of 14 points, 12 rebounds and two blocked shots per game with him from Halifax, Va., and 6-7 Bill Pritchard, who was recommended to Robbins by none other than Oakley.



Norfolk's Barry Mitchell, a junior forward, has grown to 6-5 (photo by James Parker).

won't be easy. Waller averaged nearly 21 points and more than seven rebounds in '84-85, adding 95 assists, 57 steals and 14 blocked shots for good measure.

Still, Waller isn't the only horse in Robbins' stable. Six-six junior forwards Greg Williams and Jerry Hargrove averaged 10.5 and nine

Pritchard averaged 20.3 points and 10.7 rebounds in the tough Cleveland, Ohio, basketball wars.

The top guard prospect is another Cleveland recruit, 6-foot Johnathan Walker, who averaged 28.9 points, eight assists and five steals per game last year.

"Even though we have lost 'The

Franchise,' we are still very optimistic," says Robbins. "We are hopeful that our other kids can take up the slack left by Oakley."

If Davis, Pritchard or 6-7 sophomore Herb Williams can do an adequate job on the boards, the Panthers could keep dangerous Norfolk — and the rest of the country — at bay.

Under the direction of 11th-year Head Coach Hank Ford, HAMPTON'S Pirates hope to improve on their 19-8 record and third-place Northern Division finish last year.

Nine Pirate lettermen return from a team that won 11 of 13 games down the stretch last season, losing only to top-ranked Virginia Union twice.

Tops among the returnees are 6-1 senior guards William Johnson and John Stevens, 6-10 junior center Rowan Gomes and 6-2 sophomore guard P.J. Honore.

Johnson, a three-year captain, led the team with 193 assists, an average of 7.1 per game.

The Pirates' top recruit was 6-3 guard Michael Smith, who garnered MVP honors in Virginia's East-West all-star game.

All in all, Hampton will again field a fine team but in a division that includes both Norfolk and Union, another third-place finish is about the best the Pirates can hope for.

Despite the loss of six players from last year's 12-13 team, ST. PAUL'S Coach Moses Golatt expects this to be the year his Tigers forget about trying to finish .500 and look toward the top of the Northern Division.

Golatt isn't about to predict his team running roughshod over the likes of Union or Norfolk but he does expect the Tigers to be right on the favorites' heels.

"I feel like we will be a much-improved team over last year and we should win 16 or 17 games," he says. "We have more talent than we have had in a long time."

Heading the list of talented players Golatt will count on this season is 6-7 junior Keith Downs, who paced the team in rebounding last season. Also back are senior forwards Christopher Scott and Gus Canty. The 6-7 Scott led the league in free throw shooting last year while Canty, at 6-5, hit 57 percent of his shots from the floor.

ELIZABETH CITY STATE Coach Bobby Vaughn enters his 33rd year at the helm needing 15 wins to reach the magic 500-win  
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