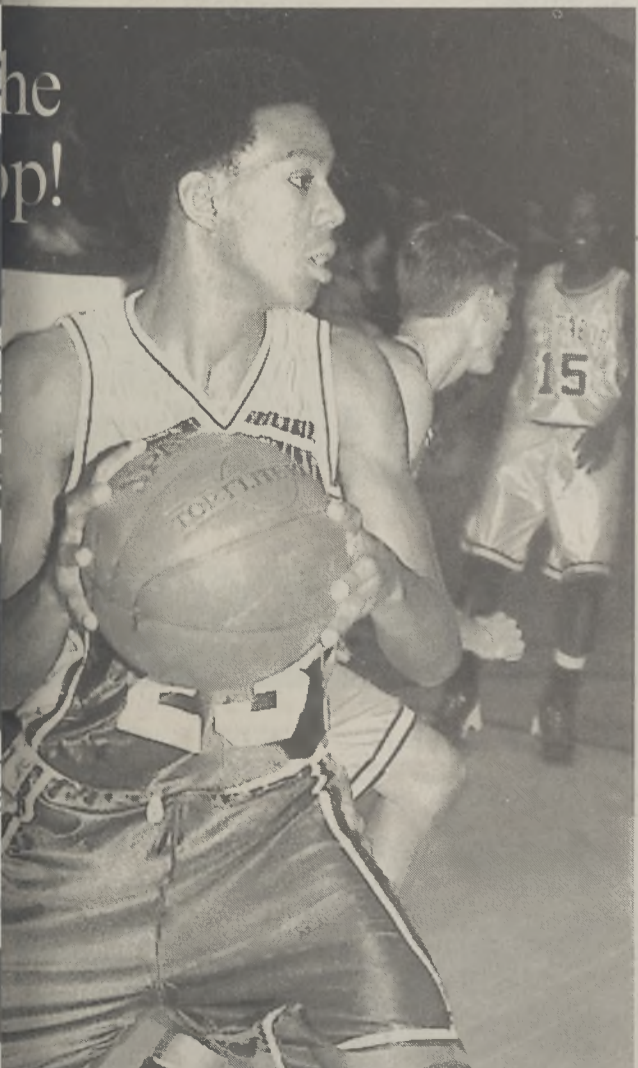


of Mount Tabor looks for an open teammate, while Edwards applies pressure. (Right) Brian Mitchell of the ball to the basket against several Spartan defenders the first round game to advance to the semifinals Lash/Chronicle Holiday Tournament at Carver.

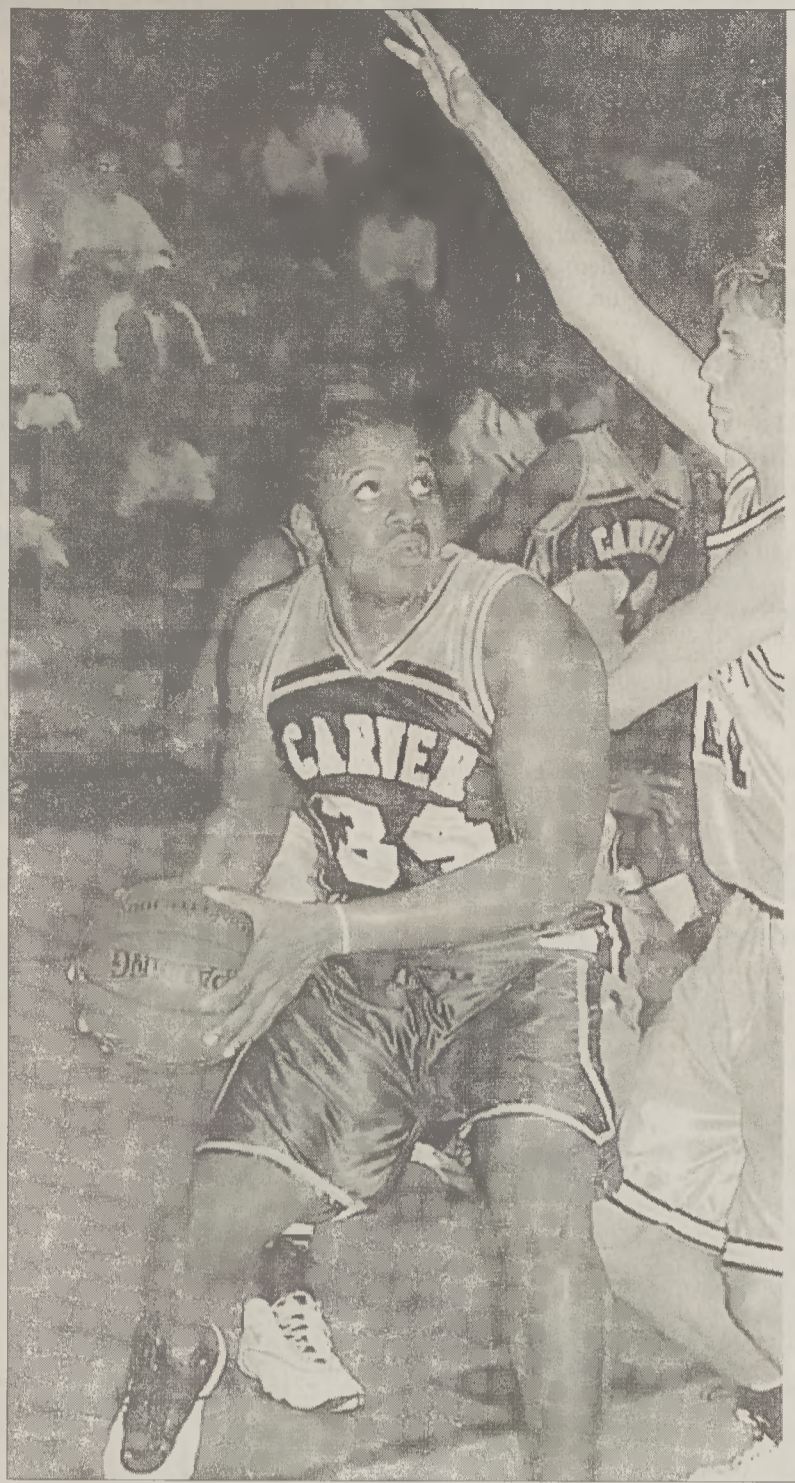
preseason because the school's football team advanced deep into the playoffs. The Yellowjackets came into the tournament with momentum after knocking off defending champion Reynolds in their previous game. In both games Carver used its imposing front line, powered by 6-6 freshman Cedric Graham and 6-4 freshman Brian Mitchell, to dispose of the Spartans. Tim Edwards also provided steady leadership for the Yellowjackets from his point guard position. Mount Tabor, which also has considerable size, led by 6-6 Kenny Fearn, gave the Yellowjackets fits throughout the game before finally running out of steam down the stretch. In the nightcap, R.J. Reynolds' newcomers, Mike Davis and William Conrad, provided a spark to help the Demons advance to the semifinals against Carver. Davis' explosive moves to the basket helped power RJR to the victory. Freshmen teams from Mount Tabor and Reynolds captured

a key win over Elizabeth City just before leaving campus for the holidays. In that game, last Saturday, the Rams jumped out to a 17-point lead in the first half. However, the Lady Vikings, the preseason pick to win the CIAA's Eastern Division, fought back in the second half before the Rams put the game away down the stretch. "We were in a dogfight throughout the second half," Clark said. "But the girls kept their poise and executed like we need them to." After the Lady Rams return from Georgia, they will have nearly two weeks to prepare for their

the stretch run and play the final 7:50 of out a field goal. Credited Maynard's the offensive spark led to set the tone. "We have to be ready to get tend to do is nice,"



of Carver gathers himself before taking the ball to the Yellowjackets' victory over Mount Tabor in the of the Lash/Chronicle Tournament.



opening victories in their opening day battles. Mount Tabor opened with an easy win over Parkland and Reynolds made short work of LIFT Academy. The Spartans and Demons battled for the championship for the second consecutive year. Mount Tabor captured the title last year with a win over the Demons and won two of the three previous tournaments.

LIFT Academy's freshmen, playing their first game of the season, started off well but couldn't sustain their effort in their loss. The consolation game paired the two participants from last year, LIFT vs. Parkland. Parkland was also short-handed in its loss to Mount Tabor. The Mustangs had difficulty matching up with the taller Spartans.

hopefully by January or February we'll be where we want to be." If the Rams can do that, Clark believes the Lady Rams could be in the winner's circle at the CIAA Tournament. "To be honest, I thought we'd have done that by now," she said. "We've come close, but we haven't gotten to the championship game. But this is a good year. This is a good group of girls and they have some goals and objectives that they want to reach. Maybe this is the year that I also can accomplish the goals that I've set for the program."

the Rams will need the time to refine their game. "The Western Division is really tough," she said. "J.C. Smith is playing real well and so are North Carolina Central and Livingstone. We have to be ready to play every night. There's a lot of parity. Even Fayetteville State is playing well against a good schedule. "We have a way to go to get where we want to be," Clark added. "We have a lot of little things to do to be prepared for our conference schedule. But we're getting better each day and

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