THE TOP TWENTY.

The Nation's Elite Black College Powers

- 1. Alcorn State
- 2. Virginia Union
- 3. Alabama State
- 4. Delaware State 5. Howard University
- 6. North Carolina A&T 7. Norfolk State

8. Fort Valley State

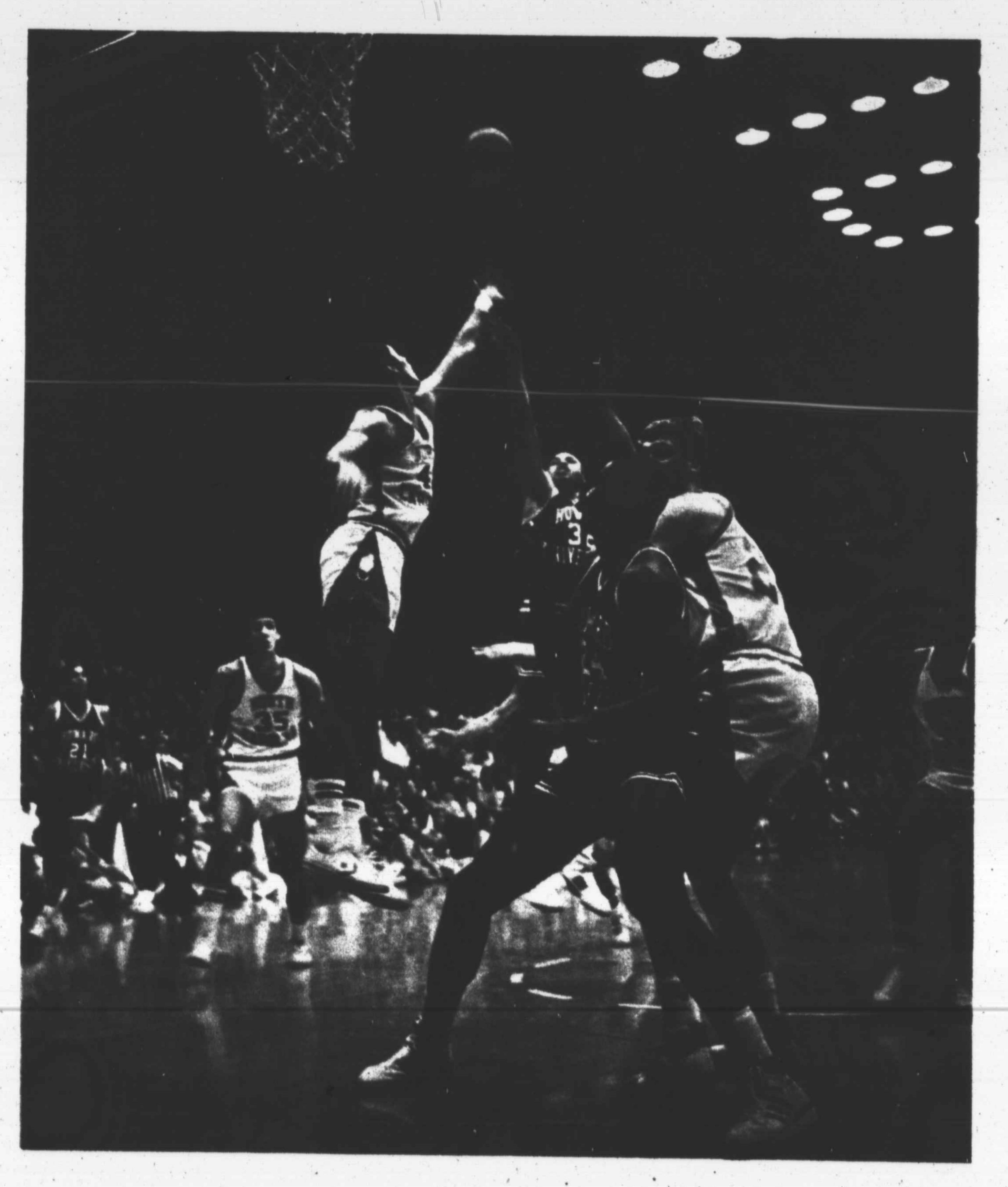
10.St. Augustine's

9. Southern University

- 11.Albany State
 - 12.Florida A&M 13.Alabama A&M 14.Tennessee State

15.Shaw University

- 16.Bishop College 17.Kentucky State
- 18.Bethune-Cookman
- 19.Texas Southern 20.South Carolina State



WOMEN'S SPORTS

The three faces of a college basketball coach

By EDWARD HILL JR. Review Staff Writer

Sanya Tyler has miraculously devistime employee at Howard University head women's basketball coach at Howard.

It doesn't end there. At 7 p.m., Tyler is at home, mothering her 4-year-old opponents and who have time to daughter, Ebony, and managing her single-parent household.

The job of being head basketball coach on the major college level is taxgames. Yet, the 33-year-old Tyler has somehow managed to maintain a unique balance among three timeconsuming responsibilities.

"The key to maintaining some perspective is through careful planning," explains Tyler. "You have to map out your entire year and stick to

At Howard University Hospital, technologist in the radiological but we are competitive."

play a major-college schedule (nationally-ranked teams such as the University of Maryland, North ed a way of splitting herself, on de- Carolina State, Cheyney State, Temple mand, into three personalities. From and Penn State) that includes 27 to 28 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., she's a full- games in nine or 10 different states, we're at a distinct disadvantage," says Hospital. Then, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tyler. "The majority of the schools she changes her hat and becomes the that we play have full-time coaches and full-time assistants who have more time to work with the athletes on techniques, who have the time to scout counsel the student-athletes one on one. We do not have that luxury."

Still, despite back-to-back losing seasons (8-16 in 1982-83 and 7-20 last ing enough with recruiting and road season), Tyler says she is not

"We knew that after we went to the NCAA with that senior squad, we were going to take our lumps with a young group," she says. "Some people measure success through wins and losses. But I've learned to accept things differently. My colleagues have often told me how much they respect me for what I'm doing under the cir-Tyler is a quality assurance cumstances. We may not always win,

"The key to maintaining some perspective is through careful planning. You have to map out your entire year and stick to it."

-- Sanya Tyler

technology department. Her duties include maintaining diagnostic records, on Tyler's ability to recruit top testing equipment and evaluating the effectiveness of the department.

Tyler says her department, for the most part, has been supportive of her in her other ventures.

The strong-willed Tyler was named head basketball coach in 1980, when she was pregnant with Ebony. In her first year at the helm, she led a mostlyjunior squad to an 11-14 mark. She included a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title and Howard's first-ever and only trip to the NCAA championship tournament.

"Looking back, I think the trip to "A lot of credit for that success should hockey. go to those athletes who took part. It was not necessarily the coaching.

"The important thing was that it gave Howard University visibility in women's athletics."

is that she and her coaching assistant, Linda Spencer, are both part-time

That respect has also had an impact athletes. Last season, she managed to land high school all-America guard Vannessa Graham. She followed this year by grabbing another all-America, be the best female player ever to attend

"We can't sell them on the idea of a winning program here at Howard," daughter Ebony. says Tyler. "We have to impress upon then followed with a 14-11 record that them the idea of their helping us to become a winning program and at the as she becomes older, it's a little harder same time getting some of the best education in the world."

Tyler's roots in basketball lie in her Washington, D.C., where she lettered

In 1976, Tyler volunteered to assist Ballou's basketball coach. The Ballou team won the championship in that year, followed by two more.

A graduate of Howard, the Pittsburgh native has also been a member of the National Association of Girls' and Women's Sports officiating team. Because she spends so much time

away from home, Tyler says it's important that she put in "quality time" with



Courtney Bullard, who many feel may Tyler: She somehow manages to maintain a unique balance as a hospital employee, single parent and head coach of the Howard University women's basketball team.

Says the coach: "When Ebony was younger, it was not that difficult. But, the opportunity it affords to interact to explain to her why I'm too tired to she has a personal commitment to play with her sometimes or why she youth. she has adjusted well."

Tyler admits that there are times when she contemplates giving up to them'

coaching. "I took this job because of the challenge it offered and because of with people," she stresses, noting that

"There are times, though, when I just say it's not worth it. Then I think about the young people I recruited and the obligation and responsibility I have

Next Month

- What's right -- and wrong -- in black college athletics?
- Coverage of the Freedom Bowl All-Star Classic

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS REVIEW