

SIAC ROUND BALL

Underpublicized Martin is a quality performer

The national media's focus on the SIAC has revolved around Harold Ellis and Morehouse's Maroon Tigers. There's no doubt that Ellis is in the elite class.

However, Clark/Atlanta University has their own marquee player. James "Bull" Martin, argue some league observers, is the best overall player in the league. Martin, a 6-5 swingman, has demonstrated his array of skills from the opening tip of this season.

During the first half of the schedule, Martin, a senior, has been furnace-hot, averaging 30.1 points, 11 rebounds and five steals a game.

"Bull" makes it his business to play at full throttle every night regardless of the level of competition. However, he seems to rise to a higher level against the best teams.

In CAU's 109-108 double overtime loss to rival Morehouse last month, Martin met the challenge, finishing up with 33

points, nine rebounds, six steals and three assists, while playing 47 minutes out of a possible 50.

Martin's numbers aren't surprising for those who are familiar with the SIAC. During the '89-'90 campaign, he scored 18.2 ppg, shot 58.5 percent from the field and pulled down 11.2 boards — in just 18 games last winter.

"Bull's" abbreviated season marked a delayed comeback to the game after being out

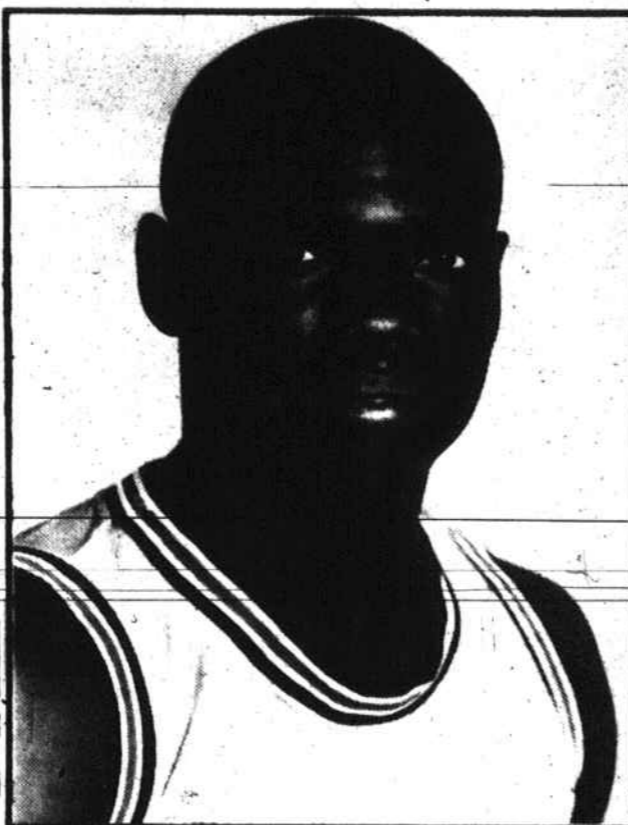


Photo courtesy of Clark/Atlanta University
Martin is bullish on the opposition.

of school for 18 months because of family illness. Prior to his departure, he had established himself as one of the league's steadiest performers.

As a sophomore, he contributed 15.7 points and 10 boards a night. He also had 91 steals in 27 games (3.1 average). The year before that, he scored 10 ppg, and set a school single season record for field goal percentage at .600. In

addition, he is the fifth player in Clark/Atlanta history to score more than 1,000 career points.

At the national level, Martin stole the thunder from some of the league's more heralded players last March by winning the BET/LA Gear Slam Dunk Championship, held during the SIAC Tournament.

Heading into the bulk of their conference schedule for '91, it's clear that Martin will be a major consideration in opponents' scouting reports. The Panthers will look to Martin to carry the load as the lone senior. The rest of the roster is composed primarily of sophomores.

For Martin, however, it's just another challenge he has to face. After all, he has yet to come out on the short end.

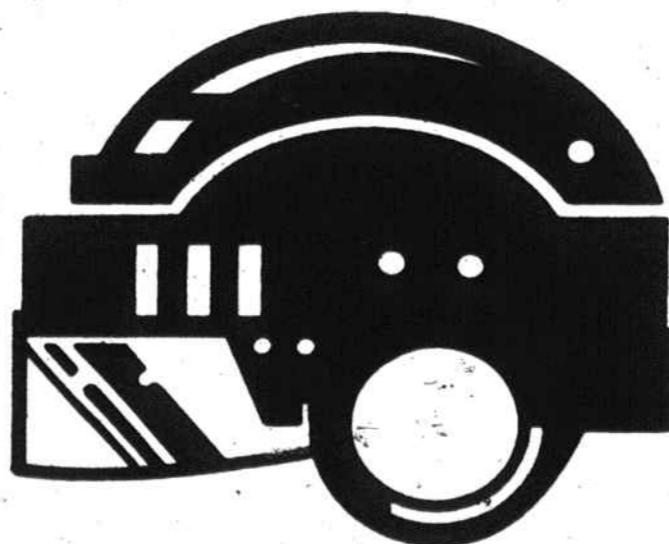
This season shouldn't be any different. Martin has this habit of always getting favorable results.

- Alfred Browning

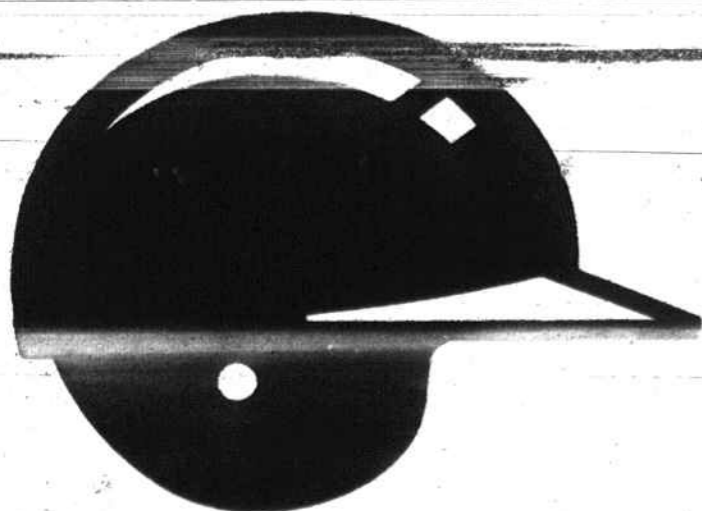
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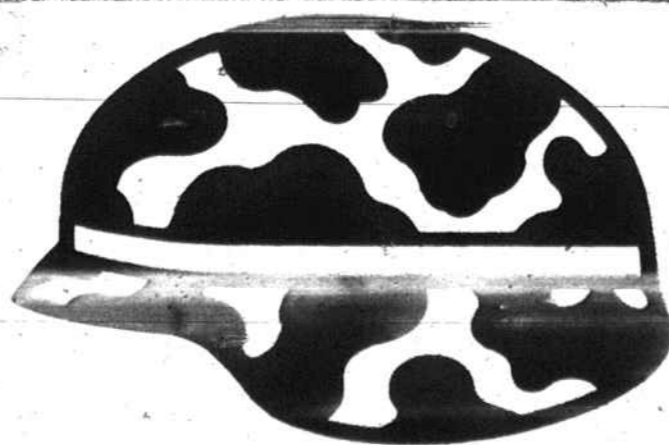
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