BASKETBALL

PREVIEW '86

### SWAC

#### CONTINUED

carried the Braves to four straight national post-season tournaments, three SWAC tournament championships and three SWAC regularseason titles. Alcorn will be hardpressed, yet, better than some.

"This will be the third time that we've lost five starters in one year," said Whitney. "Each time, we've always been able to rise to the occasion. It may be difficult this time around, but we hope to have the same kind of end results."

David Palmer, a 6-9 senior center, and Davey Whitney Jr., a 6-3 senior guard, represent the Braves' best hope of salvation. Palmer averaged 9.6 points and 5.0 rebounds last year, while Whitney netted 4.8 points and handed out 2.7 assists.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE should be competitive enough to remain in the higher echelon of the SWAC this year, after finishing 18-11 overall and 7-7 in the SWAC (third) last year. Lafayette Stribbling's team returns three starters and had a decent recruiting season.

The best of the Delta Devils includes 6-3 senior guard/oforward Mark Coleman (11.8 ppg., 6.2 rebounds, 5.1 assists), 6-0 junior guard George Ivory (9.4 ppg., 4.5 assists) and 6-3 guard Mike Ferguson (8.4 ppg., 4.6 rebounds).

Heading up the SWAC's bottom four are the Alabama State Hornets, followed by the Texas Southern Tigers, the Prairie View A&M Panthers and the Grambling State Tigers.

James Oliver's ALABAMA STATE Hornets lost four starters from last year's 14-17 team that went 7-7 in SWAC play (third) last year. It was Oliver's first-ever losing campaign and his team will struggle to stay above .500 this season.

Frank Silmon, a 6-6 sophomore forward who averaged 10.8 points and 5.6 rebounds per game a year ago, is Alabama State's lone returning starter from a team that lost the likes of guards Michael Freeney (12.9 ppg., 5.6 rebounds) and Alexander Newell (10.1 ppg.), forward Douglas George (5.5 ppg, 4.5 rebounds) and center Joe Williams (19.8 ppg., 11.1 rebounds).

TEXAS SOUTHERN, like Alcorn State and Alabama State, was hit hard by graduation, losing four starters, including forward Amire Applewhite (14.8 points per game, 6.4 rebounds) and forwardcenter Stephenfon Standfield (12.5 ppg., 9.8 rebounds).

Robert Moreland's Tigers went 11-5 overall in 1984-85, finishing 6-8

Returning 6-1 senior guard Lester Brooks (13.5 ppg., 5.8 assists) could be the catalyst for the Tigers, a team that will depend heavily on a crop of impressive newcomers. The best of those freshmen appear to be 6-9 center Fred West and 6-5 guard Brian Brooks.

Bringing up the rear, but perhaps not the very rear for a change, are PRAIRIE VIEW A&M'S Panthers, who may escape the SWAC cellar

Terrance Artis, a 5-11 senic. guard (6.2 ppg., 5.6 assists) and 6-6 junior forward Marc Horne (8.1 ppg., 4.2 rebounds) should help the Panthers improve on their marks of 5-22 overall and 4-10 in the SWAC (seventh) last year.

That leaves Fred Hobdy's GRAMBLING STATE Tigers, who went 8-19 overall a year ago, 4-10 in the SWAC, in the league basement. The entire Tiger lineup was eligi-

including guard Willie LaPoole (15.2 ppg., 4.8 rebounds), guard Roger Jones (9.6 ppg., 4.0 rebounds) and center Marlon Paige (7.2 ppg., 4.6 rebounds).

Dissention is the word that best describes the Tigers' program of

Lonza Hardy is sports information director at Alcorn State University.

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MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC

# Howard's heyday may finally have arrived

By DAVID BULLA Review Staff Writer

It's been said before, but everything really does point this year to HOWARD replacing NORTH CAROLINA A&T as kingpin of Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference basketball.

Despite the Aggies' traditional stranglehold on the conference title, it's hard to dispute the Bison's preseason claim as the team to beat. Howard returns all of its lettermen from last season's 16-12 squad, which finished runner-up to A&T in the MEAC standings. Moreover, Coach A.B. Williamson returns shot-blocker Derek Caracciolo after an arm injury forced the center to be a medical redshirt in 1984-85. Caracciolo's return assuages Williamson's primary qualm, a dearth of big men.

"We have the makings of a very fine team," said Williamson, an A&T alumnus. "We have a lot of experience returning and there's no substitute for that.

"If we suffer any casualties, either academically or through injuries, we could be in real trouble. I hope to be the first black college coach to win some games in the

Coach Donald Corbett's A&T squad, coming off a 19-10 campaign, figures to remain on top if Howard meets disappointment. The Aggies return two potential league standouts in forward Claude Williams and shooting guard George Cale. Williams did some body toning over the summer. The 6-foot-7, 210-pound forward now looks more like Lorenzo Charles

Although the Aggies lack depth at point guard, sophomore Thomas Griffis is an adequate replacement for conference Player of the Year Eric Boyd, who came up short in his tryout with the Golden State Warriors. Meanwhile, Cale should be as potent an offensive force as the departed Jimmy Brown, who led the Aggies with an 18.2-point average.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE had its best recruiting year in awhile. Although the Bulldogs will be young, they have the potential to challenge. Coach Chico Caldwell had to have a big recruiting since all five starters from last season's 11-16 club have departed.

The top recruit is 6-5 Rodney Mack of Berkeley, S.C. . Mack averaged 26 points and 14 rebounds. He was an honorable mention all-

America selection by USA Today. Transfer Mike Joyner, a 6-6 wing, also had good numbers. Joyner averaged 28 points and 14 rebounds for Lawson Junior College in Birmingham, Ala. Caldwell also recruited a seven-footer in George Paulk, who is still in the development stage. DELAWARE STATE also figures

to be in the title chase, primarily because the Hornets return all-MEAC forward Bernard Campbell from a 12-17 team. Campbell averaged 18.9 points and 6.7 rebounds. DelState returns three other

starters in guard Roy Johnson (12.6 points), center Dereck Hendricks (six rebounds) and guard Joe Jeter (four rebounds). Marshall Emery returns after being away six years to coach high school ball and he must rely on his returning players because he was not hired until July. The late signing of the former DSC coach prevented the Hornets from luring a single recruit.

Howard's Robert Jones (32) and Mike Jones (15) go up for a loose ball against A&T. They may finally win the

struggle with the Aggies this year for MEAC supremacy (photo by Brian Branch-Price).

BETHUNE-COOKMAN, 8-19 last season, returns the conference's leading scorer in senior Kevin Bradshaw, who averaged 19 points per game. Coach Cy McClairen has two other starters back in juniors Donald Hill (nine points, 1.6 blocked shots) and Gregory Starling. With such experienced personnel, McClairen hopes to improve on last season's fifth-place finish.

MARYLAND-EASTERN SHORE is led by Donnell Boney, who averaged 18.4 points and a conference-leading 4.7 assists. The Eagles of Coach Howie Evans return all five starters from a disastrous 3-25 team. The top returning starters include 6-6 Don Butler (11 points) and 6-1 Tom Foster (12 Please See Page 16

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