## CIAA

## Union, Norfolk, Smith and WSSU are the heavies

By KENNETH RAYMOND Review Staff Writer

WHILE Norfolk State's Ralph Tally could emerge as a first-round pick in next June's National Basketball Association draft, Virginia Union has more than an off-the-Wall-(er) chance of winning the NCAA Division II championship this season.

The Panthers (24-8 last season) return two-time all-America forward Jamie Waller, the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's version of NBA superstar Dominique Wilkins.

Waller's thunderous dunks belong in the Basketball Hall of Fame -- even if the 6-foot-4, 210-pound Halifax, Va., native doesn't somehow catch on in the NBA. His exploits above the rim put him right up there with Elgin Baylor, Connie Hawkins, Julius Erving, Michael Jordan and Wilkins.

Also back for Coach Dave "White Shadow" Robbins are guards Tony Dallas and Doug Cromartie, 6-9 center Terry Edwards and forward Greg Williams. Robbins also added Delaware Player of the Year A.J. English. English's arrival gives Union the most dominant hexad in the land and should make Norfolk's hold on the CIAA title only a one-year curse for the folks in Richmond.

Around the rest of the league, Shaw, Fayetteville State, Elizabeth City State and Bowie State are starting from scratch with both coaching and player personnel.

Former Viking Coach Robert Vaughan, who was forced into retirement last season after winning 503 games in a 33-year career, believes that his successor, Claudie Mackey, is capable of guiding the team to another successful season.

"Mackey is a very capable coach," said Vaughan, whose last team posted a 17-12 mark. "Once the team picks up more experience, they'll play with the best of them."

The other teams have returned with very few changes and are ready to stymie Tally and ward off Waller.

## NORTHERN DIVISION

VIRGINIA UNION (11-1, 16-3, 24-8) was picked fifth in Sports II- crowds again. ratings. The Panthers returned with bins said. "He does everything within that omission to this day. doesn't believe in counting his chickens before they're hatched.

"We're ranked high in a lot of polls," Robbins said. "Everybody ex- averaged 21 points last season. pects us to win it all, but we're going to take it one game at a time."

Union features one of the most tor in our games."

their all-star lineup intact, but Robbins his power to make sure the job gets

Waller, who was an NCAA Regional MVP during his freshman year,

"Jamie is very valuable to us," Rob-

dynamic players in the league in Although Waller played well in the Waller, who is back to dazzle the tournament last season, he was not selected to the all-tournament team. lustrated's preseason Division II "Jamie knows how to win," Rob- Robbins said he doesn't understand

> "I still don't understand how they missed him," the Panther coach said. "He deserved to be there, but he wasn't picked."

The Panthers started the new season 3-0 after defeating the University of the player." bins said. "He's a very important fac- District of Columbia, St. Augustine's

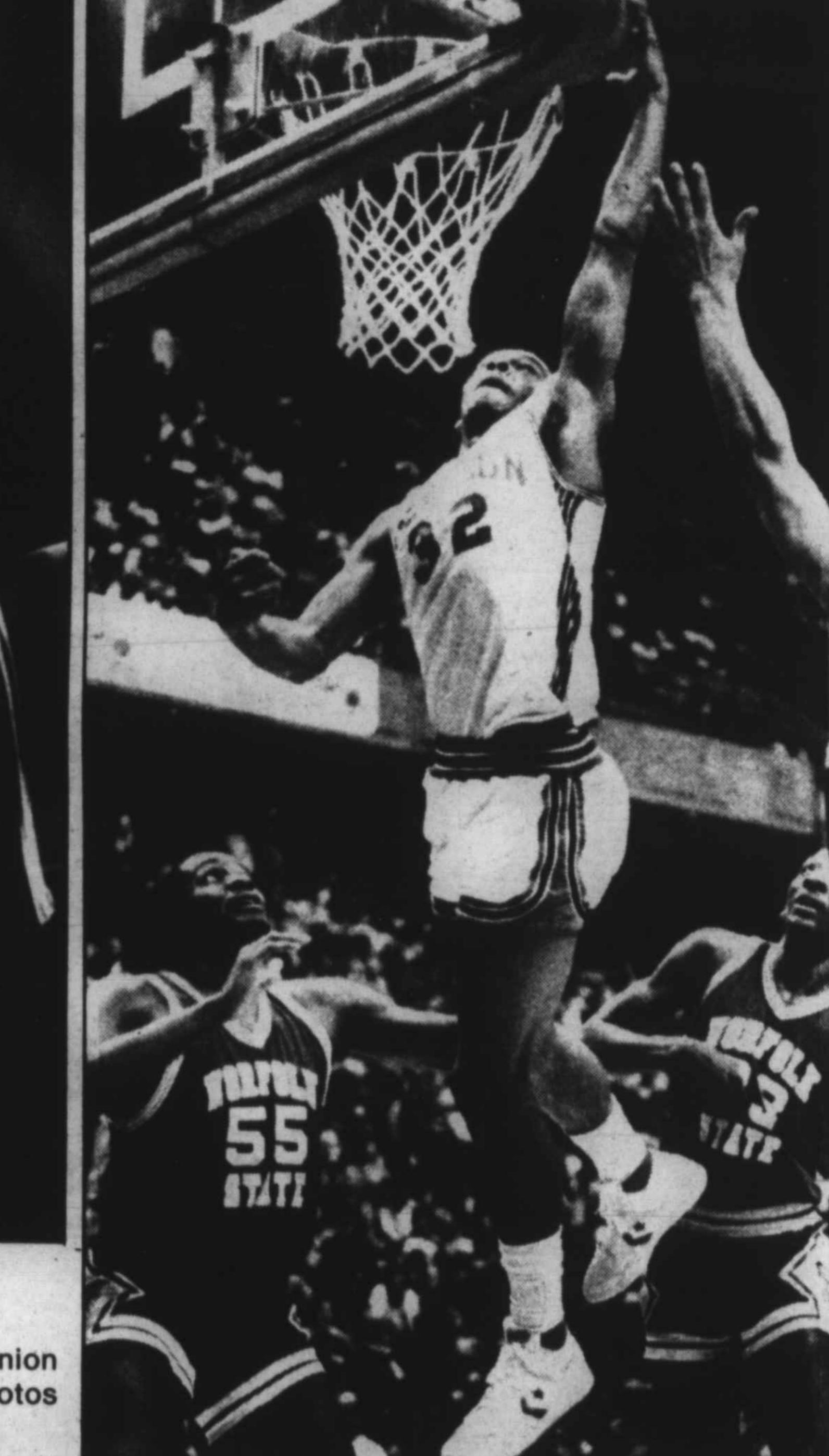
"We're got more height now than we did last season," Coach Charles Christian said. "But it's also the youngest team the school has had in about 10 years."

But the Spartans do return the 6-1 Tally, the 1985-86 CIAA Player of the

"I have all the respect in the world for Tally," Union's Robbins said. "He's going to be a great NBA

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and Livingstone.

respectively.

More wins will surely follow, since

Union's cards are stacked in its favor.

The Panthers have picked up English,

forwards Donnell Parks and Vincent

Principle and twin towers John and

James Smiley, who stand 6-7 and 6-8,

is back with more height but also more

NORFOLK STATE (9-3, 16-3, 26-5)



Above, Norfolk megaguard Ralph Tally; right, Union Ph.D. (the 'D' stands for dunk) Jamie Waller (photos by James Parker).

