

# CIAA women trying to avoid Bulldogs' bite

Every year Coach Ed Davis of Bowie State keeps proving just how good a coach he has become.

Davis' team captured the CIAA's Eastern Division championship again and comes into the CIAA Tournament as the favorite to win its third consecutive title.

In each of the past two seasons Davis' team has entered the season without its leading scorer from the previous year. But somehow the Lady Bulldogs seem to find a way to make it back to the top of the heap.

This season the Lady Bulldogs have relied upon 6-5 center Rashida Brooks as their tower of strength. Brooks has come through for the team with the best

statistics of her career. She finished among the league's top performers in scoring, field goal percentage, rebounding and blocked shots. Those statistics helped Brooks land the CIAA's Women's Player of the Year.

The Lady Bulldogs finished their season with a 10-0 slate in the division, 15-1 in the conference and 22-3 overall. Beverly Winstead was a sparkplug inside for the Bulldogs and joined Brooks on the All-CIAA Team.

North Carolina Central could be the team that gives the Bulldogs the most trouble. However, the earliest the two could possibly meet is the championship game since the Eagles captured the West-

ern Division championship. Coach Joli Robinson, who was named the women's Coach of the Year, led the Lady Eagles to one of their best-ever seasons. That coincided with the arrival of Amba Kongola, a 6-2 pivot player from Zaire. Kongola led the conference in scoring after joining the team for the second semester. Central came on strong down the stretch run of the season to hold off Livingstone for the divisional championship. The Eagles have been tough to beat with Kongola, whose size and athleticism could pose a problem for Bowie State.

In a year of surprises in women's play, Elizabeth City's women team finished second in the Eastern Division. The Lady



Rashida Brooks

Vikings' leader was diminutive point guard Raquita Washington, who was named to the All-

CIAA Team. Virginia Union made

See CIAA Women, on page 15

## Seemed like old times for VUU in tournament full of upsets

Whoever wrote the script for the 53rd running of the CIAA Tournament couldn't have known that

it would make for one of the most exciting in recent history.

When fans of the

school's teams got together for the 1998 tournament, there was definitely something for everyone.

As usual the week-long, African-American celebration featured its usual menu of pageantry. There were parties, all types of social events, class reunions, alumni meetings, fashion shows and step shows.

But basketball was the entree' and the fans, who flocked to Lawrence Joel Veterans Coliseum for this annual extravaganza, were treated to a feast.

The basketball played by the league's 12 women's and men's teams was outstanding, as usual. Only this time there was an added bit of excitement in the air. The tournament featured more upsets than any tournament in a decade.

However, when the dust finally settled, it was Virginia Union which again had re-established itself as the league's top men's basketball program.

With senior Marquise Newbie leading the way, the Panthers won their 14th tournament championship and gave Coach Dave Robbins his 10th title.

VUU bounced back from one of the most disappointing seasons in the last two decades, during its previous season, to put itself back at the top of the league's totem pole.

The Panthers, 14-15 in 1996-97, were the lone team among the favorites to advance past the second round. VUU, which captured the Eastern Division regular season championship and received a first-round bye, made

short work of Virginia State and Livingstone to advance to the championship game.

But they saved their best for last. In the title game, the Panthers executed their game plan to perfection on both the offensive and defensive ends to capture a 94-65 victory over Johnson C. Smith in front of 11,434 fans.

"I was elated with the way we played," Robbins said. "The margin of victory was as large as any game we've played in the tournament. J.C. Smith is an outstanding and for us to win by that many points means we must have really played well."

The Panthers made amends for one of the losses on their record during the regular season.

See Men's Recap, on 16



Chander Bingham of VUU